



Montana Teacher Residency Program 2024-2025 Academic Year

Resident Frequently Asked Questions

Q - What is the payment schedule for the Resident stipend?

A: Residents will be paid \$1400 on the 1st of the month starting in September. Payments will be over 10 months with the last payment in June.

Q - Will taxes be applied to the Resident and Teacher Leader stipends?

A: Yes, taxes will be applied to each payment. Teacher Leaders will also have TRS deductions taken out of their stipend.

Q - Do Residents need to complete FAFSA?

A: Yes, Residents will need to complete the FAFSA for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Q - What does the tuition assistance cover?

A: The tuition assistance only covers tuition. Residents are responsible for all other associated college fees.

Q - Will every Resident receive partial tuition waivers?

A: No, there are already some Residents receiving tuition waivers that would not be eligible for additional support on waivers.

Q - How are housing costs being paid?

A: To participate in the Residency Program, districts had to commit to providing housing for the Residents. This is a local district decision, and it varies from district to district. For example, some Residents already have housing and receive housing support, others are paying for fuel for Residents that have housing but requires travel to the school, one district had arranged an AirBnB, while others provide housing that the district already own. The long and short, Residents cannot incur any housing costs during the year.

1. This is what makes rural opportunities viable.
2. The goal is that the Resident is in a full-time pre-service opportunity with the focus on learning, applying, reflecting, adapting, and adjusting so each Resident is prepared on day one as a full-time licensed teacher to enter the classroom with the skills, knowledge, and aptitude to be effective on day one.



Q – Is the Resident co-teaching with another teacher or filling an open teaching position?

A: The Resident will be partnered with a Teacher Leader and essentially will be fulfilling a yearlong student teaching model.

Q – Does the Resident need to teach in Montana after the Residency Program?

A: Yes, Residents are expected to teach in Montana. Preferably a rural or significantly impacted school in Montana for 3 years following the Residency.

Q - What happens if the Resident does not complete the two-year post Resident commitment of teaching in MT?

A: Per the agreement the Resident will sign, they will be required to pay back a pro-rated portion of the funds received as part of this program, unless there are extenuating circumstances that are approved by the Residency advisory team.

Q - What calendar will the Resident follow, the college calendar, or the school district calendar at the location of their Residency?

A: The Resident will follow the school district calendar and will participate in the district's PIR day(s), regardless of the college calendar. They will continue teaching up to the last day of school past the college semester calendar.

Q – When will the Resident begin orientation?

A: The Resident orientation will be in-person in a centralized location sometime in mid-August. Please watch for emails about the dates, which will also be posted to the OPI website.

Q - Can a Resident substitute?

A: A Resident can substitute only in their Teacher Leader's class for up to 5 days a semester. The Resident does **not** receive payment for substituting.

Q - Can a Resident keep a job while in the Residency?

A: The Residency needs to be the primary focus. Working outside of the Residency is strongly discouraged.

Q – Is a Resident provided with release time to complete course work?

A: The Resident needs to be provided with at least 20% of scheduled time per week to complete coursework.



Q - Is there signed paperwork that will need to be completed by the different parties? If so, when should we expect to see that paperwork?

A: Yes, there are MOUs that will need signatures. Districts, Residents, and universities will be provided with this paperwork no later than August.

Q – Who pays the Resident’s costs for attending the in-person Residency Learning Labs (i.e., travel, lodging, per diem)?

A: Lodging, meals, and mileage to attend the learning lab are paid for by OPI.

Q – Who are the partners in the Residency Program?

A: The partners include our national think tank that has been working on this effort since October 2021; the Educator Prep Programs in Montana, the local school districts, The Comprehensive Center 17, The Office of the commissioner of Higher Education, and The Office of Public Instruction.

Q – How are/will the partners be informed of progress?

A: The partners will be informed of the progress of the program through multiple venues:

- Monthly Webinars
- Presentations
- Phone calls
- Emails
- Regular meetings with those affected
- The OPI Compass
- Field visits

Q – How often will evaluation data collection occur?

A: At least quarterly and through phone calls, webinars, surveys, emails, and visitations. The Comprehensive Center 17 will lead the evaluation process.