



## Proficiency-Based Education

### 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

Updated goals for year 1:

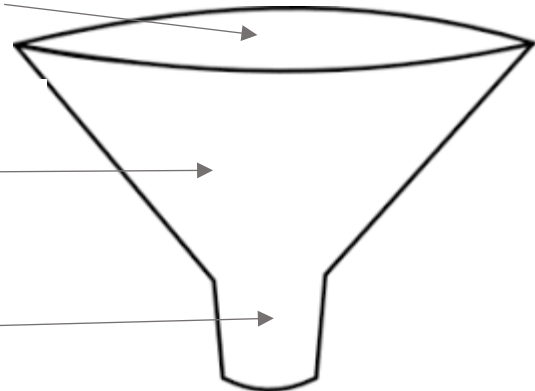
- Gather the current state of understanding of the terms “proficiency-based”, “Competency-based”, “standards-based” and “mastery learning” from the state’s:
  - superintendents (via MASS meeting conversations) & MTSBA - presented to and facilitated conversations with superintendents from Western, Hi-Line, South Central, Central, and 4 Rivers MASS meetings
  - EPP Deans (MCDE conversation) – presented to and facilitated conversation in January 2022
  - EPP faculty (survey in development to be distributed by EPP Dean) – survey is currently in the field with participation from Rocky Mountain College, UM-Western, and MSU

- pre-service teachers (survey in development to be distributed by EPP) – survey is currently in the field with participation from Rocky Mountain College, UM-Western, and MSU
- in-service teachers (survey in development to be distributed by MASS superintendents?)
- Historical audit of policy and practice conversations related to these terms – currently in progress
- Develop and implement grant-funded funnel of opportunities that range in duration and intensity for educators to engage with proficiency/competency-based learning principles including undergraduate and graduate coursework on proficiency-based education and personalized learning.

Short single-session Workshops:  
Science Summer Institute, MFPE Educator Conference

1-2 day Workshops: Summer Curriculum Institute (in collaboration with School Services of Montana).  
17 educators have registered for Bozeman offering;  
29 have registered for Anaconda offering

3-credit undergraduate/graduate courses (see descriptions below)



- EDU 491 Personalizing Learning & Competency-based Education (Summer 22, Fall 22, Spring 23) – available to pre-service teachers statewide
- EDU 591 Personalizing Learning & Competency-based Education (Summer 22, Fall 22, Spring 23) – available to in-service teachers statewide

#### Course Description

A multitude of schools, districts, and entire states, such as New Hampshire, are shifting away from the traditional, time-based, Carnegie model of instruction. These innovators, including some rural schools in Montana, are developing and implementing what the Federal Department of Education identifies as Competency-Based Education (CBE). CBE includes personalized, mastery, project-based, and blended and/or virtual teaching/learning. This course will introduce future and practicing educators to these various teaching/learning modalities and prepare educators to compete for employment in these schools and districts or prepare educators to implement these modalities in their own classes/districts.

Interest to date:

	June session	July session	Fall 2022
EDU 491	4	1	3
EDU 591*	18	7	5

\* 10 applicants are known to be actively engaged in registration process. 200+ educators have demonstrated interest in learning more about the course.

- EDU 492 Independent study – action research in PBE (Spring 23, Summer 23) – will be available to pre-service teachers statewide
- EDU 592 Independent study – action research in PBE (Spring 23, Summer 23) – will be available to grad students (who may be in-service teachers) statewide
- EDLD 591 School Wellness Wheel (yet to be submitted for Summer 23) – available to school leaders statewide
- EDU 291 From Grades to Growth (yet to be submitted for either Spring or Summer 23) – available to Montana postsecondary students (system wide, including TCs) and high school students for dual enrollment

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

- Fund and support all of Montana’s EPPs to collaboratively strengthen PBE focus in current programs.
- Convene 3-day, 2 night statewide PBE Summer Institute on MSU-Bozeman campus (Summer 2023) – with 2 national keynotes and breakout sessions highlighting the research and work being done to realize the possibility of PBE and personalizable learning to shift the focus in student learning from ‘grades to growth’.
- 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
- Offer a family engagement program focusing on demystifying standards-based grading

### **Metrics used to measure success**

- ✓ Inclusion of proficiency-based education modules included as part of Educator Prep Program at Montana State University (undergraduate and graduate levels)
- ✓ Successful piloting of proficiency-based education approaches in field, practicum, and student teaching experiences
- ✓ Creation and dissemination of modules by all EPPs in the state of Montana through MT Council of Deans of Education collaborations

### **Budget Update:**

Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 Expenditures (through Year 1) will include:

- Application, tuition and fees for EDU 491/591 coursework (not yet invoiced)
- Course instructor salaries (not yet invoiced)
- Financial subawards to Educator Preparation Programs to re-vision the use of proficiency based learning principles in their coursework

Spring 2023 Expenditures will include:

- Application, tuition and fees for EDU 491/591 coursework
- Course instructor salaries

- Honoraria, space, technology rental, travel, lodging, & per diem for the Proficiency-Based Education Summer Institute in June 2023.

<b>Montana State University</b> <b>Proficiency Based Education</b> as of 5/31/2022	
Beginning Balance	500,000
Expenditures	
Personal Services	34,444
Contracted Services	130
Supplies	-
Communications	-
Travel	679
Other Services	500
	35,753
FY 2022 Balance	464,247