



# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: EDUCATION FACTS

Educating Montana's incarcerated population is key to the Montana Department of Corrections' mission of "creating a safer Montana through accountability, rehabilitation, and empowerment."

## Delivery of Educational Programming

### Delivery of Educational Programming

The DOC's *Montana Correctional Enterprise (MCE)* - division provides general and vocational education, along with training and work programs at both *Montana State Prison (MSP)* and *Montana Women's Prison (MWP)*.

Education is delivered to incarcerated individuals at these secure facilities according to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements.

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, and transition to re-entry initiatives and post-release services.

*Pine Hills Correctional Facility* is a junior high and high school fully accredited through the Office of Public Instruction. It is also recognized as a trauma-sensitive school through the Mental Health First Aid National Council.

*Education at DOC contract facilities – Crossroads Correctional Center and Dawson County Correctional Facility* – is coordinated by those facilities as part of their contracts with the state.

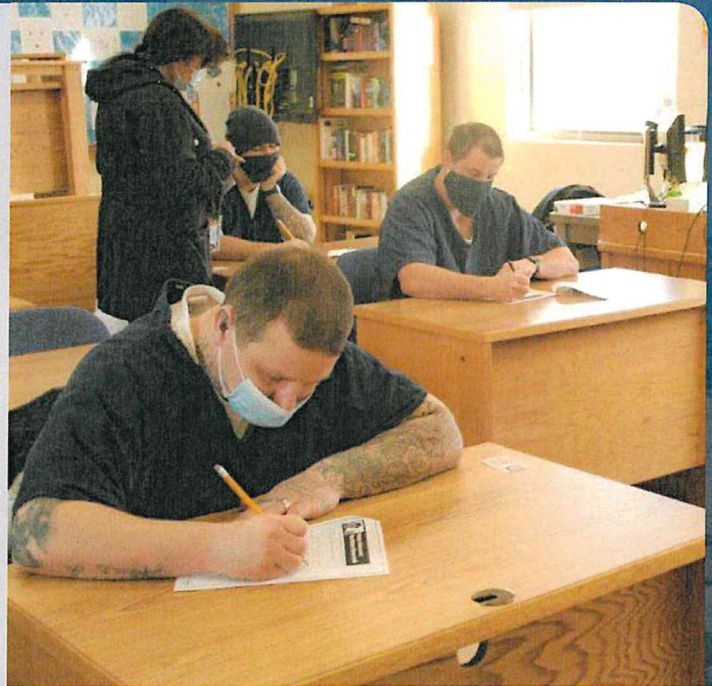
(See full program list on back of page.)

### Recent Changes

To provide greater equitability in general and vocational education programs between MSP and MWP, all educational programming for these facilities will be managed by DOC's MCE division moving forward. Previously, MWP contracted with School District 2 in Billings to provide adult education. This change will ensure the department is compliant with Office of Public Instruction standards. In addition, it will allow for a more seamless transition to bridge the gap between basis adult education to a career readiness program.

### Education Facts

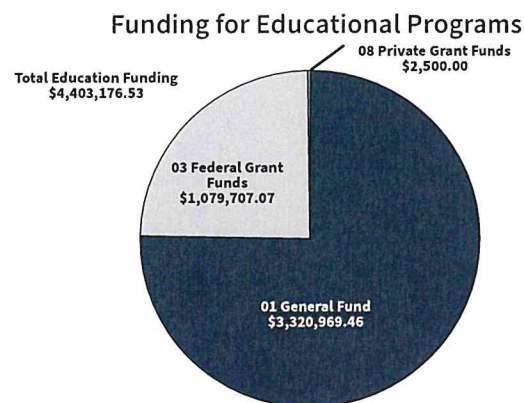
- Education, like all programming at DOC facilities, is voluntary.
- Most inmates entering educational programming at DOC facilities test at a fourth-grade education level or less.
- Nearly 70 percent of inmates at DOC facilities do not have a verifiable high school diploma or equivalent at intake.



Student inmates at Montana Correctional Enterprises

### Education Challenges

- Individual barriers to education
  - Mental health
  - Length of time out of school
  - Effects of substance use disorder
- Physical barriers to education
  - Infrastructure at facilities
  - Staffing





Educational/vocational programming at DOC and DOC-contract facilities includes the following. In addition, our education staff members are constantly seeking new opportunities for the offenders under the department's supervision.

## Frequently Asked Questions

***What incentives exist for offenders to participate in educational programming while incarcerated?*** Beyond the fact education enhances offender opportunities for employment when they return to Montana communities, the DOC provides offenders who participate in educational programs a daily stipend. In addition, the DOC offers inmates a \$10 canteen incentive for attaining their HiSET. The DOC works closely with Montana tribes to facilitate tribal incentives to members in good standing. The DOC also provides application assistance, college workshops, and possible funding sources (Native American tuition waiver).

