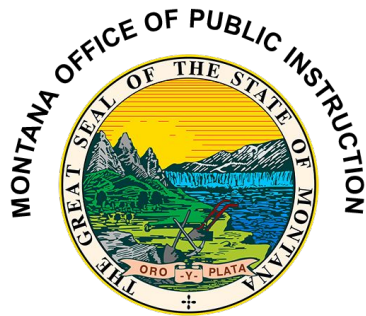
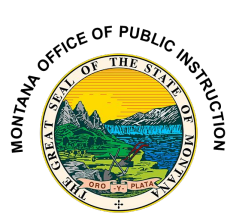




MT Advanced Opportunities Grant Application FY28

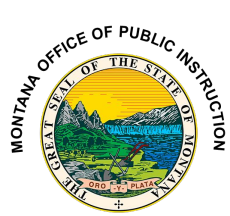


Definition

"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

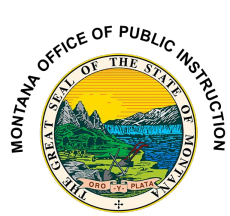
Funding Calculation

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

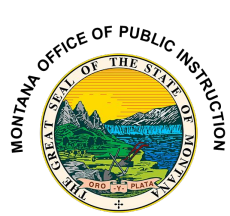


Examples

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

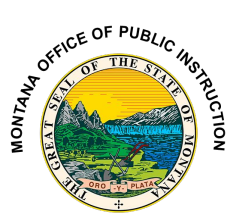
- **dual credit** tuition at any institution under authority of the board of regents
- **exam fees** used for postsecondary advancement, placement, or credit, including but not limited to exam fees associated with the ACT, SAT, CLEP, career advancement, international baccalaureate, and advanced placement;
- 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 workbased 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



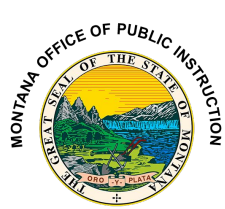
District Examples

District	Opportunities Examples
Darby	Medstart training at UM and boiler certification for WBL placement
Polson	“Knowledge Matters” career-based simulations and coursework
St. Regis	Student-choice leadership conferences (BPA, FFA)
Missoula	Project Lead the Way, summer robotics camps
Westby	John Deere Academy (coursework, materials, gas reimbursement)
Hellgate Elementary	School garden and robotics competitions
Townsend	Tiny house building and design linked to industry credentials
Hamilton	CNA certification through the UM Bitterroot Job Corp
Anaconda	STEM courses and supplies for 6-8th grade students



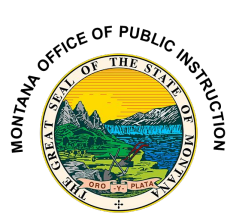
Examples vs. Non-examples

MTAO Grant Examples	MTAO Grant Non-examples
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



Requirements for Application

1. submit an application that has been approved by motion of the board
2. include a strategic plan with appropriate planning horizons for implementation, measurable objectives to ensure accountability, and planned strategies to:
 - a. develop an advanced opportunity plan for each participating pupil from grades **6 through 12** that fosters individualized pathways for career and postsecondary educational opportunities and that honors individual **interests, passions, strengths, needs, and culture** and is supported through relationships among teachers, family, peers, the business community, postsecondary education officials, and other community stakeholders
 - b. embed **community-based, experiential, online, and work-based learning opportunities** and foster a learning environment that incorporates both **face-to-face and virtual** connections
 - c. ensure **equality** of educational opportunity to participate by all qualifying pupils of the district.

