



Great Falls Public Schools

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education • 1100 4th Street South • P.O. Box 2429
Great Falls, Montana 59403 • 406.268.6008 • Fax 406.268.7384 www.gfps.k12.mt.us

EXHIBIT 3
DATE Feb. 5, 2015
HB 356

David Letterman's top 10 reasons why House bill 356 should be funded:

10.) Great Falls Public School graduates (+/- 650/yr) will benefit greatly as they move into the work force or go on for post-secondary training.

- 50% of GFPS graduates go directly to work right out of high school.
- 60% of GFPS who go to college, do not complete and end up in the work force without a degree, and often lack skills necessary for workforce demands.
- 100% of GFPS graduates eventually end up in the workforce... they must have the skill necessary to succeed and prosper!

9.) Increased funding for vocational training will increase the number of students who graduate with CTE concentrations. CTE concentrators have a higher graduation rate than non-CTE concentrators.

- In 2014, GFPS had a 82% on-time graduation overall. CTE concentrators have averaged between 95-97% on-time graduation rates

8.) Enrollment in CTE classes will increase as a result of program enhancements and increased course offerings.

Year	# of students taking CTE	# of CTE Concentrators
2014/2015	2128	472
2013/2014	2019	500
2012/2013	1920	441

7.) Great Falls Public school students will write better and do better in mathematics as the CTE program enhancements will have a trickle over effect on the standardized test scores of CTE students.

- CTE students score 18.6% higher in writing and 6% higher in math on standardized tests!

6.) Our community will benefit from a more highly trained workforce.

- CTE graduates are more likely to pursue postsecondary training and have a higher post-secondary completion rate than non- CTE graduates
- They will make higher wages and improve the economic climate within our community.

5.) There is an increasing demand for technically skilled workers in the Great Falls area.

- ADF, Loenbro, Calumet Refining have expanded their footprint in Great Falls and are in need of a trained workforce.

Vision Statement: All kids are engaged in learning today. . . for life tomorrow.
Mission Statement: We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

4.) Vocational program enhances will augment the collaboration with the school district and College of Great Fall- MSU and other Big Sky Pathway programs on Multiple fronts.

- Medical preparations: CNA and Dental Assistance, Nursing, Medical Coding ,etc.
- Industrial Technology: Welding, Construction, Engineering, Automotive
- Family Consumer Sciences: Entrepreneurial, Culinary, Design, Early Childhood
- Business: Accounting, marketing, advertising, law, Entrepreneurial
- Computer Science: Coding, engineering, networking

3.) Program enhancements at the high school level will allow GFPS to divert general fund dollars to Middle School and Elementary school efforts to address career pathway development and exploration.

- The current state vocational funding is approximately \$70,000 annually for GFPS.
- The district expends well over \$350,000 in general fund allocations for vocational and CTE programs.

2.) Facilities in GFPS are currently inadequate to meet the college and career demands of a 21st Century education in the Career and technical areas.

- Recent facilities review at GFHS estimate Vocational building replacement between 5-6.5 Million

1.) The Mission of the GFPS district is: *to successfully educate students to navigate their future.* This bill will enhance our ability to do that for the benefit of Montana's economic future!!!

Ex. 3
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Feb. 5, 2015

Testimony in favor of increased state funding in public schools for Career and Technical Education as part of ~~SB2~~ HB 356

From: Tom Kotynski, 3440 12th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT 59405

I testify in support of the increased CTE funding.

I am a retired Great Falls Tribune associate editor and retired CTE supervisor in the Great Falls Public Schools. I also serve on the University System's State CTE Advisory Board.

I see the increased funding as crucial to economic development.

CTE is workforce training and for the state and my community to succeed in economic development we need a trained workforce to attract that development.

The Great Falls public schools has aligned its CTE programs in industrial arts, medical occupations, agriculture, business education and consumer and family sciences to the workforce needs of the community.

Examples of that are the dual credits programs with Great Falls College that last year turned out a dozen high school seniors who got college welding certificates before their high school diplomas. Many are now working for ADF, the new metals fabrications industry in the city and a major employer. Some 50 high school students earn a certified nursing assistant credential each year, helping meet the needs of Great Falls' largest private employer, Benefis Healthcare, and giving students a first step in a career in the medical field.

More than half the Great Falls public schools graduates are CTE Concentrators --- they earn 3 credits (6 semesters) of CTE.

These are not only important courses, they are popular. They keep kids in school because kids want to be there to take these courses. *But they are electives that could be cut when money is tight.* But, they are expensive. The state of the art 3D printers crucial to our industrial arts and interior design students at CMR and Great Falls High cost \$20,000 apiece. The embroidery machines used in for profit businesses at both high schools were \$8,000. Keeping current in our advanced auto shop ASE program takes considerable resources. Welders to prepare our students for those college credentials are \$3,500 apiece and each shop has 11 of these. Up to date computers and software for our business classes are more than \$1,000 apiece and there are roughly 80 of these at each school and another 20 at our alternative school. Likewise, kitchen equipment, interior design and fabric construction supplies are dollar eaters. Our medical students need mannequins, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs.

Getting students to regional, state and national competitions in the Career and Technical Student Organizations like FFA, SkillsUSA, HOSA, DECA, BPA, FCCLA is very expensive. If travel to athletic competitions is important, why wouldn't travel to these career competitions be equal to or more of a priority?

The increased funding would provide the money to keep CTE programs like these healthy. I would think this proposal fits nicely with any talk of "Build Montana" program and urge your support.

*Tom Kotynski
2/5/15*