



2022 Gifted and Talented State Grant Report

The current biennial grant period for the Gifted and Talented State Grant runs from August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2023. The Montana State Legislature provided \$700,000 total in grant funds for the two-year grant cycle. The amendment to **20-7-904, MCA** added new district reporting requirements set out in section (4), effective October 1, 2019. The OPI data shown below is for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 school years.

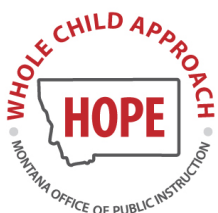
Gifted and Talented State Grant

Forty-eight districts expressed interest in the Gifted and Talented State Grant funds in this grant cycle. Two districts did not complete the application process required to receive funding. Forty-six districts applied for and received the two-year Gifted and Talented State Grant. The table below details the number of schools receiving funds from the Office of Public Instruction for Gifted and Talented programs (pursuant to **20-7-903**) and a breakdown of schools by student enrollment.

Class	Enrollment Range	# of Districts	Total Funding
C	1-119	12	\$91,804.00
B	120-339	10	\$100,206.00
A	341-825	15	\$168,159.00
AA	826+	9	\$339,831.00

In the assurance portion of the Gifted and Talented State Grant application, each district's authorized representative assures the following:

- the LEA will comply with all appropriate sections of Montana Code Annotated (MCA) **20-7-901-904**;





- the LEA will keep records and provide information to the state education agency as reasonably may be required for fiscal audit and program evaluation, consistent with the requirements of the state agency under this statute, including reporting the local district match and awarded grant funds on the school system Trustees report; (pursuant to **20-7-903**)
- the design, planning, and implementation of programs authorized by this chapter will provide for systematic consultation with parents, teachers and administrative personnel in the school(s) and with other groups as may be deemed appropriate by the local education agency; and
- the LEA will comply with the provisions of Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.804, effective 12/8/00
- provide a description of the way(s) they are meeting the requirements to include a child's parents in the Gifted and Talented evaluation process (pursuant to **20-7-902**).

Parental Involvement in the Evaluation Process

Districts receiving grant funds were required to submit their Gifted and Talented Program Plan to the Office of Public Instruction prior to grant approval. The OPI Gifted and Talented Program Plan template includes a section to provide for parental involvement in the evaluation process.

On the grant application, 65% of districts noted parental involvement in the evaluation process through the use of a Parental Observation Checklist.

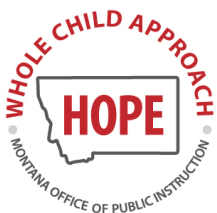
Grant District Training Activities

The districts receiving grant funds are currently utilizing the funds in a variety of ways for professional learning and development. Twenty-six of the forty-six grant districts are using grant funds for staff professional development. Some examples include attending the Association of the Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE) Conference and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Conference.

Description of Gifted and Talented Services

The districts receiving grant funds identified unique uses for the funds to meet their local needs for providing Gifted and Talented Services. Of note:

- Twenty-seven of the districts are using grant funds for curriculum differentiation
- Nineteen of the districts are using grant funds for acceleration programs

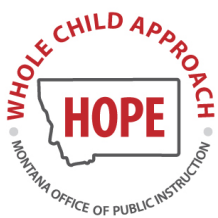




- Eighteen of the districts are using grant funds to address the whole child development needs of Gifted and Talented students
- Eight of the districts are using grant funds for secondary level programming.

Evaluation of Program Effectiveness

At the end of the grant cycle, districts will complete a program report to detail the effectiveness of Gifted and Talented programs. Interim reports were not required for this grant. This report will include the outcome of their locally identified student growth objectives. This data includes measures such as student achievement or growth, indicators of student and parent satisfaction with the program; and other gauges of program quality as determined by the OPI. The objectives and measurements are provided by each district in the "Objectives and Activities" portion of the grant application.





Gifted and Talented Statewide Data

Statewide Gifted and Talented data from the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 school years were collected through OPI's TEAMS and AIM data management systems and is aggregated below.

