



September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Data Systems Modernization Project Update

*The Data Systems Modernization Project's purpose is to repair, improve, or replace existing data systems to respond to learning loss associated with the pandemic. Actions taken must be consistent with 20-7-104.*

*\$13.5M was appropriated from HB 630 and 632 for the project:*

*House Bill 630 (ESSER II) - \$8,000,000*

*House Bill 632 (ESSER III) - \$5,475,248*

*The project is broken into four areas:*

*Educator Management*

*Student Management*

*Fiscal Management*

*Digital Infrastructure*

## 2 Project Managers Contracted in July 2021

The first Project Manager was contracted with in July 2021 and has been helping the OPI team create a detailed first year project and budget plan for the overall project and define the project scope and approach. We also anticipate the project manager to help facilitate two additional solicitations to be let this fall to bolster our ability to plan and execute this project:

- The first solicitation will be for an organizational change management and stakeholder engagement consulting firm to help facilitate communications, change management, and validate the project scope and approach.
- The second solicitation will be for a firm to provide additional technical and staff augmentation resources to the OPI, such as project managers, technical and business analysts.

### **Educator Management:**

An Educator Management Project Manager was contracted with in July 2021 and has facilitated the requirements gathering and writing of an RFP for a new Educator Licensing System. The RFP was published on August 31st. OPI will review and score responses starting in October and expects to have a vendor selected and under contract by January 2022. The new Educator Licensure system is scheduled to be live by May 2022.

### **Student Management:**

A "Big 5" Student Information System Working Group was established in August 2021 – This group is meeting regularly to address the unique challenges facing the 5 largest districts and how they interact with and use the State's Student Information System and agree on the scope and approach for resolving those technical issues. Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena and Kalispell all have representation and participation on this working group. This group's work will be incorporated into the overall project plan.

### **Financial Management and Digital Infrastructure:**

These areas of the project are dependent on the additional contracted resources and have not yet commenced.

### **Budget Status**

The new Educator Licensing System is estimated to cost \$500,000.00 for implementation and \$200,000 per year thereafter.

At this point we are estimating about \$1.3M-\$2M in staff augmentation and consulting costs (project management and other technical skills), or about 10-15% of the total budget, which is the typical overhead for these types of projects.

As of September 9<sup>th</sup>, \$14,040.00 has been expended on the project, all of it project management costs.

### **CONTACT:**

Michael Sweeney  
Chief Data Officer  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
[msweeney@mt.gov](mailto:msweeney@mt.gov)  
406-444-4411