

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

Assurance (b) Improving Collection and Use of Data – Indicators

**III. INDICATOR (b)(1)**

Plan Instructions

*If (as indicated in Part 3A) the State does not have a statewide longitudinal data system that fully includes all 12 elements of the America COMPETES Act, as addressed in indicator (b)(1), please attach a plan that provides the process and timeline for developing and implementing, as soon as possible, but no later than September 30, 2011, a statewide longitudinal data system that includes all 12 elements of the America COMPETES Act, including the following information:*

- *The milestones that the State establishes toward developing and implementing those means;*
- *The date by which the State expects to reach each milestone;*
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America COMPETES Act – 12 Data Elements	Work in Progress	Completion Date
1 - A unique statewide student identifier that does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system		Completed
2 - Student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information		Completed
3 - Student-level information about the points at which students exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop out, or complete P-16 education programs		Completed
4 - The capacity to communicate with higher education data systems	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in this plan	September 2011
5 - A State data audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability		Completed
6 - Yearly test records of individual students with respect to assessments under section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965		Completed
7 - Information on students not tested by grade and subject		Completed
8 - A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students	Detailed tasks and timeline are included	September 2011

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	in this plan	
9 - Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in this plan	September 2011
10 - Student-level college readiness test scores	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in this plan	September 2011
11 - Information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework	Detailed tasks and timeline are included in the plans for Indicators (c)(11) and (c)(12)	September 2011
12 - Information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education	No new data needs have been identified yet, but may be identified in policy discussions	September 2011

**Data Element #4: The capacity to communicate with higher education data systems**

All campuses of the Montana University System (MUS) have the capacity to store the K-12 statewide student ID (SSID) in their postsecondary enrollment systems (Banner). Therefore, the basic capacity currently exists for K-12 education data systems to communicate with the higher education data systems. However, the policies are not in place to require school districts to include the K-12 statewide student identifier on the high school transcript. The definition of a permanent Student Record falls within the purview of the BPE administrative rules. The Office of Public Instruction will prepare and present a recommendation to the BPE to adopt an administrative rule requiring all school districts to include the K-12 statewide student identifier in the student's permanent record and on the student's official transcript. The process for adoption of the proposed rule can be completed by September 30, 2011.

Milestones for Data Element #4	Completion Date
All campuses of the Montana University System (MUS) have the ability to store the K-12 statewide student ID (SSID) in their postsecondary enrollment systems (Banner)	March 2010
OPI uses its monthly electronic newsletter to urge high schools to include a student's SSID on the high school transcript	On-going

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OPI recommends that the BPE adopt an administrative rule requiring all school districts to include the K-12 statewide student identifier in the student's permanent record and on the student's official transcript	July 2010
Extract entering Montana high school students' records from MUS data system (along with SSIDs) and match to K-12 unit-record level data	December 2010
Produce 2010 Montana High School Follow-up Report. The 2010 follow-up report will be posted at <a href="http://mus.edu/data/HS_follow-up.asp">http://mus.edu/data/HS_follow-up.asp</a>	February 2011
Board of Public Education completes rulemaking process for requiring all school districts to include the K-12 statewide student identifier in the student's permanent record and on the student's official transcript	September 2011

*Budget for Implementation of Data Element #4*

The inclusion of this recommendation to the BPE is likely to require a minimal amount of additional staff time, perhaps 10 hours of staff time at a cost of \$50/hour for salary and benefits for a total cost of \$500. The source of this funding will be state general fund revenue.

**Data Element #8: A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students**

Since September 2009, the OPI has been actively working on major enhancements to its data collections relative to school staffing. Currently, the OPI assigns a unique "folio number" to an educator when the educator applies for an educator license to teach in Montana. In addition, the OPI collects the license numbers for specialists who are employed by the school districts, but do not hold an educator license. Examples of these specialists include speech pathologists, physical and occupational therapists, and school nurses. For years, these folio/license numbers have met the state's needs for a teacher identifier because the folio/license numbers are reported by school districts along with personnel assignments to the SEA each fall. The OPI has been able to link personnel assignments with the educator licensure database to determine if schools are meeting the accreditation standards and to respond to reporting requirements for highly qualified teachers.

