

# FAQs

## Regarding Big Sky Pathway Project, 2010-2011

*Recently, correspondence was sent by the OPI staff to all CTE teachers, Superintendents, and Clerks. In addition, it was posted on METNET. Many questions have surfaced, and in responding to them, we realize that others may have the same questions.*

### **WHAT IS DUE JUNE 15, 2010?**

Only pages 2-3 of this document:

[http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/CTE/10\\_BSP\\_Secondary\\_Participation\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/CTE/10_BSP_Secondary_Participation_Guidance.pdf)

### **IF ONLY ONE BIG SKY PATHWAY IS REQUIRED FOR PERKINS FUNDING, WHY AM I GIVEN THE OPTION TO SIGN UP FOR SEVEN?**

Because most high schools have more than one CTE program, we want to involve as many CTE instructors as possible. Remember that your travel and sub costs will be reimbursed, so there is no cost to your district to participate. As we looked at our funding capacity, we can assure funding for all Montana high schools to participate in seven.

### **WHO CAN ATTEND THE BIG SKY PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS?**

One content-specific teacher, e.g., Ag, Business, FCS, etc., and one counselor are REQUIRED to attend. CTE/Perkins Directors, Administrators, advisory committee members, additional counselors, etc., are welcome. Because of funding limitations, only one vehicle will be reimbursed for mileage, and sub costs for only one teacher will be reimbursed.

**I AM AN AG TEACHER WHO WANTS TO WORK ON THE PLANT SCIENCE PATHWAY, AND THERE IS NO SCHOOL LISTED WITH THAT PROGRAM OFFERING. WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

Sign up for the college closest to you. There are postsecondary Ag instructors at each listed college who will work with you and your OPI Specialist, Brad King, to develop a cluster-level Big Sky Pathway. Our goal next year is to develop Big Sky Pathways at the cluster level. At the very least, you will construct a Big Sky Pathway for your high school in Ag, Food, and Natural Resources. You may be able to drill it down further to the pathway level (Plant Science).

**WHAT ARE THE DATES OF THE MEETINGS WITH THE COLLEGES?**

The colleges will work with the high schools who have signed up to work with them on setting these dates. OPI and OCHE will sit down the end of June and sort out the sign-up sheets. OCHE will then communicate to the colleges who their high school partners are for each BSP. It is our hope that the first meeting will be held by November 1.

**THIS LOOKS LIKE THE OLD TECH PREP MODEL WHERE WE ARTICULATED COURSES REGIONALLY. I THOUGHT WE WERE DOING STATEWIDE COURSE ARTICULATIONS.**

All CTE courses are statewide articulated; all the regional Tech Prep agreements from the previous system were retired on July 1, 2009. If you haven't seen the list of statewide CTE course articulations, please refer to this website:

<http://mus.edu/wd/default.asp> (Go to bottom of page—CTE College Credit).

Keep in mind that the intent of this project is not to construct course articulations. Its purposes are as follows:

- Create partnerships between secondary and post-secondary faculty at the regional level.
- Involve secondary counselors in the development and implementation of Big Sky Pathways.
- Develop MCIS as a statewide database of programs of study and a web-based guidance tool that provides assessment resources, postsecondary and career information, Big Sky Pathways for each high school, and an individual electronic planning portfolio (Big Sky Pathway MAP).

- Align curriculum from grades 9-12 and from secondary to postsecondary education (vertical curriculum alignment).
- Support the development of integrated academic and career and technical curriculum and instruction (horizontal curriculum alignment).
- Engage program advisory committees in the development and promotion of Big Sky Pathways and programs of study.
- Inform counselors, teachers, students, and parents of all opportunities for student to earn postsecondary credit for coursework taken during high school.
- Increase participation in statewide CTE College Credit course articulations as well as other dual enrollment and other facilitated pathways from high school to college.
- Establish a framework to sustain the development and implementation of Big Sky Pathways beyond the required one program of study.

### **WHAT IF NO ONE IN MY HIGH SCHOOL WANTS TO PARTICIPATE?**

On the registration form that is due to OPI on June 15, 2010, please check the box at the bottom of the page. Even though you opt not to participate, you are still required to submit to OPI by June of 2011 a *Request for Approval with Assurances*, to maintain your Perkins funding.

[http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/CTE/10\\_BSP\\_Request\\_for\\_Approval.pdf](http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/CTE/10_BSP_Request_for_Approval.pdf)