



Dear Partners in Education,

June 6, 2017

Please Join Us for Our Upcoming Presentations On ESSA In Your Area:

- **Great Falls, June 12th, 1:00 -2:00, Heritage Hall Great Falls College**
- **Glendive, June 15th, 9:30-10:30, Dawson Community College Auditorium**
- **Billings, June 16th, 10:00-11:00, Public Library**

We look forward to presenting information on ESSA to educators, administrators, parents, community members and more!

Please forward this to staff and others that may be interested in attending.

Please Join Us for Our Upcoming Webinars

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is inviting you to participate and provide feedback on our upcoming webinars on specific topics for the Montana State ESSA Plan. The webinars are around ten minutes long and have guiding documents you can review beforehand. All of the information can be found on the ESSA tab on the OPI website. We are going to have webinars for each of the areas of the plan that we are revisiting in order to build upon and edit due to feedback, new requirements or peer review expectations. You can also find the feedback Montana has received on the plan submitted in December and the Peer Review Criteria the Department of Education Released on the OPI website under ESSA. The first webinars are on long-term goals and accountability indicators and are now up!

Focus Groups Coming Soon

The Montana Office of Public Instruction will use the feedback from the webinars to guide focus groups on areas of the plan which may need to have further robust discussions. We will invite those interested in these specific areas to join us in completing the work on these topics for the draft plan that will be provided to the public.

The Previous Plan Submitted in December

The plan submitted on December 28th has given us a great foundation and we are appreciative and continue to reflect on and utilize all of the work that was done by previous stakeholders and OPI staff. We are updating and building upon the work done previously and have continued to use the feedback that was given on the first plan by stakeholders and the community. OPI staff are taking a critical look at specific aspects and sections of the plan to determine how we can work with all of you to build upon them using new guidance we now have including the Peer Review Criteria which outline the expectations of the Department of Education and feedback from experts at the national level. We have met with hundreds of our partners in education over the last few months specifically to discuss ESSA

and to ask for participation as we move forward with creating a draft plan for the public throughout June. We have met with over half of the previous stakeholders and plan to have weekly email communication as well as a wealth of information on our website in the coming months while we work with all of Montana to write a plan that is reflective of our diverse schools, communities, and students.

ESSA is:

- The Every Student Succeeds Act signed into law in 2015 replaces No Child Left Behind and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- The purpose of Montana ESSA Plan is to show how Montana is working to ensure federal standards are met on various federally funded programs while allowing flexibility and ensuring community input. We want to use ESSA as a vehicle to accomplish our priorities, goals and vision for education in Montana.

Montana State Plan Previously:

- Submitted Dec. 28th after a handful of meetings including stakeholders from across the state as well as the ongoing work of over 70 OPI employees.
- We are honoring the work that was done and plan to “Update and Build Upon”.
- We have received feedback from Education Northwest, the Center for Assessment and CCSSO. We have also done a thorough analysis amongst our staff and there are areas of the previous plan we will build upon.
 - Long-term goals will be extended and better defined.
 - Growth and improvement will be the goal for all schools.
 - Another look at a detailed plan for schools that are in improvement status along with an exit plan for them.
 - A deeper dive into College and Career Readiness will take place.
 - Areas of the plan are no longer required; therefore, we may not add or be as detailed in these sections so that local districts are allowed more flexibility.

New Requirements and Template:

- ESSA allows for more local control and flexibility for schools; the new template has less documentation required.
- Congress voted to rescind accountability and teacher preparation regulations. We are required to submit less documentation and have more local control.
- There are 3 new requirements as of March 13th: 1) Long-term goals for English language proficiency 2) Awarding sub grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) under the new Student Support and Academic Enrichment program in Title IV, Part A. It will be a formula allocation to the states and then formula out to districts. 3) Development of a plan for ways in which homeless youth will receive assistance from counselors to prepare for college.

<u>ESSA TIME LINE</u>	
<u>May & June</u>	<u>OPI Staff work sessions, Statewide Visits to Discuss ESSA & Focus Groups Begin</u>
<u>July 12th</u>	<u>Draft to the Public</u>
<u>August 11th</u>	<u>Draft to the Governor</u>
<u>September 14th</u>	<u>Submit the Montana Plan to the Department of Education for Peer Review</u>

Currently we are working on:

- **The new school expenditure reporting requirements**
 - The OPI has developed a transition plan for per pupil expenditure reporting by school. The transition plan includes a pilot project and stakeholder team to assist in working through the transition process and developing the new system for reporting.
- **Long term goals for academic achievement and graduation**
 - Please visit the web site to see the webinar on long-term goals!
- **Accountability Indicators are being researched further in order to include a school climate survey and honor the work being done to improve school climate.**
 - Please visit the web site to see the webinar on accountability indicators!
- **College and Career Readiness**
 - We are examining various models and indicators for college and career readiness and looking into which indicators we have data on and can measure as part of the 5th indicator.
- **Revising the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP)**
 - Work is being done with the goal of consolidation of school reporting and to promote meaningful improvement planning through collaboration of school teams.

Please send feedback, input and questions to ESSAinput@mt.gov