

OPI Special Ed.
Endorsement Project
MSU-Billings
1500 University Dr.
Billings, MT 59101

Act #624813



**2009-2010
OPI
SPECIAL EDUCATION
ENDORSEMENT PROJECT**

APPLICATION

OPI Special Education Endorsement Project
Montana State University-Billings
1500 University Drive
Billings, MT 59101
406-657-2097



Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
www.opi.mt.gov

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE MUST:

- ** Be employed by a school district unable to recruit a fully certified special education teacher and be in possession of a teaching contract in that district;
- ** Have a current Class 1 or Class 2 Montana Teaching Certificate. Class 5 Alternative Licenses are *NOT* eligible for participation;
- ** Have a commitment to complete the special education endorsement within three (3) years as mandated by OPI regulations;
- ** Have a commitment to teach special education in Montana for a minimum of two (2) years following completion of the program.
- ** Have an on-site special education professional to serve as a Mentor.

NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS: The OPI Special Education Endorsement Project was created to help districts fill a critical need for special education teachers. The quality of teachers prepared through the project depends on the commitment and support given to participating mentors and candidates by school district administration. The district must recognize their role as a mentor as part of their professional responsibilities and allow the mentoring teacher the necessary time to work with the candidate to fulfill project requirements.

PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

Carroll College

DR. BOB STANSBERRY
406-447-4352
rstansbe@carroll.edu

University of Great Falls

MS. ANGEL TUROSKI
406-791-5347
aturoski01@ugf.edu

Montana State University-Billings

DR. SUSAN GREGORY
406-657-2152
sgregory@msubillings.edu

University of Montana

DR. TRENT ATKINS
406-243-4978
trent.atkins@mso.umt.edu

OPI Project Coordinator
406-657-2097

DR. ANN GARFINKLE
406-243-5262
ann.garfinkle@umontana.edu

University of Montana-Western

DR. LINDA REITEN
406-683-7042
l_reiten@umwestern.edu

DR. MORGEN ALWELL
406-243-5512
morgen.alwell@umontana.edu

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the following documents along with your completed application form:

- 1) **Letter from School District** - This letter verifies that the teacher has applied for and will be offered a special education position that the district has advertised and been unable to fill.
- 2) **Copy of Montana Teaching Certificate** - A copy of the teacher's Montana Teaching Certificate or a copy of their certificate application form if their certificate has not yet been received.
- 3) **Copy of ALL Transcripts** - Unofficial copies of transcripts from all universities which the teacher attended. Transcripts must show the semester of student teaching and degree (s).
- 4) **Plan of Study** - The Plan of Study must accompany this application before it will be reviewed. If you are considering a Master's degree with this endorsement, be sure to discuss this with your advisor. Any changes made to your Plan of Study *must* be approved by your university advisor.

STIPEND INFORMATION

Stipend amounts are based on the number of credits taking during a semester. The maximum amount paid per year is \$3,300 with the year starting July 1st and consisting of the summer, fall and spring semester. An additional \$500 may be given one time per year if travel to attend class is required. Stipend reimbursements must be paid out during the academic year the courses were completed. Reimbursements requested beyond one year after completion will not be paid. Unused stipend amounts do not carry over from year to year.

Breakdown of Stipend Amounts

1 cr. = \$275	7 cr. = \$1925
2 cr. = \$550	8 cr. = \$2200
3 cr. = \$825	9 cr. = \$2475
4 cr. = \$1,100	10 cr. = \$2750
5 cr. = \$1375	11 cr. = \$3025
6 cr. = \$1650	12 cr. = \$3300
	& above