



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Director
AMY CARLSON

DATE: May 23, 2012
TO: Legislative Finance Committee
FROM: Robert Miller, Fiscal Analyst I
RE: Update – SJ 26 Study of the Montana Digital Academy.

The Legislative Finance Committee directed staff of the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) to review the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) in accordance with Senate Joint Resolution 26 (SJ 26). The final report is to be delivered in the fall of 2012. This memorandum is intended to provide an update on LFD progress.

To date meetings and interviews have been conducted with the MTDA, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Helena School District, Lincoln High School and Townsend K-12 Schools. Interviews have been conducted with teachers, counselors, administrators, and at-risk students in the credit recovery programs. Working with OPI and MTDA a basic outline for the study has been developed and is as follows:

FINAL MTDA STUDY OUTLINE

- **How are the schools and students using MTDA?**
 - What courses are students taking (subject areas) and why?
 - Not offered
 - Offered but will not fit schedule
 - Advance placement
 - Original Credit
 - Dual Credit
 - Credit Recovery
 - Lack of faculty able to teach particular subjects
 - Scheduling conflict
 - Homebound (due to illness) or hospitalized
 - Home school
- **Quality of the courses**
 - Academic rigor as compared to the brick & mortar school
 - Compare pass / fail rates (which MTDA can provide) to pass / fail rates for brick and mortar (we will need to survey various schools)

- Student and teacher interviews
 - Outside sources for other online program pass / fail rates
- **Impact on graduation rates**
 - Compare overall graduation rates of brick and mortar 2010 to brick and mortar plus MTDA for 2010 and 2011
 - Student and Educator testimonials
 - **Finances**
 - Cost Structure
 - Cost per enrollment
 - MTDA enrollment cost compared to other online programs
 - Would Montana schools use online curriculum if they had to pay for it?

ENROLLMENT UPDATE FOR THE MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY AS OF APRIL 2012 (SOURCE MTDA)

Montana Digital Academy Enrollments				
	Summer 2011	Fall 2011	Spring 2012	Total
Female	396	1,460	1,544	3,400
Male	381	1,379	1,476	3,236
Total	777	2,839	3,020	6,636

Enrollments by grade level			
Grade	Female	Male	Total
6	30	14	44
7	83	78	161
8	138	124	262
9	421	335	756
10	724	670	1394
11	903	866	1769
12	773	771	1544
Unknown *	326	380	706
Total	3398	3238	6636

* Early in the program data was not collected by grade level

All Credit Types											
	Female					Male					Grand Total
	Original Credit	Credit Recovery	AP	Middle School Language	Total	Original Credit	Credit Recovery	AP	Middle School Language	Total	
The Arts	171	15	0	0	186	76	24	0	0	100	286
Business	35	0	0	0	35	17	0	0	0	17	52
Career Technologies	72	11	0	0	83	57	24	0	0	81	164
English Language Arts	185	461	21	0	667	117	726	6	0	849	1,516
Health/Phys Ed	246	61	0	0	307	119	72	0	0	191	498
Mathematics	119	259	9	0	387	131	353	0	0	484	871
Science	145	225	30	0	400	81	328	11	0	420	820
Social Studies	354	267	17	0	638	182	379	11	0	572	1,210
World Languages	481	0	0	216	697	347	0	17	158	522	1,219
Total	1,808	1299	77	216	3,400	1,127	1,906	45	158	3,236	6,636