



2021 Legislature

The first 10 years and the future

Celebrating 10 Years of Innovation at the Digital Academy 2010-2020

Original Credit

38,168

Successful Enrollments

Credit Recovery

19,760

Semester Credits Regained

165

 Montana Teachers trained in Online Teaching

"There are numerous high-level original credit courses (e.g. Advanced Placement Microeconomics) that are requested by relatively few students, but which are important in our efforts to provide opportunities for students to take advanced content that we really couldn't staff with our current enrollment of under 500 kids."

- **Rural Principal**

"I just truly enjoyed this course since it was well-paced, informative, and organized. I'm actually in the process of planning a career in psychology with the hopes of gaining my doctorate, so this course really added to my repertoire of knowledge."

- **Psychology Student**

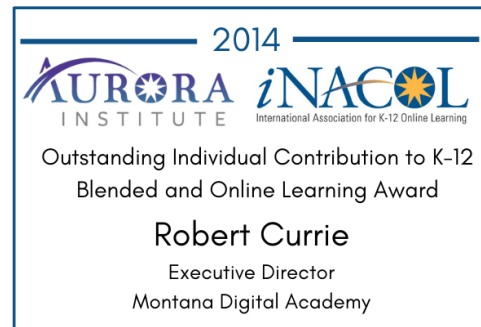
"I am very thankful for this program because it helped me catch up and for that, I am able to graduate on time."

- **Government A CR Student**

Online learning plays a critical role in providing equity and access for rural schools across Montana," according to Dennis Parman, Executive Director of the MREA. "It should come as no surprise to anyone that the smallest of high schools are not able to provide onsite opportunities for their students much beyond the core content areas. Online learning through the Digital Academy allows these schools to offer a variety of courses that now rival the largest of high schools in Big Sky Country."

- **Dennis Parman, Executive Director of MREA and former MTDA Board Chair**

MTDA & EdReady National Recognition



2018

TEACHING & LEARNING AWARD



Current Course Offerings

81

Original Credit

10

CTE Course Titles

14

Advanced Placement

4

Dual Credit

15

Credit Recovery

1

Middle School Spanish

Addressing Educational Equity in Montana

MTDA expands the typical MHSAs Class C & B course catalog by 48%. This provides access to course titles similar to our largest AA high schools in the state.

Student #1 High Rigor Options

This student's local school did not have advanced math or science courses. MTDA was able to provide that access in the following courses. The final percentage in the course is provided as well.

Fa 2011	Chemistry A	95%
Fa 2012	AP Physics A	80%
Fa 2012	AP Calculus A	83%
Sp 2013	AP Physics B	95%
Sp 2013	AP Calculus B	95%

Student #2 Elective Diversity

This student shows that no matter where you live in Montana, the partnership between MTDA and this rural local school provides the same elective diversity as our largest school districts.

Fa 2017	Microsoft Office	92%
Sp 2018	Personal Finance	64%
Fa 2018	Health Occ.	73%
Sp 2019	Entrepreneurship	72%
Fa 2019	Music App.	71%
Sp 2020	Art History	79%

Student #3 Pathway to graduation

Some students need multiple opportunities and alternative pathways to make graduation a reality.

Fa 2017	Biology A CR	76%
Sp 2018	Biology B	68%
Sp 2018	Personal Finance	83%
Sp 2018	World History B	95%
Fa 2018	Health Occ.	95%
Fa 2018	Digital Photo.	80%
Sp 2019	World History A CR	85%
Sp 2019	Entrepreneurship	74%
Sp 2020	Art History	81%

Enrollment by School Size Original Credit including AP FY15 - FY20

AA Enrollments
10,181

33%

A Enrollments
5093 (17%)

B Enrollments
6702 (22%)

C Enrollments
7888 (26%)

