



Gifted and Talented

September 4, 2020

The current biennial grant period for the Gifted and Talented (GT) match grant runs from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2021. Total funding for the 2018-2020 biennium was \$700k. The amendment to 20-7-904, MCA added the new reporting requirements set out in section (4), effective October 1, 2019. The OPI will be collecting data specifically referenced in section (4) during the 2020/21 school year.

Data collected from the 2019/20 school year was collected through our established Gifted and Talented (GT) match grant program and is summarized below.

Data from 2019/20:

- The current biennial grant period began August 2019 and runs through July 2021.
- 44 districts submitted an intent to apply; 38 districts formally applied and received funding for the two-year GT match-grant.
- The grant funds per district are determined based on district size. The breakdown for school size is as follows (2019/20):

CLASS	Enrollment range	# of schools	Total Funding
C	1-119	5	\$29,388
B	120-339	11	\$95,109
A	341-825	8	\$71,465
AA	826+	20	\$504,038

- Additionally, of the 403 districts in Montana¹, nearly 80% of districts have a policy regarding gifted and talented
- 31 of the 38 grant districts used grant funds towards professional development
- Due to COVID-19, the data for 2019-20 is incomplete, therefore, growth data won't be available to be collected until 2022-23

The OPI appreciates the work of our 2019 legislators including Rep. Kelker resulting in fostering a more effective data driven culture around our Montana GT students. With this renewed attention on our GT students; parents, districts, and the OPI will better serve the needs of these high performing students into the future.

¹ Includes 2 non-operating districts; 2 state-funded districts (Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, Pine Hills)