The Montana Empowerment Center, Inc., the Office of Public Instruction, and Disability Rights Montana are coming together to create collaborative supports for Special Education educators, administrators, parents and students in Montana.

Montana Empowerment Center, Inc.(MEC)

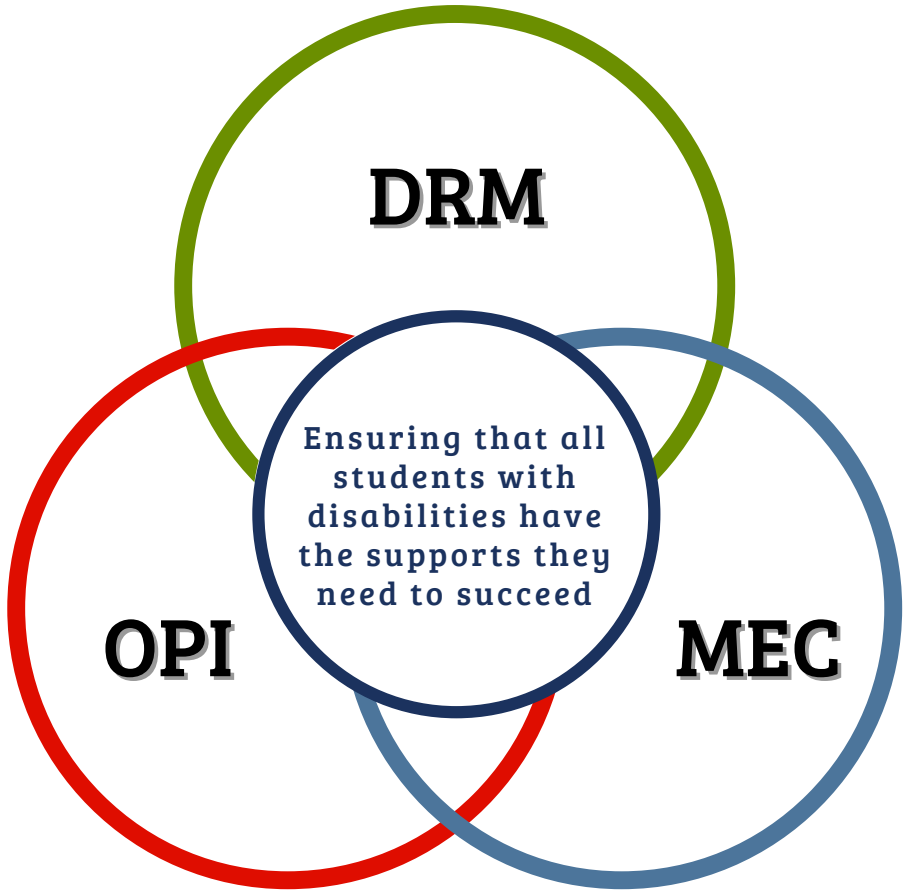
MEC is the designated Parent Training Information Center for Montana. It helps families of children from birth to age 26 who have a disability. The goal of MEC is to give parents or guardians support and free information on how to make the most of their child's education.

Office of Public Instruction(OPI)

The OPI is the state education agency for Montana and provides general supervision of public schools and districts across the state. With regard to special education, the OPI ensures compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act(IDEA) when providing special education services to students. As part of this, the OPI provides technical assistance and professional development to school staff and families as they work to implement special education programs.

Disability Rights Montana(DRM)

Through collaboration, advocacy, and litigation, Disability Rights Montana will protect the rights of students with disabilities to access educational programs, services, activities, and benefits free from discrimination on the basis of disability and to receive a free and appropriate public education.



The contents of this brochure were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H328M200081. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, David Emenheiser.

Scan the QR codes with your camera app and get connected to resources!

DRM Student Rights Handbook

OPI Form and Guidances

OPI Early Assistance Program

OPI Special Ed. Guide

SPECIAL EDUCATION IN MONTANA

	General Information	Education/Training Opportunities	Support and Assistance
Montana Empowerment Center (MEC) MONTANA EMPOWERMENT CENTER *Exceptional Children, Extraordinary Potential* 1-877-870-1190 MTEmpowermentCenter.org	Provide information on specific disabilities and issues, parental and child rights under IDEA, American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Provide referrals to support groups, educational specialists, legal assistance, and other local, state, and national resources.	Offers free workshops and training sessions about IDEA, special education, and disabilities.	Provide support, information and tools to families to help them make informed decisions as equal partners in their child's education.
Office of Public Instruction (OPI) OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SUSIE HEDALEN, STATE SUPERINTENDENT 1(406) 444-2046 Opi.MT.Gov	Assist all stakeholders in understanding IDEA and Montana special education laws and processes.	Professional Development • Regional Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)Trainings • Montana Autism Project • Compliance with the IDEA	• Provide information on the requirements of IDEA • Early Assistance Program • Informal dispute resolution • IDEA Dispute Resolution: ◦ IEP Facilitation ◦ Mediation ◦ State Complaint ◦ Due Process
Disability Rights Montana(DRM) Education Unit DRMT 1-800-245-4743 DisabilityRightsMT.org	Help people access services by providing information about resources, and make appropriate referrals to other programs to best meet their need.	Help families, advocates, and educators learn about the legal requirements and resources available for students with disabilities in Montana and ways to resolve their concerns.	Ensure the rights of students with disabilities are protected to the maximum extent of the law by providing advocacy (non-legal) and legal representation.