



Montana State University Billings

Dr. Susan Gregory
Special Education Program
College of Education

Overview of programs



- Undergraduate program
 - Graduate programs
- OPI endorsement project



Undergraduate program

- MSUB is the only public university in the state that offers a double major in elementary/secondary education and special education.
- About a quarter of the elementary majors are also special education majors.
- Students have these field experiences
 - Sophomore: preschool
 - Junior: learning clinic on MSUB campus
 - Junior: classroom with students with special needs
 - Senior: student teaching



Undergraduate program

Recruitment efforts:

- Social media-Facebook video of a teacher that graduated from our program
- Brochures
- High school visits
- Student Council for Exceptional Children



Graduate programs

MSUB is the only public university in the state that offers Masters degrees in special education.

- Endorsement option.
 - Graduate coursework leading to an endorsement.
- Three Masters degrees:
 - Masters degree Generalist option: for teachers that want an endorsement in special education.
 - Masters degree in Advanced Studies option: for teachers that have a special education endorsement.
 - Masters degree in Advanced Studies ABA option: for students that want a degree in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Supervisory endorsement program



- MSUB is the only university in the state that offers this program
- Admission criteria is
 - Masters degree
 - 3 years experience in special education or 5 years in a related service position
- 8 Students will be completing the program this semester.



Students completing student teaching Spring 2020

- 1 Bozeman undergrads in our special education program
- 7 Teachers in an OPI internship, OPI project or Class 5
- 4 Billings undergrads in our special education program

Students currently student teaching Fall 2020

- 6 Bozeman undergrads in our special education program
- 2 Teachers in an OPI internship, OPI project or Class 5
- 3 Billings undergrads in our special education program



OPI endorsement project

- OPI's response to Montana's critical need for special education teachers.
- Program is administered by MSU Billings with OPI oversight.
- Institutions of Higher Education participating
 - Carroll College
 - Montana State University-Billings
 - University of Montana
 - University of Montana Western



OPI endorsement project

Admission criteria:

- The teacher must hold a Class 1 or 2 Montana Teaching Certificate and have been offered a contract for the advertised special education teaching position.
- The school district or special education cooperative must have advertised the special education vacancy statewide on the Montana Jobs-for-Teachers website for a minimum of one month and provide documentation to that effect.
- The district must state that no special education endorsed applicants applied for the position.
- Names of teachers admitted to the project are sent to OPI licensure each fall.
- Sign a contract with OPI to teach in special education for 2 years beyond the 3 year timeline.



OPI endorsement project

2020-2021 school year

36 Teachers currently in the project:

First year 13 teachers

5 of these teachers have had no previous teaching experience or less than 6 months experience

3 have between 2-5 years teaching experience

5 have 7+ years of teaching experience

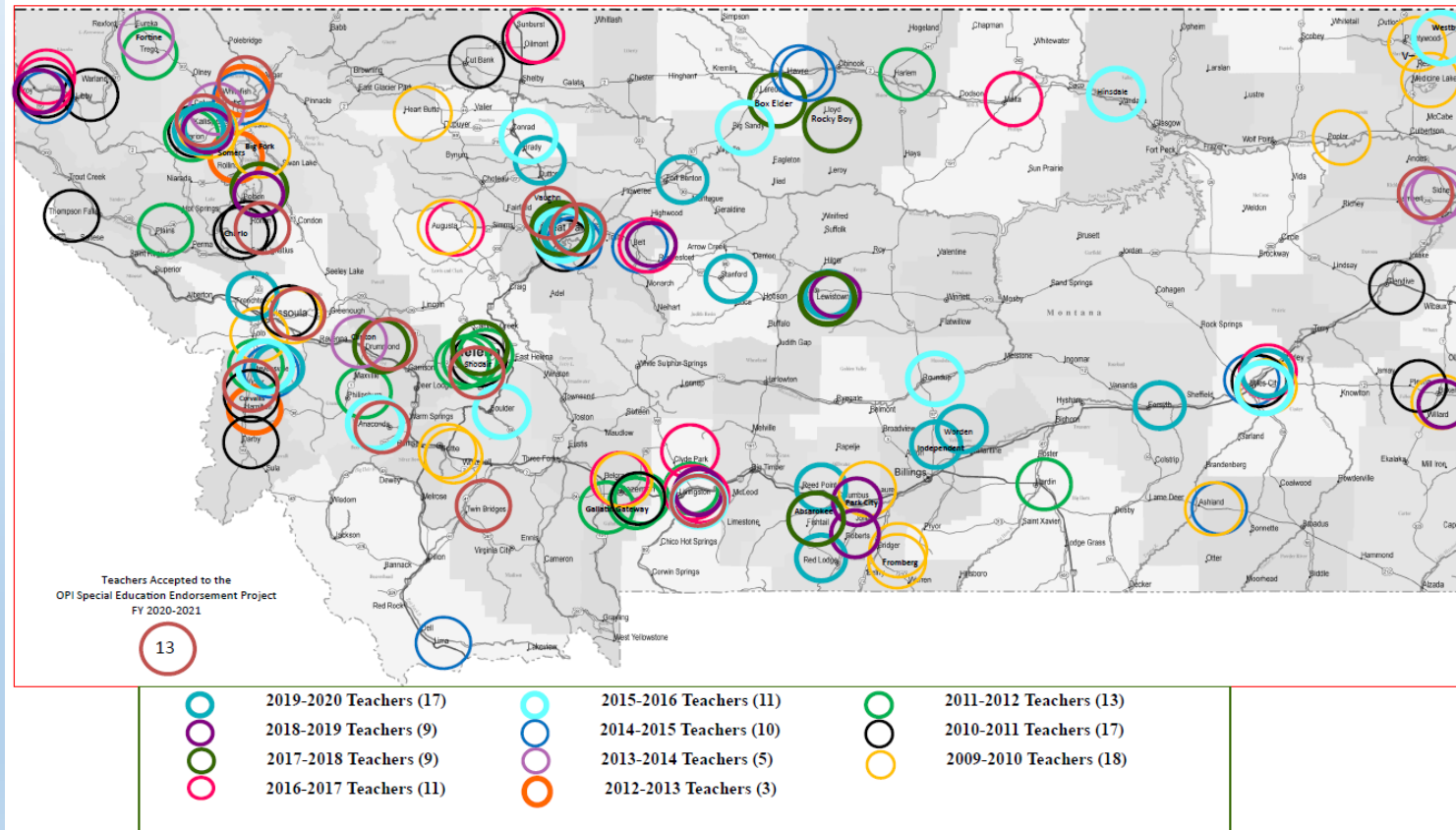
Second year 15 teachers

Third year 8 teachers

Teachers in the project 2009-2020



The OPI Special Education Endorsement Project 2009-2020





Questions