***Does participation in educational programming improve offender opportunities for parole?*** Yes, as allowed by the Administrative Rules of Montana, the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole may take an offender's education prior to incarceration, during incarceration, and educational goals into consideration when it considers parole eligibility. (ARM 20.25.504)

***Do inmates have access to higher education programming?*** Higher education is available to inmates who enroll in correspondence courses individually;

however, cost is a barrier. While Congress lifted the ban on Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals last year, the U.S. Department of Education has not yet provided guidance on accessing this funding. Previously, prison inmates were not eligible for most types of federal student aid.

### Programming Available by Site

#### Montana State Prison:

#### Pre-apprenticeship Programs/offered in conjunction with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry

Microsoft Office  
Welding  
Adobe  
AutoCAD  
Automotive Technology  
Tire Technician  
Wood Furniture Builder  
Industrial Sewing Machine Operator  
Commercial Upholsterer  
Custodial Worker  
Landscape and Grounds Worker

#### Nationally Recognized Certifications

Certified Lab Technician – Montana State University  
Serv Safe – National Restaurant Association  
Tire Technician Repair – Tire Industry

#### Association

Advanced Tire Technician Repair – Tire Industry Association  
Occupational Safety and Health 10 – University of Utah  
Certified Washroom Technician – Association of Linen Management  
Exchanging Forklift Propane Cylinders – Propane Education & Research Council  
Refrigerant, Recycling and Recovery for Automotive – Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)  
Certified Automotive Information Specialist (CAIS) – ALL Data  
First Aid, CPR and AED – Emergency Care and Safety Institute  
Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens – Emergency Care and Safety Institute  
Forklift Safety – JJ Keller

#### Educational Course Offerings

HiSET Preparation – Classes in all subject matters  
Testing for Adult Basic Education (TABE) to test for education level  
Special Education  
Adult Basic Math

#### Other Educational Course Offerings

Parenting  
Life Skills  
Job Readiness

#### Montana Women's Prison

#### Pre-apprenticeship Programs

Microsoft Office  
Adobe  
AutoCAD  
Dog Groomer  
Dog Trainer  
Industrial Sewing Machine Operator  
Custodial Worker  
Landscape and Grounds Worker

#### Nationally Recognized Certifications

Occupational Safety and Health 10  
First Aid, CPR and AED – Emergency Care and Safety Institute  
Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens – Emergency Care and Safety Institute  
Forklift Safety – JJ Keller





### Educational Course Offerings

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Testing for Adult Basic Education (TABE) to test for education level

Special Education

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Parenting

Life Skills

Job Readiness

### *Pine Hills Correctional Facility:*

#### Junior High & High School Course Offerings

Math

- General Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, II & III, Trigonometry, Geometry

Science

- Biology, Ecology, Botany, Earth Science, Anatomy, Astronomy, Chemistry, Environmental Science & Physical Science

English

- English I, II, III & IV, Literature (Theme), Literature (Genre)

Social Studies

- Montana History, US History, World History, Government, Civics, Geography & Current Events

Physical Education/Health

- PE, Advanced PE, Health & Health (Chemical)

Special Education

- Provide all content areas
- Academic & Life Skills

Arts

- Art I & II
- Enjoyment of Music

Dual Enrollment online college courses (Miles Community College)

Odysseyware and credit recovery courses

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program

Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) program

### High School Equivalency Diploma (HiSET) Preparation

Classes in all subject matter areas.

### Vocational Courses

Welding

Fabrication

Agricultural Welding

Agriculture Production

Animal Science

Horticulture/Botany

Auto Mechanics

Advanced Auto Mechanics

Agriculture, Mechanics & Structures

Drafting I & II

Montana Career Information System (MCIS)

Drafting Careers Exploration

Culinary Arts

- Food & Nutrition I, II & III

Career Exploration

Maintenance work study

Employability Skills Program

Life Skills

Craft Skills/NCCER

Entrepreneurship

Equestrian incentive program

### Youth and Adult Certifications

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA 10)

ServSafe

Forklift Certification

Blood Born Pathogens

CPR and First aid

### Data & Assessment

High School Equivalency (HiSET) Testing Site

ACT

SmarterBalance

Accuplacer

ASVAB

MAPS/NWEA

### *Crossroads Correctional Center*

HiSET

Adult Basic Education

Introduction to Computers

Information Management Systems

Office 2003

Keyboarding

Welding

Carpentry

Geography

Business

Psychology

ServSafe

Canine Companions for Independence Dog Program

Braille

COMING SOON! – Computer Coding

### *Dawson County Correctional Facility*

HiSET

Adult Basic Education

Life Skills

