



## Education Interim Committee Presentations January 9, 2024

### **HB 203: Out-of-District Attendance**

This legislation generally revised education laws to enhance educational opportunities. This amended the title of 20-5-320, MCA, to be: *Out-of-district attendance by parent or guardian request with no extenuating circumstances*. In addition, this provides limited circumstances under which an out-of-district attendance application may be denied, as well as requiring the resident district to pay for resident children who attend out of district.

The OPI has:

- updated the Student Attendance Agreement Form, called Form [FP-14](#),
- updated school funding formulas to reflect applicable tuition per- ANB amount as identified in the legislation, and
- is preparing draft guidance documents to be available soon for district trustees and schools.

### **HB 393: Special Education Savings Account**

This act establishes a students with special needs savings account (ESA). This act establishes requirements for eligibility and allowable expenses, while outlining responsibilities for parents, school districts, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The OPI has:

- created the funding formula to determine school district remittance amounts per student,
- researched and reviewed other state education departments that have facilitated a savings account program similar to this legislation,
- created the ESA Steering Committee, a group of 15 parents and community members who will meet regularly to provide feedback, insights, and communicate with their communities to the OPI to support implementation, and
- is in the process of hiring a staff member to oversee the program applications and reimbursements.

**HB 408: Education Tax Credits**

HB 408 increases the tax credit caps available under the Innovative Educational Program (IEP) public-school tax credit and the Student Scholarship Organization (SSO) program for non-public schools. This summary is in reference to the IEP public-school tax credit portion only. School districts that receive tax credit donations are to deposit those funds into the school district’s miscellaneous programs fund and must spend the donated funds for innovative educational programs defined in 15-30-3102, MCA.

The OPI has:

- prepared the formulas for the tax credit donation maximum limits.

**HB 352 Early Literacy Intervention**

This bill supports early reading interventions for eligible students aged four to entering third grade. It also places emphasis on collaboration between the OPI, the Board of Public Education (BPE), and school district trustees. The bill provides for classroom interventions for 4-year olds, a jumpstart program for eligible student, and a home-based intervention program.

The OPI has:

- hired two new full-time Early Literacy Specialists to help schools that are opting into the program understand the evaluation methodologies and identifying eligible students,
- created the OPI’s Early Literacy Collaborative is a group of ten educators and community members who meet monthly to provide feedback for implementation, and are
- drafting an RFP for the home-based program

**ESSER Funding Update (pages 2-4)**

- ESSER I is closed.
- ESSER II has been processed by LEAs and OPI is finalizing our fiscal closeout.
- ESSER III – Updates posted in Compass ESSER Bulletin including: cash requests cannot be embedded in Final Expenditure Reports and ELO summer/afterschool grants open.

**Spending snapshot:**

**State Level ESSER Activity**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Percentage Expended</u>
ESSER I	\$ 41,295,230	\$ 41,295,230	\$ -	100%
ESSER II	\$ 170,099,465	\$ 168,723,409	\$ 1,376,056	99%
ESSER III	\$ 382,019,236	\$ 199,818,060	\$ 182,201,176	52%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 593,413,931</b>	<b>\$ 409,836,699</b>	<b>\$ 183,577,232</b>	<b>69%</b>



## Ingenium



Starting in 2011, Ingenium has been working with schools in Great Falls Montana to offer programs for over 3,000 youth. Ingenium teaches students math and literacy skills through the development of computer games connecting STEAM education to real-world careers. With a focus on social-emotional learning and addressing barriers caused by economic and geographic status. *For program details please click the link below:*

**ELO Application History**  
Afterschool 2022-Summer 2024

**Total ESSER ELO Funding**  
\$86,256.00

**Average participation**  
6 hours per week

## Target Range – Outdoor Learning



academic and social-emotional needs impacted by the pandemic, was used to complete the project this past year.

Boosted by community engagement in student learning in all settings, the Target Range K-8 school generated smiles and brain cell activity as students decided what their new outdoor learning space would look like. The cost was high, but the community came together through several fundraising efforts including a jogathon. ESSER funding, which is designed to assist schools in meeting

**ESSER Application History**  
ESSER II & III

**ESSER Funding**  
Standard Oper-Pupil: \$11k  
One-Time Per-Pupil: \$2k

**Program Focus**  
Outdoor Learning Space

## Hamilton Players



With the support of ESSER ELO funding, Hamilton Players has achieved several measurable education goals that support Montana youth development. With a focus on reading education to address learning loss, Hamilton Players provided students with learning-based activities like script reading and self-confidence through performance.

**ELO Application History**  
Summer 2023

**Total ELO Funding**  
\$25,000

**Program Focus**  
Reading