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General Appropriations Act
Office of Public Instruction

Proponent Testimony by Dick Clark, Chief Information Officer (CIO)
Information Technology Services Division (ITSD)
Department of Administration
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Joint Appropriation Subcommittee on Education
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Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Dick Clark. I am the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), within the Department of Administration.

My testimony is related to OPI's Achievement in Montana (AIM) and E-grants Projects.

ITSD is the agency within State government that works with executive agencies to manage Information Technology projects in the State. OPI is undertaking the deployment of two systems that will modernize its ability to serve the students of Montana. The first system, AIM, will streamline the reporting of student-related data from school districts to OPI. The second system, E-Grants, will be a web-enabled system for K-12 education and will support the grant application process.

OPI has worked diligently with ITSD in several areas to mitigate risk to these projects and to build a good overall relationship. Specifically, these areas of contact include integration of State Policies and Procedures, Disaster Recovery, Project Management, and Communications;

Project Management

OPI hired an experienced project manager that employs industry best practices in IT project management. The projects are on budget and on time.

Disaster Recovery

ITSD worked with OPI on the hosting of the data for the systems and is performing the backups of the system data, which are stored off-site. Additionally, OPI and ITSD work together using a contract with SunGard, a Disaster Recovery company in Philadelphia, Pa, for data recovery if ever needed.

State Policies and Procedures

OPI adheres to all State of Montana Enterprise IT Policies. OPI is security conscious and participates with ITSD on all security concerns. OPI uses encrypted File Transfer Services provided by ITSD to transfer confidential data between OPI and Montana School Districts.

Communications

OPI communicates with ITSD very well and is a splendid partner. In fact, OPI and OCHE, in conjunction with ITSD are actively discussing future data sharing arrangements from K-12 through to University.

Overall, I would give OPI high marks on its efforts on these two projects and well as being a good partner to work with.

I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.