



# Montana Teacher Residency Program 2024-2025 Academic Year

## Teacher Leader Frequently Asked Questions

**Q - What is the payment schedule for the Teacher Leaders?**

A: Teacher Leaders will be paid up to \$3000, pre-taxed, by the first of December and June.

**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 - When a school district has two Teacher Leaders assigned to a single Resident, will they both be paid the \$6,000 Teacher Leader stipend through the funds for this program?**

A: No. There is only one Teacher Leader stipend per Resident. The district, in consultation with their identified Teacher Leaders, may strive to have an alternate plan. That plan would need UM Western and the OPI's approval.

**Q - Who pays the Teacher Leader costs for attending the in-person Teacher Leader Academies (i.e., travel, lodging, per diem)?**

A: Lodging and meals during the academy are paid for by OPI. Mileage not included.

**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 - 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 - 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 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.



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