



Connecting global to local

- **Read** the assigned Blueprint slides (**included here**) for 10 minutes
 - Young People: Slides 2-7
 - Educators: Slides 8-10
- **In your small group** discuss the three sets of questions to the right.
- **Choose one idea** or question from the small group discussions to lift up for the whole group
- **Return** to whole group and debrief

15
mins

What feels new or different compared to how we usually think about education in Montana?

What stands out as especially relevant or urgent?

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How do the Montana examples make this component real in our context?

Where do we already see strengths or seeds of this work in Montana?

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What might it take for Montana to move further in this direction?

What implications for funding would policymakers consider?

1 Prepare young people for long-life learning

1. High-quality early learning
2. Excellence through graduation
3. Meaningful on-ramps to life after school
4. Portable & modularized credentials & pathways
5. Engaging, affordable avenues for upskilling



Thinking Differently about Developing Student Agency for Work and Life

- Time for developing **core** skills varies by subject and age.
- Scheduling by cohort supports development of community skills.
- Time for well-being is a priority.
- Time in broader learning experiences helps students develop contemporary skills.



Funding high-quality early childhood education and care



- DPHSS Early Childhood and Family Support Division
- DPHSS Child Care and Early Childhood Services
- OPI Early Learning Standards

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students are enrolled in public pre-kindergarten programs throughout the Montana in the 2024-25 school year.

Montana's **Best Beginnings Childcare Scholarship (BBS)** helps low-income families earning less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level access affordable, high-quality child care by **providing co-payments based on a sliding fee scale**. Childcare providers can also become **licensed and receive BBS subsidy payments** through this program.

Montana Milestones Early Intervention Program offers a collection of services and supports for families with children ages birth through three who have **significant developmental delays, disabilities, or have been diagnosed with an established condition**.

Montana DLI's 2024 report found that **child care capacity meets only 44% of the estimated demand in the state**, and 59% of Montana counties exist in childcare deserts. While Montana has made efforts to expand access to pre-K education, **the state ranks among the bottom six states in terms of preschool access**.

Prepare Young People For Long Life Learning



Promoting and assessing future-ready competencies



Spark Phonetics creates educational programming focused on the **semiconductor and photonics industries**, with implementations in Glendive and Billings, Montana. By bringing **industry-specific education directly to high school students**, Spark Photonics is **cultivating a future workforce** while giving students a voice in shaping their career paths. [🔗](#)



Montana Contractors Association Education Foundation focuses on **promoting and supporting careers in construction** by providing financial support for scholarships, postsecondary training programs, and university construction departments. Their goal is to **stimulate the growth of a diverse, skilled workforce for Montana contractors**. Forecasts point to the construction sector as the largest contributor to job creation until 2032. [🔗](#) [🔗](#)

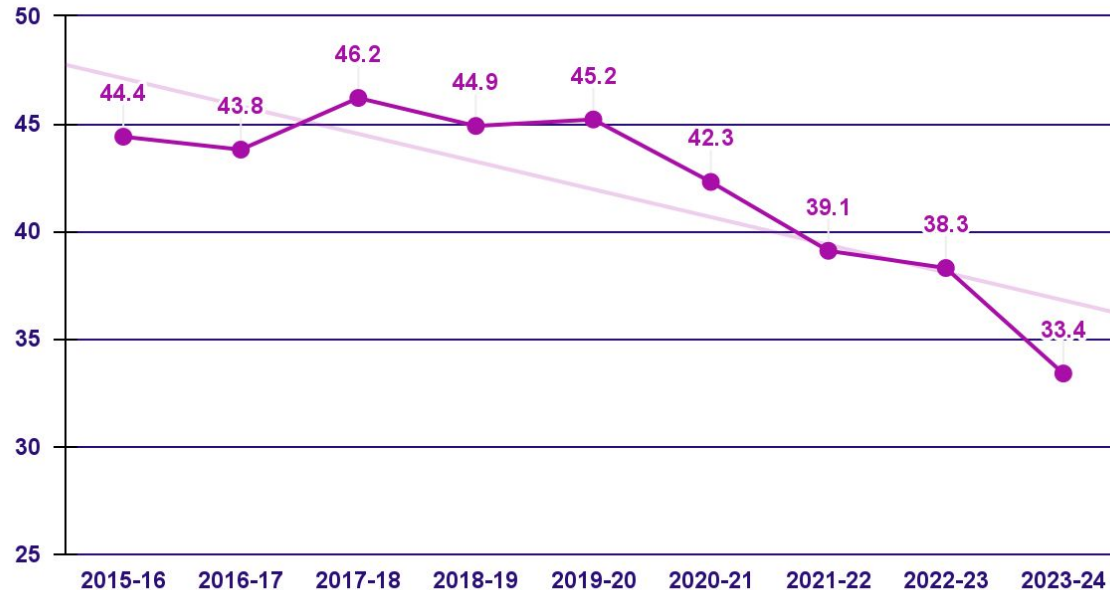


Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative Teacher Externship Program offers educators the unique opportunity to **partner with statewide industry leaders** and **participate in short-term, immersive externship experiences** to gain knowledge about related skills and competencies. After completing their externships, teachers share their experiences with Montana businesses in their classrooms, **extending hands-on, real-world knowledge about the state's industry landscape to high school students**. [🔗](#)

Prepare Young People For Long Life Learning

Promoting and assessing future-ready competencies

College Enrollment Rates (%) by HS Graduating Class



Since 2010, college enrollment in Montana has declined by

11.5% 

28.6% 

of all residents enrolled in college leave Montana to attend school.