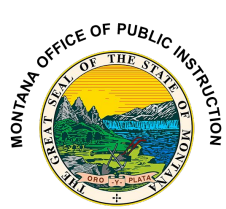


Reporting

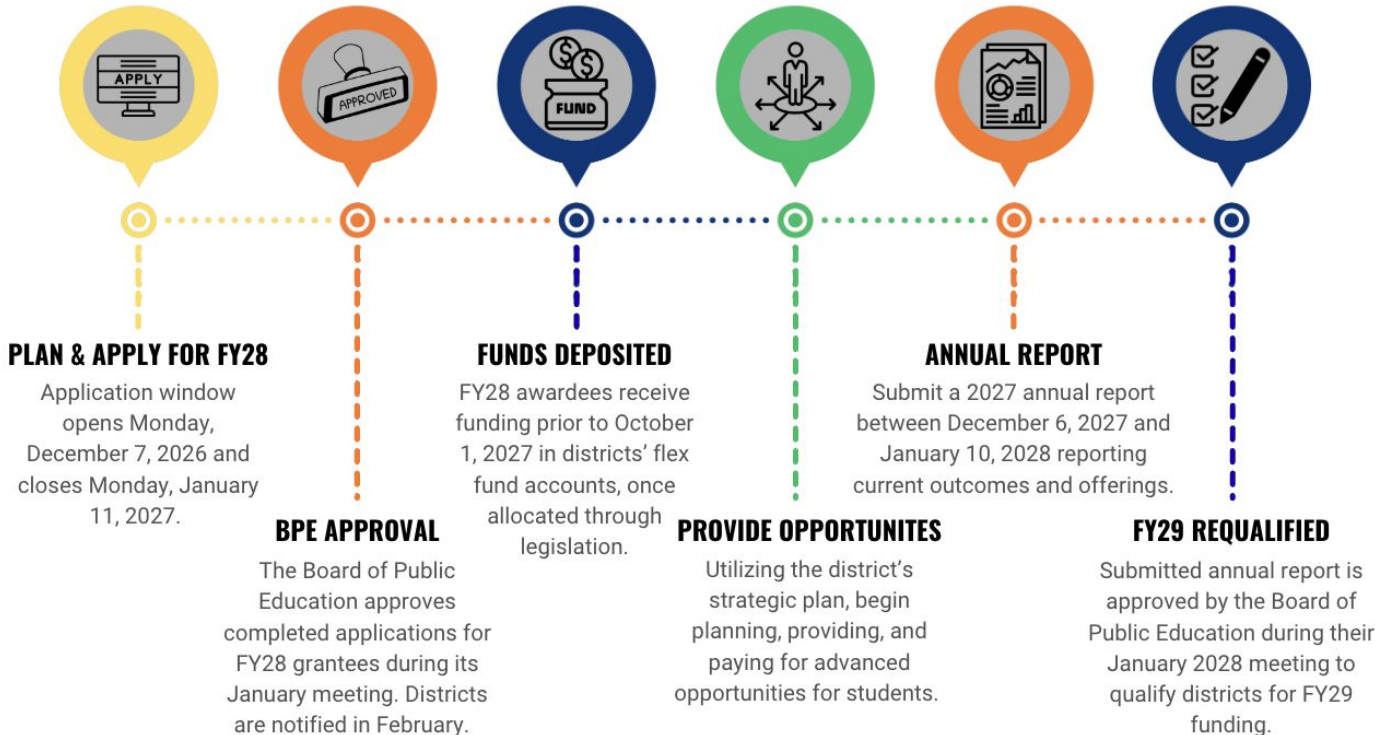
An annual report qualifies funded districts for the following year of funding. The report includes:

- the number of pupils benefiting 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 the 1st Monday in December and the 2nd Monday in January, on a calendar year.



Timeline of Grant



Upcoming Scheduled Support

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

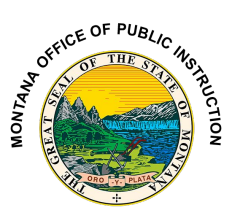
Meeting ID: 286 914 866 035 363
Passcode: L85WM2kF



Krystal Smith - OPI grant manager



krystal.smith@mt.gov



Resources

- SB 278
- MT Advanced Opportunities Website
- Krystal Smith - krystal.smith@mt.gov

Thank you!