



Proficiency-Based Education

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

Updated goals for year 1:

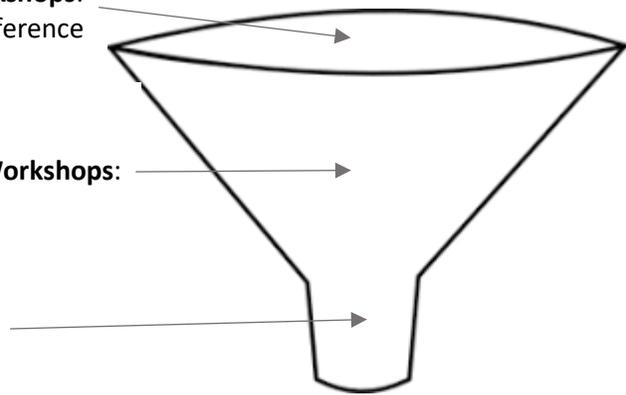
- Conduct a historical audit of policy and practice conversations related to these terms – currently in progress
- Gather the current state of understanding of the terms “proficiency-based”, “Competency-based”, “standards-based” and “mastery learning” from the state's:
 - Superintendents (via MASS meeting conversations)
 - EPP Deans (MCDE conversation) – presented to and facilitated conversation in January 2022
 - EPP faculty (survey in development to be distributed by EPP Dean) – survey is currently in the field with participation from Rocky Mountain College, UM-Western, and MSU
 - Pre-service teachers (survey in development to be distributed by EPP) – survey is currently in the field with participation from Rocky Mountain College, UM-Western, and MSU
 - In-service teachers (survey in development; to launch in Fall 2022)

- 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)



- EDU 491 Personalizing Learning & Competency-based Education (Summer 22, Fall 22, Spring 23) – available to pre-service teachers statewide
- EDU 591 Personalizing Learning & Competency-based Education (Summer 22, Fall 22, Spring 23) – available to in-service teachers statewide

Workshops Presented

Session Title	Where	Date	Target Audience	# Attendees
Kites Across the Curriculum	OPI Summer Institute	June 2022	MT Teachers (K-12)	6
Connecting to CBE for you and your learners	School Services of Montana Curriculum Institute - Bozeman	June 2022	MT Teachers (K-12)	18
PBE & Steam	SMRC Science Summer Institute	July 2022	MT Science Teachers (6-12)	18
Connecting to CBE for you and your learners	School Services of Montana Curriculum Institute – Anaconda	July 2022	MT Teachers (K-12)	45
Proficiency-Based Education: The Inquiry Design Model and MT SS Standards	MFPE Educators Conference	October 2022	MT Teachers (K-12)	10
The MT Social Studies Standards, Proficiency Scales, and a Body of Evidence	School Services of Montana workshops in Manhattan & Dillon	October-November 2022	MT Teachers (K-12)	44
Professional Development In-Service	Grass Range Schools	Spring 2023	MT Teachers (K-12)	??

Course Descriptions

A multitude of schools, districts, and entire states, such as New Hampshire, are shifting away from the traditional, time-based, Carnegie model of instruction. These innovators, including some rural schools in Montana, are developing and implementing what the Federal Department of Education identifies as Competency-Based Education (CBE). CBE includes personalized, mastery, project-based, and blended and/or virtual teaching/learning. This course will introduce future and practicing educators to these various teaching/learning modalities and prepare educators to compete for employment in these schools and districts or prepare educators to implement these modalities in their own classes/districts.

- EDU 491 Competency-based Education – the foundation course detailing the principles of proficiency/competency-based education for pre-service teachers
- EDU 591 Competency-based Education – the foundation course detailing the principles of proficiency/competency-based education for pre-service teachers
- EDU 492 Independent study – action research in PBE (Spring 23, Summer 23) – will be available to pre-service teachers statewide
- EDU 592 Independent study – action research in PBE (Spring 23, Summer 23) – will be available to grad students (who may be in-service teachers) statewide
- EDLD 591 School Wellness Wheel (yet to be submitted for Summer 23) – available to school leaders statewide
- EDU 291 From Grades to Growth (yet to be submitted for either Spring or Summer 23) – available to Montana postsecondary students (system wide, including TCs) and high school students for dual enrollment

	# enrolled students June 2022	# enrolled students July 2022	# enrolled students Fall 2022
EDU 491 –	4	1	5
EDU 591 -	28	36	38
EDU 492 –	Not offered	Not offered	Part of MSU student teaching & EDU 382 Assessment, Curriculum & Instruction
EDU 592 -	Not offered	Not offered	7

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 during Summer 2022.

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.
- Convene 3-day, 2 night statewide PBE Summer Institute on MSU-Bozeman campus (Summer 2023) – with 2 national keynotes and breakout sessions highlighting the research and work being done to realize the possibility of PBE and personalizable learning to shift the focus in student learning from 'grades to growth'.
- Use partnerships with school districts engaged in PBE to enhance field experiences at the early field experience, practicum I and II, and student teaching levels
- Offer a family engagement program focusing on demystifying standards-based grading

Metrics used to measure success

- ✓ Inclusion of proficiency-based education modules included as part of Educator Prep Program at Montana State University (undergraduate and graduate levels)
- ✓ Successful piloting of proficiency-based education approaches pre-service and in-service teacher experiences
- ✓ Creation and dissemination of modules by all EPPs in the state of Montana through MT Council of Deans of Education collaborations

Budget Update:

Fall 2022 Expenditures (through Year 1) will include:

- Application, tuition and fees for EDU 491/591, 492/592 coursework (not yet invoiced)
- Course instructor salaries (not yet invoiced)
- Financial subawards to Educator Preparation Programs to re-vision the use of proficiency based learning principles in their coursework

Spring 2023 Expenditures will include:

- Application, tuition and fees for EDU 491/591, 492/592 coursework
- Course instructor salaries
- Summer Institute in June 2023.

There is increased interest in this coursework. MSU will continue to utilize grant funds to provide coursework and workshops through Summer and Fall 2023.

Montana State University	
Proficiency Based Education	
as of 11/28/2022	
Beginning Balance	406,253
FY23 Appropriation	500,000
	906,253
Expenditures	
Personal Services	137,856
Contracted Services	-
Supplies	431
Communications	-
Travel	-
Other Services	62,175
	200,462
FY 2023 Balance	705,791