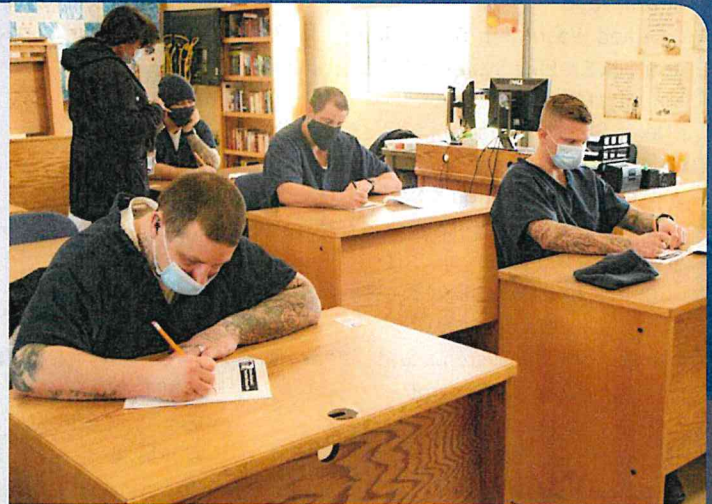


# EDUCATING MONTANA'S INCARCERATED POPULATION

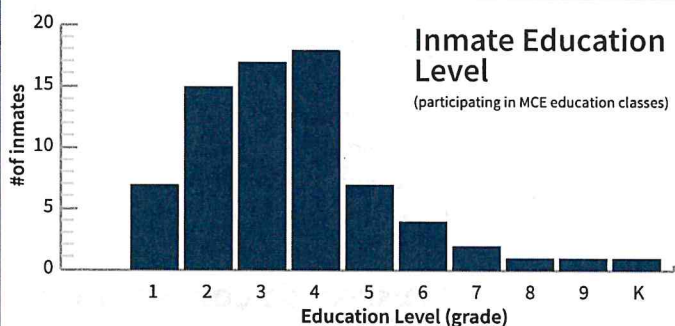
General and vocational education improves inmate opportunities for success when they return to Montana communities after incarceration. The Montana Department of Corrections is dedicated to providing the best opportunities possible at its facilities throughout the state to help break the cycle of incarceration.

## Population Facts

- Most DOC inmates (67 percent at Montana State Prison) did not have a verifiable high school diploma or equivalent when screened at intake in the 2020-21 calendar year. (Average for the past six years has been between 59-76 percent.)
- In fact, 79 percent (at Montana State Prison) of students entering DOC education programs in the 2020-21 calendar year tested at less than fourth-grade level. That has been the case since 2016.

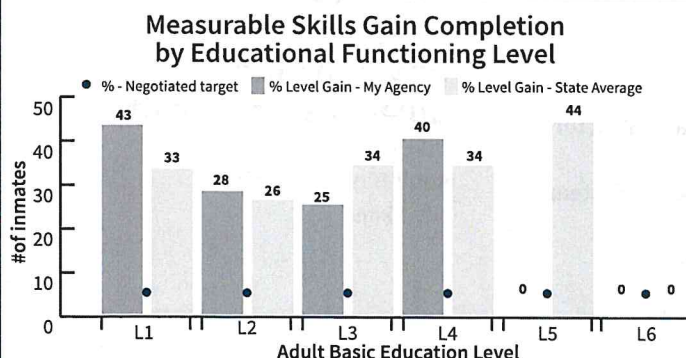


*Student Inmates at Montana Correctional Enterprises*



- HiSET advises students should be at a ninth-grade level to take the HiSET test, so most students in DOC programs do not meet that threshold. The Office of Public Instruction advises it takes offenders with a fourth-grade level an average of a year to acquire the necessary skills, and another year to prepare for the test.
- The prison population has several barriers to education. Those include mental health issues, brain damage related to substance abuse, length of time out of school, age, etc.

**OUR STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL!** This chart demonstrates current DOC students' academic gains. Our students are above the state target level.



## Guidelines

The DOC provides education for incarcerated individuals at its secure facilities according to the requirements set forth in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This includes eight categories of academic programs:

- Adult education and literacy activities
- Special education
- Secondary school credit
- Integrated education and training
- Career pathways
- Concurrent enrollment
- Peer tutoring
- Transition to re-entry initiatives and post-release services

As required in WIOA, individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within five years receive priority over other inmates.

## Funding

### Montana Correctional Enterprises – 2021 - \$178,365

- Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFLA) Grant - \$67,807
- Title 1 Grant - \$107,828
- Carl Perkins Grant - \$3,000

### Pine Hills Education Department – 2021 - \$248,614

- Title 1 Grant - \$212,288
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B Grant - \$14,422
- Rural Education Assistance Program (REAP) Grant - \$18,904
- Carl Perkins Grant - \$3,000

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EX 2