



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

July 10, 2020

The Honorable Elsie Arntzen
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59220

Dear Superintendent Arntzen:

I am writing in response to Montana's request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) on December 18, 2019 and February 18, 2020 to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. Prior to implementing any revisions to its approved consolidated State plan, a State must submit its proposed amendments to the Department for review and approval.

I have determined that the amended request meets the requirements in the ESEA and, for this reason, I am approving Montana's amended State plan. A summary of Montana's amendment is enclosed. This letter, as well as Montana's revised ESEA consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website. Any further requests to amend Montana's ESEA consolidated State plan must be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment to Montana's consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the amended State plan comply with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is Montana's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Thank you for all of the work that the Montana Office of Public Instruction has put into its consolidated State plan under the ESEA. If you need any assistance regarding the implementation of your ESEA consolidated State plan, please contact the Office of School Support and Accountability at: OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan
Assistant Secretary for
Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Julie Murgel, ESSA Accountability Coordinator

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Amendment to the Montana Consolidated State Plan

The following is a summary of Montana’s amendment request. Please refer to the Department’s website <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/montana-states-plan/> for Montana’s complete consolidated State plan.

- *Title III, Part A Entrance and Exit Procedures*

Montana amended its exit procedures for English learners; a student must achieve a composite score of 4.7, rather than a 5.0, on the State’s English language proficiency (ELP) assessment, the WIDA ACCESS, to be considered proficient in English and to exit English learner status. Additionally, Montana defined proficiency as an achievement level “P2” on the State’s alternate ELP assessment for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities who take the alternate ELP assessment aligned to alternate ELP achievement standards.