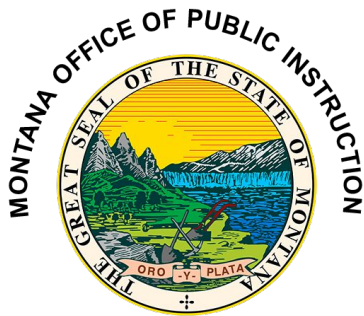
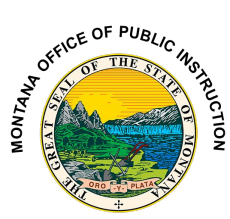




MT Advanced Opportunities 2026 Annual Reporting

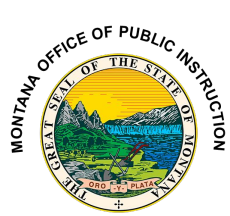


Grant Definitions

"Advanced opportunity" means any course, exam, or experiential, online, or other learning opportunity that is incorporated in a district's advanced opportunity plan and that is designed to advance each qualifying pupil's opportunity for postsecondary career and educational success.

"Advanced opportunity plan" means a plan adopted by a board of trustees of a district that provides advanced opportunities for the pupils of the district.

"Advanced opportunity facilitator" means an individual employed by a school district who coordinates between the school district, a qualifying pupil and the pupil's family, postsecondary institutions, employers, industry associations, community organizations, or any other individual or entity that provides an advanced opportunity.



Overview

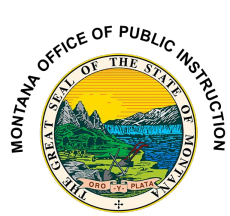
Funding Calculation

A district, depending on its classification, is funded at a percentage of the previous year's total quality educator payment.

- Elementary 4.5%
- K-12 18%
- High School 30%

Distribution and Spending Requirements

- at least 75% must address family out-of-pocket costs for advanced opportunities that align to students interests, passions, strengths, needs, and/or cultures
- remaining funds (up to 25%) can be used to provide CTE courses offered by the district AND/OR
- pay for the cost of hiring an advanced opportunity facilitator

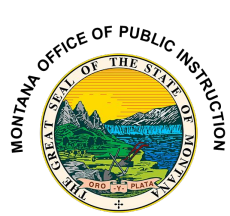


Examples

75% Family out of pocket costs for post-secondary pathways of students' choices (minimum)

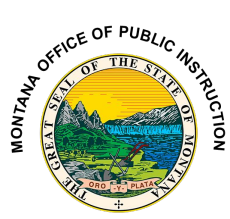
- **dual credit** tuition at any institution under authority of the board of regents
- **exam fees** used for postsecondary advancement, placement, or credit, including but not limited to exam fees associated with the ACT, SAT, CLEP, career advancement, international baccalaureate, and advanced placement;
- fees charged by and any out-of-pocket costs of any business providing **work-based learning** opportunities to a qualifying pupil of the district, including the cost of workers' compensation insurance for work based learning opportunities
- exam and other fees of any **industry-recognized credential or license** for which a qualifying pupil is eligible as a result of participation in an advanced opportunity
- the costs of **participation for qualifying pupils in out-of-school enrichment activities** that, in the discretion of the trustees, advance the pupil's opportunity for postsecondary career and educational success
- **costs of participation for qualifying pupils that are identified as necessary**, in the discretion of the district and upon request of a qualifying pupil, to maximize the benefit of an advanced opportunity for a qualifying pupil

25% CTE course offerings and/or advanced opportunity facilitator



Examples vs. Non-examples

MTAO Grant Examples: student-driven	MTAO Grant Non-examples: student-mandated
PSAT/SAT testing	Lab fees associated with basic education requirements
Dual enrollment fees and materials	Paying salaries of required staff
Gas cards for student transportation expenses	Consumables for promotion-required courses
Student-choice field trip	Salary increases
Consumables for student-led passion projects	Meals for staff
Interactive virtual reality career exploration	Chaperone payments
CTSO student costs	Transportation costs of the district
After-school enrichment programs	Fees created due to additional funding of MTAO grant
Student-requested funds for special projects	Replacement of old equipment in currently-offered courses

