



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 receive ten \$1,400, pre-taxed, payments during the Residency year, about once a month. The exact schedule will be determined by the Resident's university.

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

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

Q - Do Residents need to complete a FAFSA?

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

Q - What does the last-dollar tuition grant cover?

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

Q - Will every Resident receive tuition grants?

A: Yes, as long as they have a tuition balance after all other grants and scholarships are applied. They would not be eligible for additional tuition grant support if they do not have a tuition balance.

Q - How are housing costs being paid?

A: To participate in the Teacher Residency, districts must commit to providing housing assistance for the Residents, however the amount and type of assistance varies. For example, some Residents already have housing and receive utility support, while other districts pay for fuel for Residents that have housing but must travel. Others may provide housing that the district already own. The goal is to have our Residents incur little to no 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: No. The Resident will be partnered with a Teacher Leader and essentially will be fulfilling a year-long student teaching model. A Resident cannot be a Teacher of Record in a classroom.

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

A: Yes, Residents are expected to teach in a Montana public school district for 3 years within 5 following the completion of the student teaching of the Residency.

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

A: Per the agreement the Resident will sign, they will be required to pay back all of the awarded tuition grant, unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the Teacher 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 report the first PIR day. They will continue teaching up to the last day of school regardless of the college calendar.

Q – When will the Resident begin orientation?

A: The Resident orientation will be in-person in a centralized location sometime in the beginning to 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: Residency needs to be the primary focus. Working outside of the Residency is not recommended.

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

A: The Residency is built on an 80/20 time model wherein the student will be released for 20 percent of the scheduled student teaching to work on classwork.

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 contracts that will need signatures. Districts, Teacher Leaders, Residents, and universities will be provided 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 Montana Teacher 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, The Office of Public Instruction, and the University of Montana Western.

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

A: The partners will be informed of the progress of the program through in at least one or more of the following 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.



For more information, please contact
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