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Education Interim Committee

68th Montana Legislature

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Superintendent Elsie Arntzen
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October 10, 2023

Greetings Superintendent Arntzen,

At the September 12, 2023, meeting of the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee, Department of Public Health and Humans Services (DPHHS) Director Charlie Brereton stated that Montana would be applying for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT) Program for the Summer of 2024. This program provides benefits to families of children who are eligible for the Free/Reduced School Lunch Program to help ensure those children have access to nutritious meals over the summer when school is not in session.

On the same date, Representative Romano requested that the Education Interim Committee ask the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) for an update regarding OPI's role in administering Summer EBT at the committee's November 16 meeting. Because this meeting will be held in Missoula and remote participation via Zoom will not be available, the committee is inviting OPI to respond in writing to the questions below. Please either provide a written response by November 10 or plan to address these questions in person with the committee on November 16.

1. Describe OPI's existing collaboration or plans to collaborate with DPHHS to apply for and implement Summer EBT in Summer 2024.
2. What will OPI's role be in collaboratively implementing the Summer EBT program with DPHHS?
3. Does OPI anticipate any challenges in collaborating with DPHHS in implementing Summer EBT? If so, please describe.
4. Will OPI incur administrative costs related to Summer EBT? If so, what is OPI's plan for paying for these costs and how will administrative costs at OPI be incorporated into federal matching requirements for Summer EBT?

Thank you for sharing information with the committee!

Sen. Dan Salomon, Chair

Sen. Edie McClafferty, Vice Chair

cc: Charlie Brereton, Director, DPHHS