

Educator Licensure

The Superintendent of Public Instruction issues all teacher, administrator and education specialist licenses in Montana as set forth in the policies of the Board of Public Education, Chapter 57 of the Administrative Rules of Montana. The Educator Licensure Program ensures educators meet all requirements for licensure in Montana. OPI Legal Counsel administers the Educator Licensure Program.

The Educator Licensure Program:

- Maintains a database and document management system of over 24,500 licensed Montana educators to ensure current and accurate educator licensure information is available.
- Issues 1,000 or more new educator licenses each year.
- Renews over 1,800 licenses per year, nearly half via an online application process.
- Responds to over 17,000 inquiries per year.
- Works with the Board of Public Education and the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council on issues regarding licensure.
- Updates the OPI website on the current licensure status of all licensed Montana educators and keeps application forms and licensure information up-to-date and available.
- Approves providers of professional development and individual activities for license renewal credit.
- Recommends revocation and suspension of licenses to the Board of Public Education for those licensees determined to have committed criminal and other actions of potential harm to children.
- Reports surrendered licenses to the Board of Public Education and defends decisions to deny licenses for academic and character reasons when a denial is appealed to the Board of Public Education.