



March 22, 2022

TO:

- **Representative David Bedey**
- **Education Interim Budget Committee (EIBC)**
- **Joint Education Interim Committee (EDIC)**

% *Katie Guenther via Email*

FROM:

Jason Neiffer, Ed.D., Executive Director, Montana Digital Academy
406-203-1812
jason@mtda.org

Per EIBC Chairman Bedey's request, please see the enclosed information about **MTDA's EdReady Montana program.**

We are happy to answer any questions regarding the EdReady Montana program. **We are also available for a live demonstration of the software suite via Zoom or other means.**

Enclosures

EdReady Montana Introduction and History	2
EdReady Montana "Goal Menu"	4
EdReady Montana Middle School Case Studies	6
EdReady Montana High School Case Studies	8
EdReady Montana Incarcerated Education Case Studies	10

EdReady Montana Introduction and History

What is EdReady?

EdReady is an online software suite developed by the **NROC Project**, a non-profit organization that develops open online tools and course content aimed at recognizing each student's unique learning needs.

EdReady asks the simple but profound question, **what do you want to be ready for?** Based on that answer, educators can assign a **goal** that provides an assessment for students to determine their readiness to attain that goal. After completing the assessment, the software offers an **EdReady score** that gives students and educators a baseline on their progress towards the goal. EdReady content includes math from basic arithmetic to pre-calculus, a full year of algebra content and English skills including grammar, reading and writing preparation for college-level writing skills.

Students receive a **customized, award-winning curriculum** based on their needs. As students progress through the customized pathway, their score improves, showing progress.

Brief History

MTDA has a long history with **NROC**, and has been a member of their network since our creation in 2010. In 2013, NROC leadership approached MTDA's executive director to pilot the EdReady software suite. After a successful pilot aimed at college-bound students seeking mathematics course placement, MTDA approached the **Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation** for funding to **license and support** EdReady implementation across the state of Montana.

The Washington Foundation funded an initial three-year program in 2014. MTDA applied for additional funding in 2017, and again in 2022, and both times received support with five-year commitments.

EdReady Montana is currently funded through February of 2027.

EdReady Montana Model

Our model is simple: **a team of dedicated Montana educators helps other Montanans use our program.** We've helped over 600 institutions and organizations utilize our program from upper elementary to adult education, colleges/universities, and correctional facilities, including the Montana State Prison. EdReady provides math readiness support for grade 4 through adult education students and English readiness for grade 9 to adult education students.

Montana was the first state to implement the program statewide. We do this by creating learning goals that help teachers answer the question "what do I want my students to be ready for?" **Our team provides**

technical setup and implementation services and follows up with ongoing **professional development** to use best teaching practices and interpret reports and data. We want to help teachers support teaching and learning both at and away from the computer. **Our award-winning program is the model for many other large-scale implementations around the country.**

EdReady Supports Innovation in Education

EdReady has also proven to be an **excellent support tool for innovation** in educational programming across the state. The EdReady Montana team has worked with the **University of Montana** and **Montana State University** to support their work in reenvisioning the mathematics placement process, prioritizing placement as a pathway and not a set exam. Our team also supports the **University of Montana-Western Experience One** program's delivery of mathematics courses.

Document Information

The documents inserted below include:

1. The current **goal menu** that most schools use to help address the needs of their students, which the EdReady Montana team is regularly updating based on the needs of Montana schools.
2. **Middle School, High School** and **Correctional Education** case study summaries that display numbers and types of students served as well as a voice from the field telling the story of EdReady Montana's impact from students', teachers' and administrators' perspectives.

EdReady Montana “Goal Menu”

EdReady Montana Goals

Intermediate, Middle School, & High School Goals

- 5th Grade Readiness
- 6th Grade Readiness
- 7th Grade Readiness
- 8th Grade Readiness
- Pre-Algebra Readiness
- Algebra 1 Readiness
- Algebra 1 Supplement*
- Algebra 2 Readiness
- Geometry Readiness
- Pre-Calculus Readiness
- Calculus Readiness
- College Readiness

**Full year of Algebra 1 specific resources*

Co-Curricular Goals

- Physics Readiness
- Chemistry Readiness

Adult Education

- TABE E/M/D/A Readiness
- Pre-HiSET
- HiSET Prep 2020

EdReady English

- College English
- ACT English Prep
- HiSET English
- TABE D-A English
- Writing Readiness
- Reading Readiness
- Grammar Readiness

Placement & Skills Inventory

- College Placement
- Middle to High School Placement
- Beginning/End of Year Assessment
- Identify Student Learning Gaps

Test Prep Goals

- ACT
- SAT
- Accuplacer
- MPLEX
- Maplesoft
- GRE
- Praxis

For more goal details: <http://mtda.link/edreadygoalmenus>

To request a goal or to learn more...

