

To the Lame Deer Community and School Community

As the Superintendent of Lame Deer Public Schools, I am writing to address recent local television reports regarding our district's accreditation status. We did not issue an immediate response because the district had not yet received the specific details of the designation.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) officially notified us of our status on May 20, 2026. Following this notice, district leadership met with OPI in Helena from August 3–5, 2026. As a result of this meeting, Lame Deer Public Schools has been placed into the Intensive Assistance category.

Due to ongoing, serious deviations over a number of years, Lame Deer Junior High and High School have been placed in deficiency status, as outlined by the process in ARM 10.55.602. A deficiency status indicates that a school has sustained numerous or severe deviations over multiple years. Although Lame Deer Elementary is currently in advised status, it will also be included in this comprehensive improvement process.

While these challenges are significant and have been building for some time, this moment also presents a vital opportunity to strengthen the hub of our community: Lame Deer Public Schools. Our schools have been a source of community pride since they first opened, and we are committed to improving the lives and future of our children.

As we enter this school redesign phase, we will work collaboratively to build a culturally responsive plan that prepares our students to succeed in an ever-changing world. Real improvement requires teamwork. We actively encourage our parents, staff, students, elders, and community members to attend an upcoming community meeting, which will be scheduled shortly after the school year begins. Your voice and commitment are essential to building a foundational, sustainable future for our schools.

The LDPS Board of Trustees, administration, teachers, staff, and community partners are fully dedicated to implementing and enforcing our three-year Improvement Plan with absolute fidelity.

Sincerely,

Victoria Falls Down, Ed.S.

Superintendent, Lame Deer Public Schools