Prepare Young People For Long Life Learning

Creating next generation career pathways



Montana DLI's **Job Projection Tool** organizes information about projected industry trends by region and occupation, and includes details about minimum education or training requirements, annual openings, and wages. DLI forecasts point to the **construction industry and healthcare sector** as the largest contributors to job creation.

Montana Labor
Report (2024)



Montana is **launching a statewide Credential Registry**, facilitated by Accelerate Montana and Credential Engine, to create a centralized platform that **enhances transparency and accessibility of educational credentials and career pathways, aligning education with workforce needs.**

Montana Labor
Market Information



The Montana **Career Lab** offers a comprehensive set of career planning tools, including publications, videos, and online resources, with a key feature being **MCIS 360**, a unified system that provides detailed information on occupations, educational programs, scholarships, and interest assessments to support informed career decisions.

OPI CTE
Guidance Documents

Prepare Young People For Long Life Learning

2 Cultivate high-capacity, forward-thinking educators

1. Valued, supported profession
2. Ongoing learning/career advancement
3. Evolving roles & competencies
4. Time, space, staffing reimaged
5. Collaborative school culture



Thinking Differently about Support for Teachers






- Teachers are well-prepared in content and pedagogy.
- Teachers have high-quality instructional resources for math.
- There is significant professional learning and collaboration time.







Recruiting and preparing future-ready educators

Notable educator networks in the state include:


-  • Montana Federation of Public Employees,
-  • Montana Professional Teaching Foundation,
-  • Aspiring Educators,
-  • Montana Association for the Education of Young Children,
-  • Montana State Music Teachers Association




OPI's **Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards** guide the accreditation of educator preparation programs in Montana. There are **10 post-secondary campuses that offer teacher education programs** throughout the state. 



SB 373, passed in 2023, **established and approved requirements** for alternative educator preparation program providers. The **first and only** alternative program approved in Montana is the **American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence**. 

While ABCTE collects candidate performance data, there are currently **no educator preparation program data dashboards available**. 

Cultivate High-Capacity, Forward-Thinking Educators



Connecting global to local

- **Read** the assigned Blueprint slides (**included here**) for 10 minutes
 - Join Forces: Slides 12-14
 - Think Differently: Slides 15-16
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3 Join forces to ensure learners thrive

1. Meet students where they are
2. Support well-being & belonging
3. Rethink relationship between formal and informal learning
4. Engage families and communities
5. Work at the intersections



Thinking Differently about Personalization & Local Assets

- Learning is organized around stages rather than grades to allow more flexibility.
- Systems set aside unassigned time for flexible use.
- Time for community based supports are incorporated into schedules for students who need it.
- Students are given opportunities for community-based learning experiences that fit their needs.





Fostering cross-sector collaboration in support of youth and families

- 🔗 SB 278 establishes the role of "Advanced Opportunity Facilitators" who coordinate between the district, students, families, postsecondary institutions, employers, industry associations, and community organizations **to provide advanced educational opportunities that enhance students' postsecondary career and educational success.**
- 🔗 Montana has created a **Post Secondary Outcomes** tool to assist decision-making for Montana students and families by evaluating outcomes from Montana's colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions, **including data on employment rates and earnings.**
- 🔗 The **Montana Budget and Policy Center** provides a detailed analysis and landscape overview of out-of-school learning time for students. While some funded out-of-school programs, largely funded through **21st Century Community Learning Grants**, offer STEM, arts, literacy, and physical activity education through after-school and summer initiatives, **more than half of Montana parents report cost as the biggest challenge to accessing after-school programs.** For Montana's American Indian population, families report challenges finding culturally inclusive programs.

Join Forces to Ensure Learners Thrive

4 Think differently about system leadership





1. Build coherence & alignment
2. Continuously improve
3. Revisit assumptions
4. Broaden coalitions
5. Benchmark against the best
6. Be intentional & enduring
7. Maintain a relentless focus on the future








Preparing and developing leaders in fundamentals and the vanguard of leadership

Montana has several **statewide initiatives to support leadership**, including:

-  • Office of Public Instruction Learning Hub
-  • Montana Association of School Business Officials
-  • School Administrators of Montana
-  • School Services of Montana

The top, **university-based principal leadership** programs are:

-  • Educational Leadership - Montana State University
-  • Department of Educational Leadership - University of Montana
-  • Educational Leadership - Rocky Mountain College

Think Differently About System Leadership