

Montana State University \$1,000,000

Proficiency based education is presently a small part of the MSU curriculum but the timing is right for a stronger focus for two reasons: 1) OPI Chap. 58 administrative rules (Educator Preparation Programs) are currently under review and 2) The COVID-19 pandemic has already forced teachers to engage proficiency teaching methods to reach students at varying stages of progress.

Retooling field experiences comprise the primary expenses of piloting a proficiency-based education model. These experiences consist of a beginning field experience, 2 practicum level courses in the junior year, and student teaching in the senior year.

- This funding will provide:
 - Development of new partnerships with model schools [time and travel expenses]
 - Revision of early field experience (after-school programming), practicum experiences (in local and rural schools), and student teaching experiences for teacher candidates (in local and rural schools); including field support for placement opportunities and supervision
 - Training for faculty and field supervisors to integrate proficiency-based education into coursework at the undergraduate and graduate levels
 - The development of new modules for teacher education and educational leadership coursework

Other campuses and partnerships involved in the initiative

Partnerships

- Bozeman School District
- Bridger Academy
- Bozeman Online Charter School
- Montana Council of Deans of Education
- Rural School Districts throughout Montana

Status update on the initiative

Two meetings have been held in cooperation with partners in the Bozeman School District to establish initiative goals for year 1:

- Conduct a summer institute/course for students and teachers currently engaged in PBE
- Develop modules to be integrated into current preservice teacher coursework
- Offer a family engagement program focusing on demystifying standards-based grading
- Use partnerships with school districts engaged in PBE to enhance field experiences at the early field experience, practicum I and II, and student teaching levels

Plans for carrying out the initiative for the remainder of the biennium

- Further develop a PBE partnership with the Bozeman School District and identify any appropriate rural school district partners that could provide PBE field experiences
- Forthcoming presentations to and conversations with MCDE and a requested spot on the agenda of the Higher Education. Recruit Graduate Research Assistant from national pool for this unique program development, implementation, and research opportunity
- Assess current state-wide understandings of PBL and how it is being implemented. Promote summer courses
- Offer EDU 491/591-001 online *Shifting Paradigms: From Traditional to Personalized Teaching and Learning, emphasizing proficiency-based learning as the central pillar of personalized teaching*
- Modules developed as a result of this course/ institute will be piloted and refined in year 2 in the MSU teacher education program. Refined modules will be disseminated to other MT EPPs through the MT Council of Deans of Education at the end of year 2
- Build upon the experience of those in the course in Summer 2022 to create field placements and school partnerships with individual classroom teachers. Use this as a pilot from which to launch larger statewide expansion

Metrics used to measure success

- ✓ Inclusion of proficiency-based education modules included as part of Educator Prep Program at Montana State University
- ✓ Successful retooling of field, practicum, and student teaching experiences to reflect proficiency-based approach
- ✓ Dissemination of modules to all EPPs in the state of Montana through MT Council of Deans of Education