

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

State Plan for Montana –Indicator (c)(10)

**State Plan Instructions:** For each assurance indicator or descriptor under education reform areas (a), (c), and (d) 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: c10

*The process and timeline for developing and implementing, as soon as possible, but no later than September 30, 2011, the means to fully collect and/or publicly report (as required) the data or information, including:*

- *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
Submittal of amendments to Montana's State Accountability Workbook for transitional graduation rate	January 2010
U.S. Department of Education's peer review of Montana's graduation rate	First six months of 2010
Collection of student graduation data for the students assigned to a 9 <sup>th</sup> grade cohort in 2007-2008	September 2011
Preliminary reporting of graduation data using four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate	September 2011
Quality assurance checks and school district review completed	December 2011
Final reporting of graduation data using four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate	February 2012

**Current Status:**

The Office of Public Instruction collects graduation information from its student information system, AIM-Achievement in Montana. The OPI assigns students to a graduation cohort at the beginning of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The state will be able to report a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate as required by 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1)(i) for the cohort of students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2007-08 and will graduate in 2010-2011. The state will use its transitional graduation rate until 2010-2011. The OPI submitted its amendments to the U.S. Department of Education for the [State Accountability Workbook](#) in January 2010 for the transitional graduation rate that the state will use until it is able to report the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate as required by 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1)(i).

- *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 OPI is on-target for reporting the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate as required by 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1)(i) for the cohort of students who will graduate in 2011. However, the state includes students who graduate in the summer following their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year in its count of on-time graduates. Therefore, the state collects graduation data in the fall for students who graduated in the previous school year. The OPI will report a preliminary graduation rate in

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September 2011 for students who graduated in the 2010-2011 school year. The OPI's quality assurance process includes providing preliminary graduation reports to school districts and a sign-off process by school districts to verify that the graduation data is correct. This verification process will be completed by December 2011. The final graduation rate will be reported in February 2012 after school districts have been given the opportunity to review the data and correct any errors.

- *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 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.

- *The amount of funds the State is using or will use to develop and implement those means, and whether the funds are or will be Federal, State, or local funds.*

This plan is built into the existing work plans of the OPI and does not require additional resources to implement.

*Furthermore, the plan must satisfy the following general requirements:*

- (E) Describe 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 OPI is responsible for the development, execution, and oversight of the plan. The institutional infrastructure exists within the Measurement and Accountability division of the OPI.

- (F) Describe 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;*

The OPI participates in both the National Forum on Education Statistics (sponsored by the USED) and the Education Information Management Advisory Consortium (sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers-CCSSO). Through these networks, the OPI is able to consult the USED, CCSSO and colleagues in other state agencies regarding design and implementation issues surrounding the implementation of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.

- (G) Provide the overall budget for the development, execution, and oversight of the plan.*

No additional resources have been identified for this project.

- (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*

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*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.