

Montana State University

\$1,000,000

This document details the actions Montana State University is taking, with support from the state’s educator preparation programs, to strengthen Proficiency/Competency-Based Education and Personalizing Learning in the preparation and ongoing professional development of Montana’s educators.

Recognizing that this work exists within the broader educational ecosystem (pre-service teacher preparation, in-service teacher professional development, and school leader visioning and staff support), our approach intentionally reaches out to each area directly.

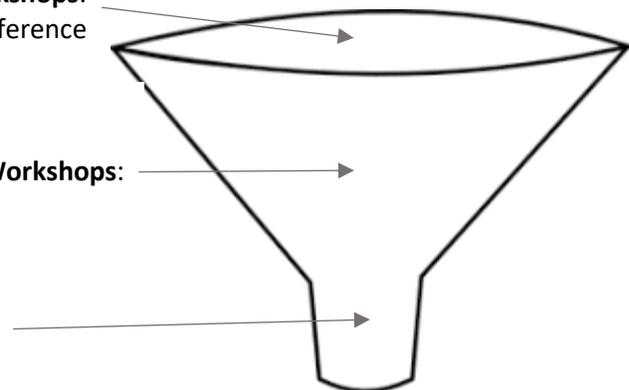
Status update on the initiative

- Conduct a historical audit of policy and practice conversations related to these terms – completed; will be posted on proficiency-based education permanent outreach webpage from www.montana.edu/ehhd (under outreach)
- Gather the current state of understanding of the terms “proficiency-based”, “Competency-based”, “standards-based” and “mastery learning”
- Develop and implement grant-funded funnel of opportunities that range in duration and intensity for educators to engage with proficiency/competency-based learning principles including undergraduate and graduate coursework on proficiency-based education and personalized learning.

Short single-session Workshops:
Science Summer Institute, MFPE Educator Conference

1-2 day Workshops:

3-credit undergraduate/graduate courses
(see descriptions below)



Student Course Feedback

We made it clear to students that all opportunities for strengthening one's teaching practice with respect to proficiency/competency-based education were funded from a grant from the Montana Legislature to Montana State University. We wish to share a snapshot of feedback from students who completed the EDU 491/591 course.

Honestly, thank you for the opportunity to do this. I actually learned a lot. We do a lot of this at my high school already but it was interesting to see it explained in a different way.

Great use of state funding, putting money into teachers who are going to take this evidence to their students makes our state better from top down.

I think fully implementing CBE in Montana's schools would be a worthwhile, but costly endeavor. Knowing how resistant people are to funding education, I very much hope that this is given proper investment and attention.

Just a thank you for letting us take this class for free. I learned about CBE and want to use it now!

I think that the concept of these courses is excellent, that the content is rigorous and highly encouraging of professional growth.

This course helped me take the great things I have been doing as a teacher and gave me a completely new system that will make education more meaningful and purposeful to my students for years to come.

This is a great investment of state funds for our state. We need to keep investing in our state education system.

Plans for carrying out the initiative for the remainder of the biennium

- Fund and support all of Montana's EPPs to collaboratively strengthen PBE focus in current programs.
- Curate a set of resources that will remain openly accessible on the MSU website beyond the special appropriation funding
- Create a community of practice in which educators and school leaders can learn together, sharing examples and implementation strategies

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