

K-12 Education Data Systems

The K-12 Education Data Systems supports OPI's efforts to coordinate data collection and reporting related to K-12 education and student achievement. The major systems that are supported with state funding are the AIM (Achievement in Montana) statewide student information system, the development of a school staffing module, and OPI's electronic grants management system.

Within the K-12 Education Data Systems Division,

AIM, Statewide Student information System:

- Collects enrollment, demographic and program participation data from all school districts and accredited private schools to facilitate the statewide student assessment, accreditation processes and performance measurement.
- Uses the AIM system to register students for the statewide student assessment and report on student achievement and Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- Develops training materials including Montana specific AIM Quick Reference Guides and data collection tutorials for school personnel.
- Trains school staff on the use of the Montana Edition (local school district software) and the Special Education reporting tool.
- Trains OPI staff on OPI's Student Records Confidentiality Policy, which applies to all contractors, employees of OPI, and researchers requesting access to confidential, sensitive or restricted student information.
- Provides public reports and analysis on indicators of student success, including attendance, graduation and dropout reports.

School Staffing Information System:

- Links data related to educator training and professional qualifications with teaching assignments in schools.
- Designates critical educator shortage areas for providing educator loan repayment assistance.
- Is piloting a process for collecting salary and benefit information from school districts.
- Is redesigning the data system for issuing educator licenses and managing licensure information.

Electronic Grants Management System:

- Provides school districts with online tools to apply for 14 federal grant programs administered by OPI, making approximately \$131 million available to Montana schools per year.
- Facilitates OPI's online review and approval process for grant applications and notices of awards to 420 school districts and numerous other eligible community-based and non-profit applicants.
- Streamlines processes by allowing school districts to submit online cash requests and to access information about the status of project payments over multiple years.
- Facilitates OPI's monthly electronic grant payments to sub-recipients and ties payments to the status of grant allocations and appropriations on the state's accounting system (SABHRS).
- Facilitates collection of data about planned uses of federal grant funds, used in reporting to the federal government.