More recently, the state has identified the need for a school staff identifier, which will be applied to all school employees, licensed and non-licensed. The SEA is in the design phase for instituting the school staff identifier; the state plans to assign these identifiers before the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

Milestones for Data Element #8	Completion Date
As part of its School Staffing Project, the OPI reviews options for assignment of a school staff identifier to all school staff and determines a process and timeline for assigning the identifiers to school personnel	September 2010

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During the 2010-2011 school year, school staff identifiers will be assigned to all school employees in 422 public school districts and in private accredited schools.	June 30, 2011
Reporting of personnel assignments by LEAs will include the school staff identifier	September 2011

*Budget for Implementation of Data Element #8*

The Montana Legislature has appropriated \$3,447,000 of state general fund money to the Office of Public Instruction for the implementation of a statewide student information system, a grant tracking system and other databases during the 2013 biennium. The funding for the assignment of a school staff identifier is included within the total appropriation.

**Data Element #9: Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned**

In conjunction with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the OPI has developed a high-level plan for how the state would collect student transcript information for each K-12 student at the completion of each grade and store that information in an electronic student transcript repository. The details of this plan are included in the state's application to the Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education) for a P-20 state longitudinal data system grant; the application was submitted to IES in December 2009. The estimated cost of this effort is \$1.9 million, and the current timeframe for completing the project is June 2013.

In order to meet the timeline of September 30, 2011, the state will need to develop an interim solution to collect high school transcript data from high schools on their graduating seniors. The major portion of this work will be to build/buy a collection tool and cross-walk for schools to export data from their existing systems into a transcript service.

Milestones for Data Element #9	Completion Date
OPI and its partners apply to USED for a P-20 state longitudinal data system grant to create an electronic student transcript repository	December 2009
OPI issues an RFP for a transcript service to receive student transcript information on graduating seniors	December 2010
Appropriation process concludes when the Montana legislature adjourns	April 2011
OPI contracts with a vendor for the transcript service	May 2011

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Develop and conduct training for LEAs (high schools)	August 2011
Deliver data to the repository for students who graduated in 2011	September 2011

*Budget for Implementation of Data Element #9*

The OPI has estimated that the cost of designing, implementing and loading data into an electronic student repository and training school districts in its use is \$1.9 million. The cost estimate and timelines are described in detail in the state’s application for a P-20 state longitudinal data system grant.

**Data Element #10: Student-level college readiness test scores**

The state’s student information system, AIM – Achievement in Montana, has the capacity to store student test scores. The MUS requires students to participate in the ACT as an assessment of college readiness. The state receives student-level data from the college testing services; the data does not include the statewide student identifiers.

Milestones for Data Element #10	Completion Date
Research options for a contract with the college testing services to include the statewide student identifier on the college readiness tests	July 2010
Secure funding for the contract(s) from the Montana legislature	April 2011
Collect the SSID on student tests in the 2011-2012 school year	September 2011

*Budget for Implementation of Data Element #10*

Montana has explored and will continue to move continually to administer the *ACT Plus Writing Assessment*. The cost estimate for a Montana contract for *ACT Plus Writing* through ACT's State Testing Program is \$588,000 for 12,000 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in the assessment. Funds could be redirected from existing state administered writing assessments to pay for this activity.

A less expensive alternative is for the state to pursue a contract with ACT for release of student test scores without the requirement for statewide testing. The OPI is researching possible contract options and reviewing the arrangements that other states have with the testing services.

**Data Element #11: Information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework**

The status, timeline, and budget for this data element is the same as described for Indicators (c)(11) and (c)(12). The OPI plans to pursue a contract with the National Student Clearinghouse

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to obtain information on students who enroll in postsecondary institutions and whether these students enroll in remedial coursework at the postsecondary level. The OPI is also able to obtain more detailed data on students who enroll in the Montana University System.

**Data Element #12: Information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education**

No new data needs have been identified for Data Element #12 although the OPI expects that needs may arise from the on-going work of various P-20 policy groups. Three initiatives in particular are likely to identify data that is needed to address alignment issues and the adequacy of preparation for success in postsecondary education. 1) The state has launched a review of the Montana School Accreditation standards. The review includes state requirements for graduation. 2) The University of Montana (UM) has endeavored to enhance the admission standards for its flagship campus. The Montana University System (MUS) has also, through the College Now Initiative funded by the Lumina Foundation, begun a review of college entrance requirements for two year, four year and campus specific programs. 3) Montana has joined in the national initiative to consider the adoption of Common Core State Standards and Assessments. Any one of these initiatives is likely to require additional data gathering and analysis.

**Plan Element Verification:** Please mark which elements, per the instructions in Part 1, must be addressed in your state plan:

<u>COMPETES</u> Element	<u>Must be</u> addressed in plan	<u>Does not need to be</u> addressed in plan
1		X
2		X
3		X
4	X	
5		X
6		X
7		X
8	X	
9	X	
10	X	
11	X	
12	X	