

Montana State Fiscal Stabilization Application - Phase 2
April 28, 2010

State Plan for Montana –Indicator (c)(11) and (c)(12)

V. INDICATORS (c)(11) AND (c)(12)

State Plan Instructions: For each of Indicators (c)(11) and (c)(12) for which the State is not able to fully collect or publicly report annually the required data or information (as indicated in Part 3A), please attach a plan that provides:

- Indicator: c11

Of the students who graduate from high school consistent with 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1)(i), the number and percentage who enroll in an institution of higher education (IHE) (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)) within 16 months of receiving a regular high school diploma. (State, district, and school (by subgroup))

(3) *The process and timeline for achieving the ability to implement the means to fully collect and/or publicly report (as required) the data or information by September 30, 2011, including:*

Montana has initiated discussions with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) for a statewide contract to purchase the NSC's *StudentTracker for High Schools* for Montana's 175 public high schools. The *StudentTracker* would be used to match the state's records against the NSC's database to produce a comprehensive report containing information to help the Office of Public Instruction, the Montana University System, and Montana's high schools to better assess college attendance, and achievement of our Montana high school graduates.

- *The milestones that the State establishes toward developing and implementing those means;*
- *The date by which the State expects to reach each milestone;*

Milestone	Completion Date
Research the state's options for contracting with the National Student Clearinghouse in terms of services, delivery of reports and cost estimates	June 2010
Work with P-20 stakeholders to review options and potential sources of funding	June 2010
Identify a subset of Montana high school districts to participate in a pilot project for submitting data to NSC	August 2010
Determine if funding can be secured to move forward with a pilot project and/or a Montana contract with NSC for implementing the <i>StudentTracker</i> statewide	November 2010
Include requirements in the state's RFP for a K12 education data warehouse to store information of postsecondary performance of individual students.	December 2010

Current Status:

The Office of Public Instruction does not have a comprehensive system for accessing post-secondary information on its high school graduates. Specific federal education programs, such as Carl Perkins and IDEA, require school districts to collect and report student follow-up information, but this data is not used or reported beyond the requirements of the particular

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federal education programs.

- *Describe any obstacles that may prevent the State from developing and implementing those means by September 30, 2011, including but not limited to requirements and prohibitions of State law and policy;*

The challenge for the State of Montana is to identify a funding source to support a contract with the National Student Clearinghouse for statewide implementation of the *StudentTracker for High Schools* product. The implementation is projected to cost approximately \$80,000 annually for Montana's 175 public high schools. If funds can be secured, it is possible to implement the system by September 30, 2011 and use the system to report on Montana students who graduated from high school in 2008 or later.

- *The nature and frequency of reports that the State will provide to the public regarding its progress in developing and implementing those means;*

The OPI posts a status report on its ARRA web site showing its progress on Assurances and Indicators. The report is posted at http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Supt/Fed_Stimulus/Assurance_Indicators_Descriptors.pdf . In addition, the OPI will be providing semi-annual reports to the interim Legislative Finance Committee on its progress in meeting the four assurances under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The first report was provided to the Legislative Fiscal Division in November 2009 and presented to the Legislative Finance Committee in December 2009. The December report is posted at: http://www.leg.mt.gov/css/fiscal/PM_Agency.asp.

The next report to the Legislative Finance Committee will be presented in June 2010.

(4) A description of the evidence that the State will provide to the Department of Education to demonstrate that it has developed the means to collect and publicly report the data for each indicator for which the State is not able to fully collect or publicly report annually the required data, by September 30, 2011.

At a minimum, the State of Montana will develop, but not implement a plan to collect and publicly report the data required under Indicator c(11). The plan will include documentation of the research steps, stakeholder discussions, and funding options related to implementing the plan. The plan will also include documentation of the requirements which the SEA includes in its Request for Proposals for a K-12 education data warehouse. The RFP is on-schedule to be released in January 2011.

Furthermore, the plan must satisfy the following general requirements:

(E) Identify the agency or agencies in the State responsible for the development, execution, and oversight of the plan, including the institutional infrastructure and describe the capacity of the agency or agencies as they relate to each of those tasks;

The agencies in Montana responsible for the development, execution, and oversight of the plan are the Montana University System - Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the

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Montana K-12, Office of Public Instruction.

(F) Identify the agency or agencies, institutions, or organizations, if any, providing technical assistance or other support in the development, execution, and oversight of the plan, and describe the nature of such technical assistance or other support;

Technical support and assistance for the plan comes from Montana University System - Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the Montana K-12, Office of Public Instruction. The Montana Student Assistance Foundation is also an active partner in facilitating discussions and pursuing funding options.

(G) Provide the overall budget for the development, execution, and oversight of the plan; and

The Office of Public Instruction estimates that the implementation of a contract with the National Student Clearinghouse for all 175 high schools in Montana will cost approximately \$80,000 annually. The initial implementation is likely to require another \$20,000 for training of school personnel and start-up costs at the SEA level. The SEA will pursue state and private funding sources for this implementation.

(H) Describe the way the State will publicly report the plan and the State's progress reports on its plan, including the nature and frequency of updated reports to the public on State actions taken under the plan and the website where the State will make the plan and progress reports publicly available (as defined in the Notice of Final Requirements, Definitions, and Approval Criteria for the SFSF Phase II).

The OPI has created a web page where it provides quarterly status reports to the public on the state's progress in meeting the [State Fiscal Stabilization Fund program's indicators](#). In addition, the OPI will be providing semi-annual reports to the interim Legislative Finance Committee on its progress in meeting the four assurances under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act