

Montana State University \$1,000,000

Proficiency based education is presently a small part of the MSU curriculum but the timing is right for a stronger focus for two reasons: 1) OPI Chap. 58 administrative rules (Educator Preparation Programs) are currently under review and 2) The COVID-19 pandemic has already forced teachers to engage proficiency teaching methods to reach students at varying stages of progress.

Retooling field experiences comprise the primary expenses of piloting a proficiency-based education model. These experiences consist of a beginning field experience, 2 practicum level courses in the junior year, and student teaching in the senior year.

- This funding will provide:
 - Development of new partnerships with model schools [time and travel expenses]
 - Revision of early field experience (after-school programming), practicum experiences (in local and rural schools), and student teaching experiences for teacher candidates (in local and rural schools); including field support for placement opportunities and supervision
 - Training for faculty and field supervisors to integrate proficiency-based education into coursework at the undergraduate and graduate levels
 - The development of new modules for teacher education and educational leadership coursework

Other campuses and partnerships involved in the initiative

Partnerships

- Bozeman School District
- Bridger Academy
- Bozeman Online Charter School
- Montana Council of Deans of Education
- Rural School Districts throughout Montana

Status update on the initiative

Updated goals for year 1:

- 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) & MTSBA
 - EPP Deans (MCDE conversation),
 - EPP faculty (survey in development to be distributed by EPP Dean),
 - pre-service teachers (survey in development to be distributed by EPP),
 - in-service teachers (survey in development to be distributed by MASS superintendents?)
 - Historical audit of policy and practice conversations related to these terms
- Develop and implement grant-funded undergraduate and graduate coursework on proficiency-based education and personalized learning. These are courses will be available at no-cost to Montana students
 - EDU 491 Shifting Paradigms: From Traditional to Personalized Teaching and Learning (Summer 22, Fall 22, Spring 23) – available to pre-service teachers statewide
 - EDU 591 Shifting Paradigms: From Traditional to Personalized Teaching and Learning (Summer 22, Fall 22, Spring 23) – available to in-service teachers statewide

- EDU 492 Independent study – action research in PBE (Spring 23, Summer 23) – available to pre-service teachers statewide
- EDU 592 Independent study – action research in PBE (Spring 23, Summer 23) – 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

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 in field, practicum, and student teaching experiences
- ✓ Creation and dissemination of modules by all EPPs in the state of Montana through MT Council of Deans of Education collaborations

Budget Update:

Most expenditures in year 1 will occur in summer 2022.

Montana State University Proficiency Based Education as of 2/22/2022	
Beginning Balance	500,000
Expenditures	
Personal Services	16,412
Contracted Services	-
Supplies	-
Communications	-
Travel	-
Other Services	500
	16,912
FY 2022 Balance	483,088