EdReady Main Office: support@montanadigitalacademy.org // (406) 203-1812

EdReady Montana Goals

Higher Education Goals

- M065 PreAlgebra Readiness
- M090 Introductory Algebra Readiness/Companion
- M095 Intermediate Algebra Readiness/Companion
- M105 Contemporary Math Readiness
- M111/114 Technical Math Readiness
- M115 Probability & Linear Math Readiness
- M120 Mathematics with Healthcare Applications
- M121 College Algebra Readiness
- M122 College Trigonometry
- M135 Math for K-8 Teachers 1 Readiness
- M140 College Math for Healthcare
- M151 PreCalculus Readiness
- M162 Applied Calculus Readiness
- M171 Calculus 1 Readiness

Career Pathway Goals

- Agriculture
- Business
- Communication Technologies
- Computer and Information Sciences
- Construction Trades
- Culinary Services
- Early Childhood Education and Teaching
- Engineer Technologies
- Health Professions
- Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Protective Services
- Legal Professions
- Mechanic and Repair Technologies
- Natural Resources and Conservation
- Precision Production
- Transportation and Logistics

EdReady Montana Middle School Case Studies



DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL CASE STUDIES

Ben Steele Middle School Billings, MT

Use Highlights

- Summer Math Program to their 6–8 grade students.
- Helps students avoid summer learning loss (summer setback, summer slide)
- Fills in knowledge gaps and helps prepare them for the next math course
- Student completion is rewarded with a gift card by SMS.

Hellgate Middle School Missoula, MT

Use Highlights

- Serving students in grades 7 and 8
- After-School – Supplemental Ed Services (SES) Program
- Focuses on students with high academic needs or that have gaps in their math skills
- Provides extra help and is designed to build student confidence in math

Middle School Facts

- Largest number of users
- Middle to high school transition
- Learning pre-algebra and algebra
- Outside school access
- Serves all levels of students

54,000

**Enrollments
Served**

195

**Middle Schools
Served**

Big Timber 7–8 School Big Timber, MT

Use Highlights

- Serving students in grades 7 and 8
- Student ownership: Using EdReady students help create their own math learning path
- Helps students of all levels of math achievement (remedial to advanced learners)
- Prepares students for academic opportunities as they move to Sweet Grass High School

Roosevelt Middle School Red Lodge, MT

Use Highlights

- Shows improved math scores on the national MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) test
- Provides small school, single math teacher schools with an alternative voice
- Allows the teacher to meet student acceleration and remediation needs
- Identifies and fills gaps for each learner

© EdReady Montana 2021

WHAT MIDDLE SCHOOL STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING ABOUT EDREADY MONTANA

"Jolinda Hill is one teacher who serves all of our 130 kids. Because of Jolinda and the consistency of EdReady over the last three years, our MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) math scores have shown steady improvement."

- Jason Reimer, Principal, Roosevelt Middle School, Red Lodge, MT

"We're in our third year of operation now (with EdReady). One of the things that I was trying to get in place was a system for our kids to be able to access the math curriculum standards throughout the summertime just to stay brushed up on math skills."- Joe Halligan, Principal, Ben Steele Middle School, Billings, MT

"I appreciate the data aspect of the program so I can see who is struggling and what they're struggling with so I can differentiate and provide personalized support to each of my students." - Jolinda Hill, Teacher, Roosevelt Middle School, Red Lodge, MT

"I really love the program {since} it allows each student to work at their own level and progress at their own level." - Tami Mehus, Teacher, Big Timber School, Big Timber, MT

"EdReady has changed the way I feel about math because you can just look at it and it's more of a visual perspective."
Student, Hellgate Middle School, Missoula, MT