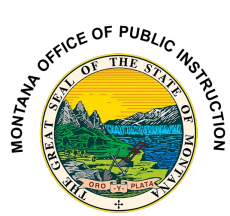


Reporting

An annual report qualifies funded districts for the following year of funding. The report includes:

- measurable objectives and progress towards them
- the number of pupils benefitting from advanced opportunity aid
- the number and type of credits and certifications or credentials earned by pupils that have been paid for by the program
- projected growth in the program and funding needs for the next biennium
- any issues with the program reported by pupils, parents, districts, postsecondary institutions, or examination administrators and how these issues are being addressed and whether the issues require legislative action

Reporting occurs between **December 7th and the January 11th**, on a calendar year.



Section 1

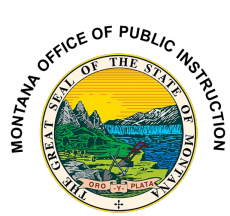
SECTION 1: General Information

District Name	
LEA #	
Submitter's Full Name	
Email	
Contact Phone Number	
Amount of FY27 Funding Received	
2026 Total Expenditures to Date	
Current Grant Balance (including rollover)	

grant
manager
or contact
person

2026
calendar
year

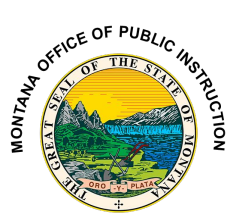
current
cumulative
balance



Section 2

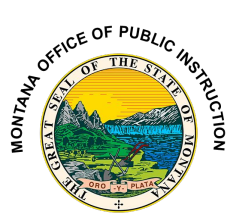
**These
should come
your
district's
strategic AO
plan.**

Measurable Objective from District's Advanced Opportunity Plan	
Progress made	
Measurable Objective from District's Advanced Opportunity Plan	
Progress made	
Measurable Objective from District's Advanced Opportunity Plan	
Progress made	
Measurable Objective from District's Advanced Opportunity Plan	
Progress made	
If more, use another page	



Section 3

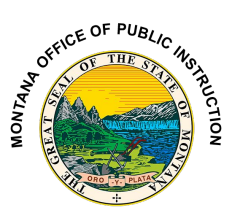
Number of Students Benefitting from Advanced Opportunity Aid	
The Number and Types of Credits, Certifications, and Credentials Earned by Students Being Paid for by Advanced Opportunity Funds	
Summary of Projected Growth in the Program	
Funding Needs for Next Biennium	
Issues Reported by Stakeholders and How Issues are Being Addressed	



