



## ESSA Update October 11, 2023

Dear Partners in Education,

The Montana OPI is seeking public comment on an Amendment to Montana's Consolidated State Plan under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) related to the definition and actions of Rigorous Action as it relates to accountability.

As part of the amendment requirements, the OPI is posting an opportunity for public comment pursuant to §8401(b) requirements within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 from the U.S. Department of Education (USED). The USED requires state educational agencies, when seeking amendments from statutory or regulatory requirements, solicit and respond to public comment on the request and provide evidence of the available comment period.

### Purpose

The purpose of the amendment is to provide a thought out process of what a tiered approach to Rigorous Action will look like in Montana schools not making adequate progress.

### Process and timeline

**August 8, 2023:** 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Task Force meets

**August 22, 2023:** 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Task Force defines Rigorous Action and reports on research

**September 5, 2023:** 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Finalize Rigorous Action Plan

**September 12, 2023:** 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Give feedback on Amendment for ESSA Plan

**October 4, 2023:** 2:45 p.m. - Share draft with MACIE

**October 11, 2023:** Public Comment Opens

**October 11-26, 2023:** [Rigorous Action Feedback Form](#)

**October 23, 2023:** 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Webinar for public comment [ZOOM Link](#)

**October 26, 2023:** 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. - Webinar for public comment [ZOOM Link](#)

**October 30, 2023:** 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Respond to public comment [ZOOM Link](#)

**November 10, 2023:** public comment closes



**November/December 2023:** share information with Board of Public Education, Education Advocates, Governor's Consultation

**January, 2024:** Final Draft prepared and submitted to the Department of Education

**Please send feedback, input, and questions to [ESSAinput@mt.gov](mailto:ESSAinput@mt.gov)**