



Montana Advanced Opportunity Grant

Legislative Report Fall 2022

This report contains information derived from the fiscal year 2022 annual reports as submitted by funded Montana Advanced Opportunity Grant awardees. Furthermore, it includes data and a financial update for this grant. Per **20-7-1602, MCA**, this must occur on even-numbered years, prior to September 15th.

The Montana Advanced Opportunity Act was created to expand personalized career and technical education opportunities for middle school and high school students, reduce out-of-pocket costs for students and families in support of their postsecondary success, empower students to actively engage in forming their postsecondary success path, and provide expanded flexibility to districts in supporting students in their postsecondary success path to align with their individual interests, passions, strengths, needs, and culture.

To qualify for funding, the board of trustees of a district must submit an application, created by the Office of Public Instruction, to the Board of Public Education for approval. The application must include a strategic plan with planning for implementation, measurable objectives, and planned strategies. Applications received by the Board of Public Education will be reviewed, approved, and retained in the order in which they were received until the amount of appropriated funds are exhausted. Districts receiving advanced opportunity aid are required to report annually demonstrating continued qualification for funding.

The Office of Public Instruction provides funding for this program, based on the requirements in statute.

Highlights from Districts:

The FY2022 annual reports were received on or before January 10, 2022. Every funded district submitted an annual report, which was then used to qualify it for the following year of funding.

A link to the compiled FY2022 annual reports can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17uTwF-e8AtqLqHw7T8vyohBx7YhvPYNH/view?usp=sharing>

District Name	Summary of Advanced Opportunity
Alberton K-12	MT Digital Academy Courses, work-based learning opportunities, exam fees, STEM/CTE personalized outdoor programs
Arlee Elementary	Job shadowing, job-related (welding) certifications, offer mini-courses during lunch and after school.

Arlee High School	Job shadowing, job-related (welding) certifications, offer mini-courses during lunch and after school.
Belgrade Elementary Schools	Student career interests, increase club and organization participation
Belgrade High School	Advanced placement exams, student/club organization participation, mentorship and internships for students,
Choteau Elementary	Generate excitement for high school CTE programs and high school mentors
Choteau HS	Work-based experiences in the community, dual enrollment and AP courses, expand CTE courses, build business/education partnerships and mentorships, book study with local schools
Conrad High School	Trades Academy, plumbing, dental, electric, pharmaceutical, construction, and drone certifications
Custer County High School	Career pathway opportunities and partnerships, dual enrollment, First Aid, CNA, Odyssey, ServSafe, OSHA, ACT/SAT prep and assessments
Darby K-12	Partnerships with Bitterroot Community College, Jobs for Montana Graduates and dual enrollment, STEAM program (coding & computer drafting)
East Helena K-12	Dual enrollment through Helena College of Technology, College Board of Advanced Placement program,
Fairfield Elementary School	7-year plan to senior portfolios, learner outcomes for growing opportunities, cover work comp and liabilities for student and business partners, build education/industry partnerships
Fairfield High School	7-year plan to senior portfolios, CTE concentrator for applicable graduation diplomas, school-to-work apprenticeships, learner outcomes for growing opportunities, cover work comp and liabilities for student and business partners, build education/industry partnerships, increase dual enrollment and online opportunities
Glendive Elementary	STEAM exhibition nights, career exploration programs,
Dawson County High School	Dual enrollment, CTE credentialing, health professions pathways, HOSA group
Grass Range Elementary School	Experiential and hands on learning opportunities outside the classroom and in the community

Grass Range High School	Distance delivery courses, college tours
Great Falls High Schools	IT Program, internships and pre-apprenticeships, experiential learning opportunities, dual enrollment, PPE and materials for students involved in CTE and career pathways, state and national CTE conferences for teachers, career pathway certifications (welding, nursing, computers, automotive), workforce development program
Hamilton K-12	90 student internships in a variety of areas through community partnerships, dental, hospital and veterinary job shadowing opportunities, hosting Trades Skills Fair in March for all Bitterroot Valley students, address local employment needs and student skills through surveys.
Havre Elementary	Looking to expand programs and opportunities to 6-8 grades in Fall 2022
Havre High Schools	Work-based learning program, expand dual-enrollment offerings, expand CTE curriculum and credentialing, Teachers of Promise Pathway
Helena High Schools	Advanced placement exams, dual enrollment textbooks, reduce CTE course fees, student organization memberships, update career guidance tools and resources for students, welding, accounting nursing, and carpentry enhancements.
Hot Springs K-12	MT Digital Academy Courses, welding certifications, CNA certifications
Lewistown Elementary Schools	Job-shadowing, career exploration and awareness
Fergus County High School	Increased dual credit courses, job-shadowing and internship opportunities, Construction Academy, EMT Course, AP exam fees
Livingston Elementary	Work-based learning workshops, STEAM activities
Park High School	Dual enrollment, advanced placement and early college opportunities, CTE personalization, work-based learning opportunities, stackable credentialing
Reed Point High School	College credits, CTE programs focused on career/college readiness, funding for STOs, Vet Tech certifications, interest inventories
St. Ignatius K-12	Iron Worker program, materials, training
St. Regis K-12	Xello program for career exploration, alumni and community members mentorship program for students entering the workforce

Superior K-12	Millwright apprenticeship, AWS welding certifications, MT Department of Labor OSHA certifications, School-to-work program
----------------------	---

Data & Financial Update:

Every applied and qualified district has been and will be funded for Montana Advanced Opportunity funding. In FY2022, 6 new districts applied and there was an excess of \$358,078.27 in allocated funds that were not claimed by districts. During the FY2023 application cycle, 23 new districts applied and were qualified. However, it is projected that there will be \$788,344.93 in allocated funds that won't be claimed by Montana school districts.