

Department of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Submitted by: Rebecca Rappold

October 2025

CURRICULUM

K-12 Elective Departments & 6-12 Content Area Teams Meet for Department Planning

The district elective and 6-12 departments/content area teams met on October 8th at the BPS Wednesday Extended Day for their second department meeting of the year. These department teams will continue to be supported by the Director of Curriculum & Instruction and the Quarterly SBE Team to implement curricula, design coherent instruction LL-12, and move the department forward in regard to student acquisition of the content standards and skills within these programs. During the month of November, I will be collaborating with each department team during their building-level content or prep meetings to support the next steps of each team.

INSTRUCTION

LETRS Training for BPS Staff..Cohort 3 Begins

A cohort of 24 educators including; teachers, special educators, instructional coaches, and principals began LETRS training during the fall of 2025. LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading & Spelling) is a course designed to give teachers & administrators the skills needed to master the fundamentals of reading instruction including; phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language. Too often, Montana Certified Teachers graduate from their teacher prep program ill-equipped to teach reading. The significant language and literacy needs of our BPS students, tell us that we need to provide teachers with the best available knowledge to make instructional decisions for our students, Early Kindergarten-Grade 12+.



In addition to LETRS for teachers, BPS is offering LETRS for Early Childhood (7-participants), and LETRS for Admin (14-participants).

ASSESSMENT

Submitted by: Violet Sinclair-Boggs

Building Test Coordinators:

Babb - Jennifer Wagner

BHS - Kari McKay

BMS - Sheila Hall

Bullshoe - Stephanie Holton

BHA - Jason Krane

BES - Heidi Dubray

Colonies - Rebecca Rappold

Napi - Angela Heavy Runner

What are Benchmark Screening, Diagnostic Assessment, Progress-monitoring, & Outcome Measures?

September/October are critical months for determining a student's instructional needs. BPS measures students' needs with benchmark screening, diagnostic assessment, and begins progress-monitoring. All in preparation for annual outcome measures. But, what specifically are these tools and how do educators use them to support high-quality instruction for ALL students?

Benchmark Screening - at BPS, benchmark or universal screening is conducted 3 x's/year for ELA and mathematics and two times/ year for social-emotional learning. The purpose of benchmark screening is to identify students "at risk" who may need intervention/ support, as well as identify those students who are working at-grade level in comparison to their same-aged peers. This is a formative measure used to identify students in need.

Diagnostic Assessment - Diagnostic assessment is given to a student within a content area such as ELA and/ or mathematics to identify those specific skills that need to be supported in a student's instructional plan. Diagnostic assessment is conducted in September of each year at BPS and throughout the year, as needed for both general education and special education students. This is a formative measure used to drive instruction.

Progress-monitoring - Progress-monitoring is administered to students on a regular basis (weekly, 10-day cycles, or monthly) within a specific skill area/ task to determine if the student is making growth in regard to his/ her current instructional program regarding that specific skill. This is a formative measure used to determine if a change needs to be made with a student's instructional plan.

Annual Outcome Measures - Annual outcome measures are state-level assessments such as Smarter Balance, ACCESS 2.0 for EL's, CRT-Science, the ACT with Writing, as well as alternate forms of these assessments for some students. These assessments measure a student's annual growth in comparison to the expected skill of his/ her same-aged peers. BPS participates in all of the assessments above as a part of the state-wide assessment plan from the Office of Public Instruction.

aimswebPLUS



The aimswebPLUS benchmark screening window is August 21 - November 21, 2025. Students K-10 will take the fall screening measures in both ELA & mathematics. Building and district-level data will be compiled and reported to the school board. School Leadership Teams will design targeted interventions to support students needing additional instruction.

English Language Learner Screening



BPS is identifying English Language Learners across the district. This is a multi-step process that begins with the Home Language Survey provided to the family upon initial enrollment in the district. Based upon the survey, follow-up steps may include administering the WIDA MODEL (K) or WIDA online screening (1-12). Newly identified EL students must be reported to OPI through the Infinite Campus System to ensure assessment materials are assigned to the student for the annual ACCESS for ELLs statewide assessment.

Bullshoe will be screening kindergarten students during the month of September for potential EL program participation.