



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.3095
888.231.9393
406.444.0169 (TTY)
opi.mt.gov

To: Education Partners

From: Nancy Coopersmith
Assistant Superintendent
Department of Education Services

Date: April 14, 2015

Subject: Montana Educator Equity Plan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Coopersmith".

The U.S. Department of Education requires that by June 1, 2015, each State Education Agency (SEA) submit to the department a new State Educator Equity Plan in accordance with the requirements of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). As required by the ESEA, the SEA must, among other things, describe in its plan the steps it will take to ensure that “poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers.” Each SEA must analyze what its stakeholders and data have to say about the root causes of inequities and must include strategies to close the equity gaps.

Superintendent Denise Juneau appointed a Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) leadership team to develop the plan, and she provided guidance to the team that no new data would be gathered for the plan. This will ensure that no additional data-gathering burden would be placed upon Montana educators. The OPI team includes the following key leaders: Mandy Broadus, Nancy Coopersmith, BJ Granbery, Sue Mohr, Dennis Parman, Linda Vrooman Peterson, and Frank Podobnik.

Please review the attached draft, dated April 14, 2015. The draft contains the sections required in the plan, including a timeline of activities. We welcome your comments and suggestions, particularly about the root causes of the inequities and your ideas about the strategies to address the equity gaps.

Please send your written comments no later than April 27, 2015, to Rehanna Olson at ROlson2@mt.gov. You may also contact any member of the OPI leadership team if you have questions about the draft plan. We welcome your comments, additions and suggestions, and we appreciate your assistance with this project!