© EdReady Montana 2021

EdReady Montana High School Case Studies



DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION

HIGH SCHOOL CASE STUDIES

Carter County High School Ekalaka, MT

Use Highlights

- Helps identify and fill gaps for individual students entering high school
- Remediation of skill gaps for high school juniors prior to ACT testing
- Provides a valuable resource for a small school on a tight budget
- Gives students alternate math “voice” to learn from in small high schools

Custer County High School Miles City, MT

Use Highlights

- Supplements and support classroom math instruction
- Prepare for ACT and college-level math
- Allows the teacher to differentiate instruction for all levels of math students
- Utilize multimedia resources to help students learn how to study

High School Facts

- Identifies skill gaps for underprepared incoming high school students
- Reinforces or teaches targeted pre-algebra and algebra skills
- Assists in leveling the playing field for rural high school students
- Helps prepare high school students for transition to college or work
- Uses include supplement to classroom instruction, distance learning, summer enrichment, and test preparation

55,000

Enrollments Served

148

Schools Served

© EdReady Montana 2021

WHAT HIGH SCHOOL STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING ABOUT EDREADY MONTANA

"Hearing and seeing someone else explain a concept in a different way can be very helpful. I am the only math teacher here at the high school and it's very helpful to have them exposed to a different voice." - Teacher Sharon Carroll, Carter County High School, Ekalaka, MT

"...it's very straightforward...we found it to be so much more useful than other programs we looked at and the students find it user friendly."
- Principal Kevin Meredith, Plains High School, Plains, MT

"As a class, we use EdReady a lot, at least fifteen minutes every couple of days. The part about it that I like is the tests because EdReady shows where I've improved, and it also shows what I need to work on."
-Student Carter County High School, Ekalaka MT

"I say to my students, you know Washington-Grizzly Stadium? They say, 'Yeah.' Well, that's the family who brought EdReady to you! and they say, 'Oh, that's awesome!' and we are all just so phenomenally grateful."
- Teacher Denise Harvey, Custer County High School, Miles City MT

"I am using the math program currently. This program helps me understand new concepts and ideas. I feel like students are able to learn more using this program."
- Student, Colstrip High School, Colstrip, MT



© EdReady Montana 2021

EdReady Montana Incarcerated Education Case Studies



DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION

INCARCERATED ED CASE STUDIES

Incarcerated Ed Facts

- Newest use case of the program
- EdReady helps prepare learners for the High School Equivalency Exam (HiSET test)
- Learners gain confidence to build skills needed for their future goals
- Safe/secure access to high-quality software
- Irregular attendance is served well with this individualized/online program

620
Enrollments
Served

6
Institutions

Montana State Prison

Deer Lodge, MT

Use Highlights

- Needed a secure software solution that didn't use the "open Internet"
- Inmates pursue high school equivalency (HiSET)
- Results point to increased HiSET scores
- Teachers use EdReady to supplement instruction and focus on individual needs

Cascade County JDC

Great Falls, MT

Use Highlights

- Needed an option that would serve students who drop in and out of the program
- Provides secure access to a reliable program while students are incarcerated
- Serves students from basic math (around 2nd grade skills) to college readiness
- Students gain confidence starting with the initial diagnostic and build from there with support from the teachers at the center

© EdReady Montana 2021

WHAT INCARCERATED ED STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING ABOUT EDREADY MONTANA

"MSP runs everyone through EdReady because we see the support the program offers to learners. We not only see more learners passing the HiSet; we also see higher scores overall. Our HiSet scores before EdReady were around 8, and after implementing EdReady, we see more 16's."

- Marissa | Education Director, Montana State Prison

"One day, we are working with a 7th grader excelling at Trigonometry, and the next day we work with another 7th grader who struggles with 4th-grade math."

- April Senger | Lead Teacher, Cascade County Juvenile Detention Center

With the foundational preparation provided by EdReady and other YSC programming, Senger and another teacher at the Center encourage students to pursue apprenticeships, trade school, and/or college based on the students' strengths.

"EdReady Montana has become an important part of this initial academic assessment and diagnostic process."

- Marissa | Education Director, Montana State Prison



© EdReady Montana 2021