

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



December 2, 2024

Ricky Depoe, Board Chairperson
Hot Springs School District
P.O. Box 1005
Hot Springs, MT 59845

Dear Chairperson, DePoe:

In order for a local school district to receive funds under ESEA Title I-Part A, Title I, School Support 1003(g) Title I-Part C, Title I-Part D, Title II-Part A, Title III-Part A, Title IV-Part A, Title IV-Part B, Title V-Part B, Title VII- Indian Education, or Title X-Part C—Homeless Education, the district must maintain an adequate level of local fiscal effort according to federal statute. No Child Left Behind, Public Law 107-110, Title IX, General Provisions, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9521, addresses the maintenance of effort requirement for local school districts that participate in any of the above Titles. The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) computes the appropriate calculations for local school districts. The expenditures used to complete these calculations are taken from the local school district's Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS). This is the same report that is required by the OPI School Finance Division. To determine a local school district's compliance with this component of the statute, the OPI must compare data from the first preceding fiscal year, **2022-2023**, to the second preceding fiscal year, **2021-2022**.

In reviewing the maintenance of effort report for the **2023-2024** project approval year, we find that your district has not met this federal requirement. However, because your district has maintained effort in one or more of the five immediately preceding fiscal years, the OPI will grant an automatic waiver of this requirement, per ESEA section 8521 (b)(1). Please note that districts are ineligible to receive another waiver for a minimum of five fiscal years if failure to maintain effort occurs in the future and any school district that has not maintained effort is ineligible to apply for Title reallocated funds.

Sincerely,

Federal Grants Director
Montana Office of Public Instruction

cc: District Clerk, County Superintendent

OPI:

Julie Murgel
Angela Branz-Spall
April Grady
Lindsay Mahoney
Megan Tenneson
Meghann Spring
Tammy Lysons
Justine Guthrie
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