

Education Interim Committee 2017-2018



SYNOPSIS OF GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION FUNDING IN MONTANA, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

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Estimated Expenditures devoted to Gifted and Talented (GT) Education in Montana

<i>Small school systems; fewer than 500 students; total systems = 247</i>	<i>Medium school systems; 500 to 2500 students; total systems = 49</i>	<i>Large school systems; more than 2500 students; total systems = 8</i>	<i>Statewide efforts (OPI and Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education)</i>
\$408,000	\$2,255,000	\$3,816,000	\$167,500

Grants 20-7-901-904, MCA and ARM 10.55.804

- Noncompetitive.
- Supplemental.
- Matching funds required (20-7-903, MCA).

Three Phases of Application

- Intent to Apply—Generally filed in E-Grants in the month of March in odd numbered years.
- Application—Generally filed in E-Grants as soon as allocations are available following the close of the legislative session.
- Program Report—Generally filed in E-Grants by August 10 following the close of the grant period.

Application Pages

- School system plan/framework upload: ARM 10.55.804,.
- Committee members (teachers, administrators, school psychologists, specialists, counselors, etc.).
- Identification criteria used (IQ tests, achievement tests, creativity tests, observation checklists).
- Total number of students as reported in Achievement In Montana (AIM)— Prefilled data.
- Number of GT students as reported in Achievement In Montana (AIM)— Prefilled data
- Data used to identify the need for the project covered by this grant.
- Number of students to be served by the project covered by this grant (separated by grade level).
- Measureable objective(s) for the project covered by this grant.
- Activities to meet the objective.
- Budget.

Review Criteria

- Gifted and Talented Education plan and framework must comply with Montana Board of Public Education policies (20-7-903-904, MCA and ARM 10.55.804—Framework).
- Identification Overview (20-7-901-902, MCA and ARM 10.55.804—Framework), must have:
 1. Systematic, multi-phased process of referral, screening, and placement.
 2. Use of multiple criteria and multiple data sources.
 3. Determination of the need for services made by a committee conducting a professional review of the data.
 4. Identification of potential, IQ test, and/or testing for abilities (e.g., Cognitive Abilities Test or CogAT).
 5. Identification of achievement through standardized testing or district assessments.
 6. Consideration of other student data, including characteristics checklists, student profiles, portfolios, etc.

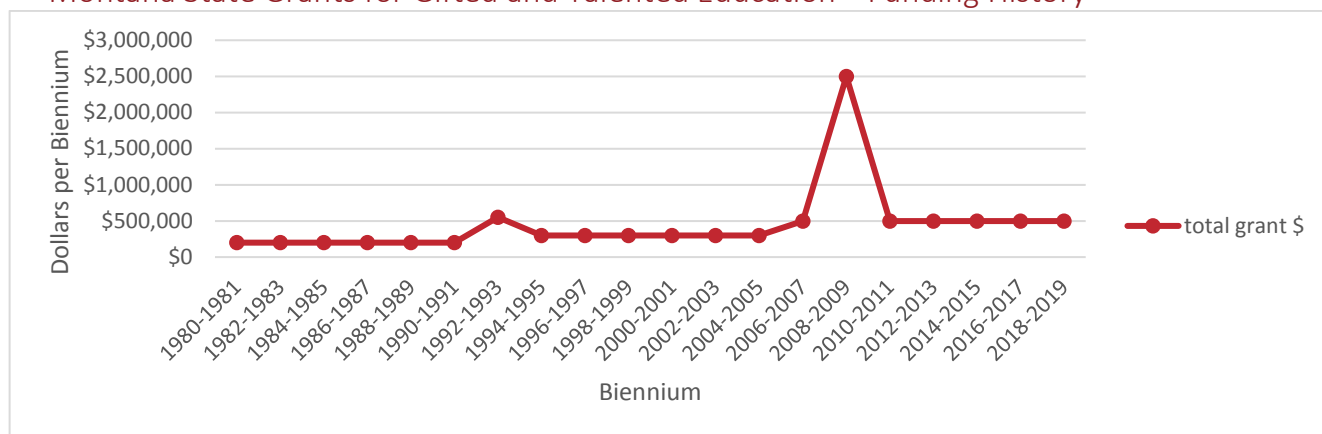
Allocations

Allocations to school systems are made based upon school size and documented local matching funds (a school system may not receive more grant funds that the amount of their own funds that have been committed to Gifted and Talented Education).

<i>Small and medium school systems</i>	<i>Large school systems</i>	<i>Statewide capacity building</i>
Fewer than 2500 students	2500 students or more	Statewide and regional efforts
44% of available funds	36% of available funds	20% or less of available funds

These percentages are then divided equally among the schools that filed an Intent to Apply in E-Grants.

Montana State Grants for Gifted and Talented Education—Funding History



2018-2019 Biennium Program

- Fifty-two grants serving 59 districts:
 - Thirty-five grants at the “under 2500 students” allocation of \$5209.
 - Seven grants at the “more than 2500 students” allocation of \$25,554.
 - Ten grants at their system’s match amount ranging from \$2700 to \$4600.
- Projects designed to meet identified student needs by varying the depth, breadth, pace, and complexity of content and instruction through a wide variety of research based strategies.
- Program structures vary from 100 percent classroom-based to classroom-based with collaboration with specialist, to “send out” programs for students to attend, to a blend of services based upon local options and student needs.

Montana Gifted and Talented Grants Program—2018-2019 Biennium

<i>Item</i>	<i>Small school systems; fewer than 500 students; total = 247</i>	<i>Medium school systems; 500 to 2500 students; total = 49</i>	<i>Large school systems; more than 2500 students; total = 8</i>	<i>Statewide capacity building</i>
Number receiving grants	26	19	7	n/a
Number funded lower than formula due to match	7	3	0	n/a
Total grant funds	\$123,671	\$94, 944	\$178,808	\$100,000
Percent of total grant funds	25%	19%	36%	20%
Total match	\$284,779	\$2,160,067	\$3,182,384	\$100,000
Percent of total match	5%	38%	55%	2%

Special Issue regarding Advanced Placement® exam fee support for low-income students

- Providing support for low income Montana AP® students to take AP® exams is both a Gifted and Talented Education strategy and a strategy to help low income students succeed in their work beyond high school.
- AP® Exams cost \$94 each; the College Board makes exams available to low-income students for \$53 each.
- A line item in NCLB provided \$38 per exam for low income students (net cost to students was \$15 each).
- Under ESSA, fee support for these exams is part of the Title IV block grant to schools and is unlikely to be used for this purpose. The state portion of the Title IV funds is not available for AP® exam fee support.
- In 2017, no fee support was available; local districts were left “holding the bag” to try to provide this support.
- Thirty states have allocated state funds for AP® exam fee support for low income students.
- The College Board estimates that Montana will need \$15,200 to support AP® Exams for its low-income students in 2018 at the 2016 level (based on 400 low-income students). At this level low-income students will pay \$15 for each exam.