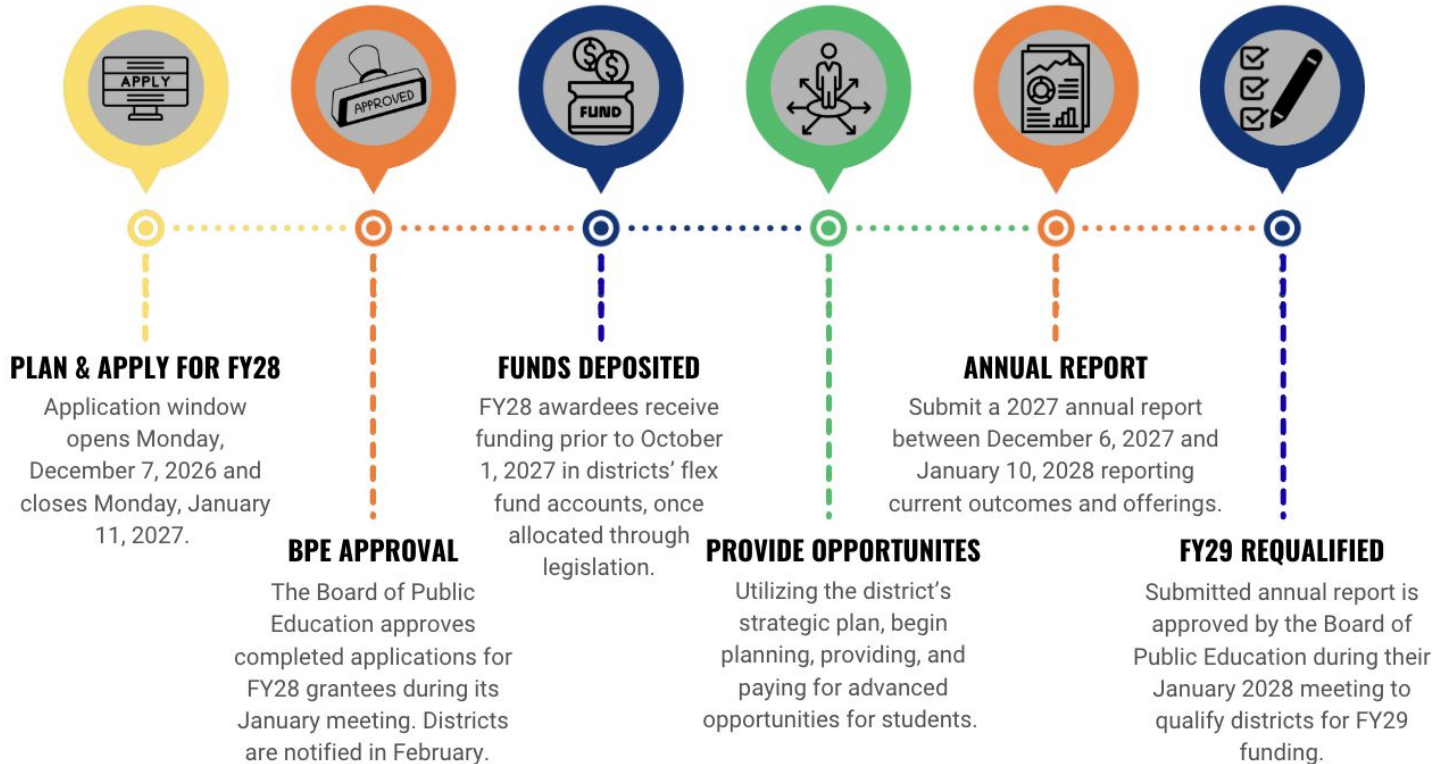
Section 4

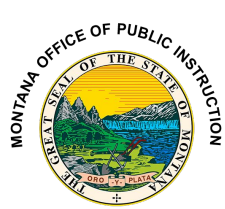
Note: reporting requirements from HB946 (2023 legislative session) are no longer needed. However, if you have this data, you are welcome to include it. These datapoints include: descriptions of opportunities, whether they occurred in our out-of-school, and the amount expended per opportunity. A tracking guide is linked [HERE](#), if applicable.

School Board Chair Printed Name	
School Board Chair Signature	
Date of Signature	



Timeline of Grant





Resources

- School Finance Guidance Document
- SB 278
- MT Advanced Opportunities Website
- Krystal Smith - krystal.smith@mt.gov

Thank you!

MT ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES GRANT

2026 Fall Webinar Series

RESOURCES:

-FY28 Application

-2026 Annual Report



☀ **SEPTEMBER 10TH - 10AM**
FY28 APPLICATION SUPPORT

☀ **SEPTEMBER 24TH - 10AM**
2026 ANNUAL REPORTING

☀ **OCTOBER 13TH - 2PM**
FY28 APPLICATION SUPPORT

☀ **NOVEMBER 17TH - 2PM**
2026 ANNUAL REPORTING

☀ **DECEMBER 9TH - 10AM**
OPEN HELP SESSION

Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 286 914 866 035 363
Passcode: L85WM2kF