Alt Ed/JDC
504

Middle
347

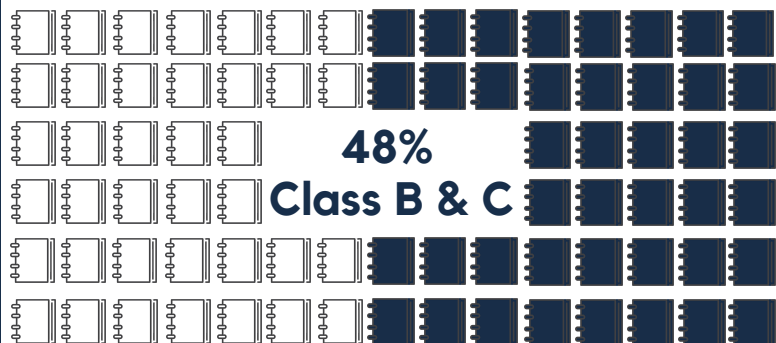
65%

2%

Expanding Learning Opportunities

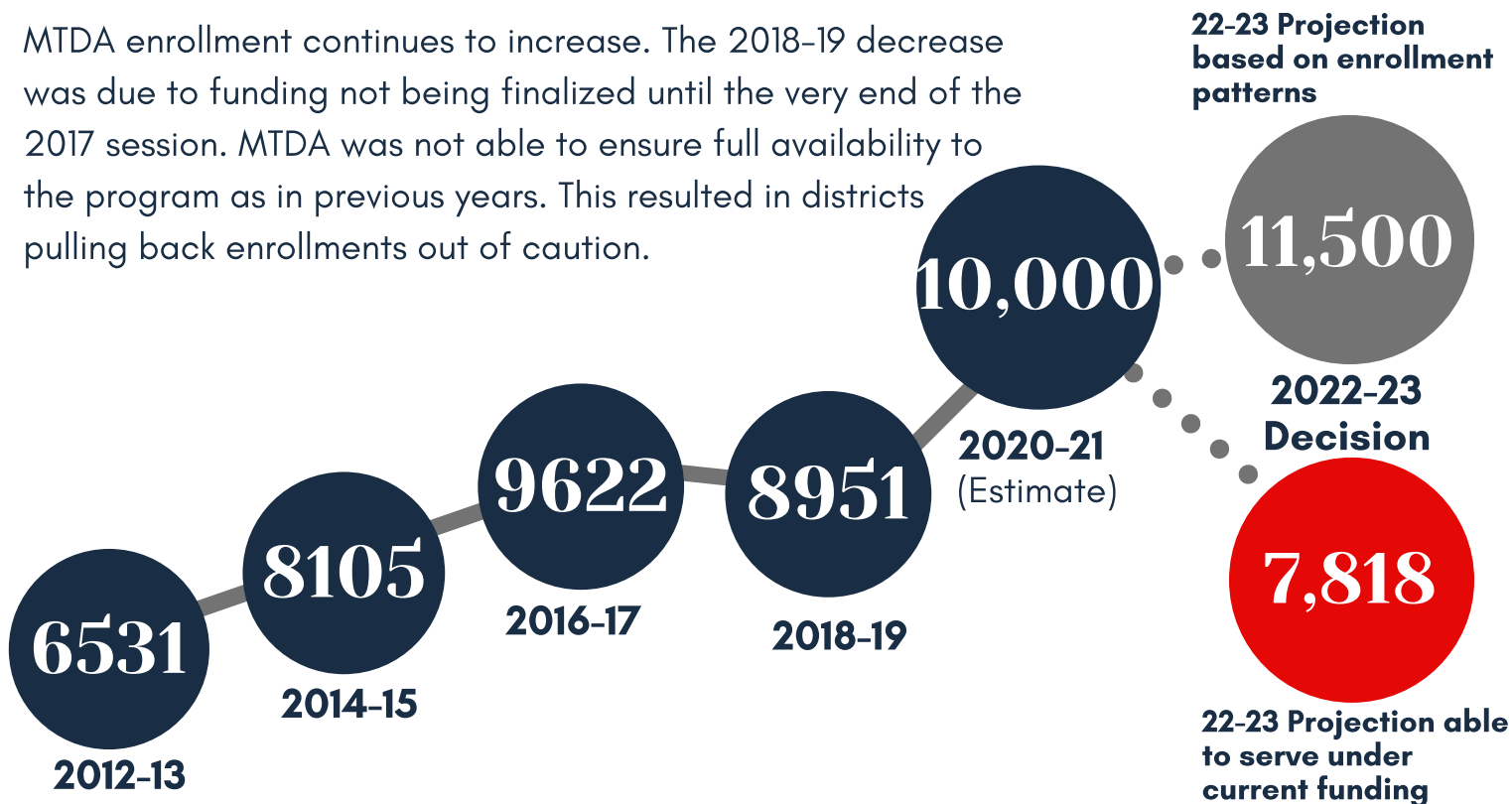
The following shows how MTDA expands the current course offerings at actual Class B and C Montana public high schools

 = Local Offerings  = MTDA Additions



ENROLLMENT HISTORY BY BIENNIUM

MTDA enrollment continues to increase. The 2018-19 decrease was due to funding not being finalized until the very end of the 2017 session. MTDA was not able to ensure full availability to the program as in previous years. This resulted in districts pulling back enrollments out of caution.



THE NEXT 10 YEARS AT MTDA

Addressing the current fiscal ceiling

MTDA has been running at maximum budget capacity for the past six years. We have worked to continue to offer a diverse catalog of course offerings while maintaining access at no cost to local schools. This has meant that program needs have built up over time. Our current needs are:

Addressing the teacher cost of continued enrollment growth

Scaling student support staffing to maintain the quality MTDA experience

Afford the annual increases in contract technology services

Continue to expand Dual Enrollment course titles for students

Continue to expand CTE course titles for students

Expand Summer opportunities for all the students impacted by COVID

The cost of addressing all of these needs, MTDA would need an annual increase of:

\$900,000

ADDRESSING THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Yes, we just listed a 45% increase over our current annual budget. After numerous discussions in past sessions and the lead-up to this session, it is clear that the future growth of MTDA will require a cost-sharing component with enrolling school districts.

OUR PROPOSAL

Legislature maintains current biennial base funding of \$4,001,000

MTDA will begin to cost share with districts per individual enrollments

Legislature provides one-time seed money for new course titles at \$10,000 per course

Legislature provides 1.5% biennial increase to the base budget to address inflationary cost of technology services

COURSE TITLE ADDITIONS FOR THE 22-23 BIENNIUM

8 Additional CTE Courses

- Intro to the Teaching Profession
- Google Tools for Business
- Adobe Photoshop Certification
- Medical Terminology
- Cybersecurity
- Public Health
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Video Production

5 Additional Dual Credit Courses

- Intro to Psychology (One Semester)
- College Writing/Composition (One Semester)
- American History I/II (Two Semesters)
- College Algebra (One Semester)
- Medical Terminology (One Semester)

Expanded Summer Offering

No additional funding would be required as all offerings would be from our existing catalog. We intend to assist schools in using a portion of their COVID relief funding to access these additional opportunities.

PROPOSED TOTAL

Current base funding of \$4,001,000 x 1.5%

\$4,061,015

One Time Only Seed Money for 13 additional titles at \$10,000 per title

\$130,000