



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

October 30, 2016

Denise Juneau
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Dear Denise Juneau:

On May 16-18, 2016, a team from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) (the Department) conducted an onsite monitoring of the Montana Office of Public Instruction's (OPI) implementation of its approved Preschool Development Grant (PDG). This monitoring aims to continue the collaborative relationship that began at the grant award and development of the scope of work. It provides the Department with a deeper understanding of each State's overall performance; the successes, challenges, and strategies for the implementation of its plans for its PDG Development grant; and the fiscal management of the grant funds. It also helps us tailor technical assistance to each State's specific needs.

The site visit included presentations and discussions related to all projects in the approved scope of work, including grants management, high-quality preschool programs, early learning standards, comprehensive services, workforce development, and sustainability. During the visit, ED project officers visited the Montana Office of Public Instruction and several Preschool classrooms located in three high-need communities: Rocky Mountain Development Center Head Start, Great Falls School District and Blackfeet Early Childhood Center.

Enclosed is a summary report based upon this review. The report includes highlights of Montana's implementation of PDG and a snapshot of Montana's progress under each PDG key area. This report will be posted on the PDG website. The report includes "next steps" to ensure that Montana implements PDG consistent with its approved application, scope of work, and timelines identified in its project plans.

We want to thank you and your staff for your cooperation and hospitality during the site visit, and for your efforts in providing high quality preschool opportunities through the Preschool Development Grant. As we have discussed and as detailed further in this report, Montana is receiving a corrective action report as a result of the visit. As such, a written response to the corrective action is expected by November 30, 2016. We hope you will continue to communicate any needs or concerns to your ED project officer(s).

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We look forward to continuing our work with you and supporting Montana's technical assistance needs to ensure successful implementation of PDG. Thank you for your commitment to Montana's youngest children.

Sincerely,

/s/

Libby Doggett
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Early Learning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

Enclosure