2020/21 Data:

- 6,074 students were evaluated for Gifted and Talented programs
- 5,903 students were identified as Gifted and Talented
- 283 of 410 districts report providing services for Gifted and Talented students
- 154 of 410 districts identified a gifted coordinator
- 242 of 410 districts offer training to their staff regarding Gifted and Talented education.

2021/22 Data:

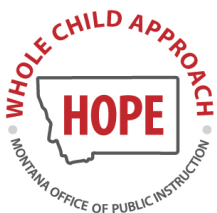
- 6,371 students were evaluated for Gifted and Talented programs (4.8% growth)
- 6,354 students were identified as Gifted and Talented (7.6% growth)
- 287 of 410 districts report providing services for Gifted and Talented students (1.4% growth)
- 154 of 410 districts identified a gifted coordinator (no change)
- 165 of 410 districts offer training to their staff regarding Gifted and Talented education (31% decline).

A description of the training provided by districts to teachers of Gifted and Talented students is listed in **APPENDIX A**. A description of services provided by districts to gifted and talented students is listed in **APPENDIX B**.

Implementation of Resources

The following resources were created by the Office of Public Instruction and presented to multiple stakeholders. These resources have been shared via email and the OPI Compass newsletter amongst Montana districts:

1. [Gifted Education Training Site](#)
2. [Program and Student Success Checklist](#)
3. [Montana Advanced Learning Plan](#)
4. [Montana Program Planning Template](#)





Data collection changes have been made in order to understand the strengths and needs of the programs for Montana districts. Those changes are as follows:

- a. TEAMS (School Data Collection System) - TEAMS previously used a checkbox to indicate if a district provided Gifted and Talented services. If the district did not provide Gifted and Talented services, the box would be left unchecked. Currently, TEAMS asks for further information in order to collect more specific data. Specific additional questions are (1) What services for Gifted and Talented students do the districts implement and (2) What professional learning and development opportunities do the districts offer?
- b. AIM (Student Data Collection System)- AIM has been changed to include indicators of “students evaluated” and “students identified”.

OPI Partnerships & Professional Development

Association of Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)

Higher Education Consortium (HEC) Conference

Montana Western University

Montana State University Bozeman

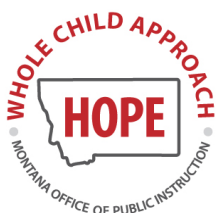
Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted (CSDPG)

National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)

Edufest July 2022

Office of Public Instruction Learning Hub: *Introduction to Gifted Students* and *Introduction to Twice-Exceptional Students*

Office of Public Instruction Summer Institute June 2022: *Getting Started: A Gifted Program for Your School* and *Gifted and Talented: I Will Be Here All Week!*

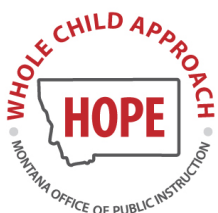




Appendix A

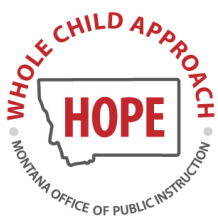
Services by Type: Gifted and Talented SY 2021/22

Services Provided	Number of Districts Providing
Accelerated Pace	119
Independent Study	103
Grouping Strategies	98
Flexible Tasks	91
Problem-Based Learning	66
Assessment	64
Specialized Curriculum Programs	58
Curriculum Compacting	56
Send-Out	50
Whole-Grade skipping	47





Distance learning/special schools for gifted	43
Talent Opportunities	32
Early Admittance	27
Early Entrance	23
Most Difficult First	15
Other Services	9

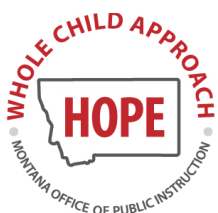




Appendix B

Professional Development and Learning by Source: SY 2021/22

Professional Development and Learning Source	Number of Districts
Learning Hub (OPI)	120
Local District Training	67
Association of Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)	42
Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)	22
Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)	17
National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)	12 (November 2022 in Indianapolis, IN)
*Other (Edufest, Outdoor Science Exploration, Advanced Placement Training, Montana Small Schools Alliance, Northwest Curriculum Cooperative, Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Symposium)	47



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Putting Montana Students First **A⁺**



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