

INTERIM BIG SKY PATHWAYS CONSORTIA FOR 2010-2011

Approved by Montana's State Plan Advisory Team April 23, 2010

Background

Montana's current Tech Prep consortium grant ends June 30, 2010. The lead institutions for the consortium, FVCC and MSU-Billings COT, notified the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) at the turn of the year that they are not interested in extending the grant beyond June. As OCHE and OPI have explored options for what happens with Tech Prep after June, communications from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education strongly indicate that separate Tech Prep funding will end by July 2011. Therefore, we are entering an interim year for our approach to Tech Prep. In the interim, Montana has two options for allocation of Tech Prep funds: posting a competitive RFP for another consortium or allocating Tech Prep funds by formula to all Perkins recipients. We propose using a formula-based process next year to create several consortia focused solely on developing or improving/expanding the programs of study that are a major emphasis of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV). This is work that Perkins-funded institutions must do anyway, and additional funding would support their efforts.

Perkins IV calls for states to offer "career and technical programs of study "to guide students and their parents when planning for and completing future coursework." These programs, at a minimum, must:

- Incorporate and align secondary and postsecondary education elements,
- Include academic and CTE content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses,
- Offer the opportunity, where appropriate, for secondary students to acquire postsecondary credits, and
- Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

To be eligible for Perkins IV funds, each local recipient of Perkins funds must offer at least one career and technical program of study.

Progress on Programs of Study

In the past three years, Montana's Tech Prep consortium has laid the foundation for the development of the programs of study. Templates have been created for Big Sky Pathways—a recommended sequence of courses based on a student's personal interests and career goals. These templates (one for each of the 16 career clusters) for Big Sky Pathways are based on the work of the States' Career Clusters initiative and were completed in February 2009. The templates for Big Sky Pathways may be viewed and downloaded at <http://mus.edu/wd/WhatAreBSP.asp>.

OPI and OCHE have partnered with the Department of Labor to include Big Sky Pathways and the capacity to develop individual Big Sky Pathway MAPs (Montana Achievement Plans) in Montana's Career Information System (MCIS). The completion of programs of study at each high school that can be formatted as MAPs in MCIS is essential to the ultimate effectiveness of that career and curriculum advising tool.

The next step, then, which many high schools and colleges have already undertaken, is for secondary and postsecondary partners to create specific programs of study articulating a non-duplicative progression of courses beginning in the high school and continuing through a two-year degree program

and entering the programs of study into MCIS. The programs of study should include the statewide articulations for CTE College Credit, as well as dual enrollment opportunities already developed through Tech Prep and other initiatives.

Making significant progress in that next step is the focus of this proposal for the use of Tech Prep funds in the interim year between the separate use of Tech Prep funds articulated in Montana's State Plan and the anticipated "roll-up" into Perkins. We anticipate conducting public hearings on the "roll-up" in late 2010 or early 2011.

Brief Description of Proposal

- Colleges and high schools will be funded for the development or expansion/improvement of programs of study above and beyond the funding provided in their basic Perkins grants. By formula, approximately \$400,000 of "Tech Prep" funds will be allocated proportionally to fund 12 regional consortia headed up by Perkins-eligible colleges. The 12 consortia colleges are: Blackfeet, Dawson, Fort Peck, FVCC, Miles, MSU-Billings COT, MSU-Great Falls, MSU-Northern, MT Tech COT, Salish-Kootenai, UM-Helena and UM-Missoula COT.
- Each consortium will include Perkins-eligible high schools and a Perkins-eligible college, with the college overseeing the process. Colleges wishing to partner as a consortium on a particular program of study are encouraged to do so.
- Each high school will collaborate with a college partner in reasonable proximity to craft one Big Sky Pathway specific to the high school. Each Big Sky Pathway team will consist of at least one secondary pathway-specific teacher, one secondary counselor, one pathway-specific college faculty member, and a college advisor. The college may designate either the advisor or the faculty member as the articulation coordinator. To raise counselors' awareness and understanding of programs of study, school districts are encouraged to engage more than one counselor in consortium efforts.
- When complete, each Big Sky Pathway will be approved by the high school principal, college academic officer or department head, an OPI CTE specialist, and appropriate members of the both the high school and college advisory committees.
- Each Big Sky Pathway will be entered into the MCIS system to create a statewide database; however, high schools and colleges using other systems will no doubt wish to enter the Pathway into their own system as well
- Funds will be available to develop up to six more Big Sky Pathways if a high school so chooses.

Outcomes

- 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.

How It Will Happen

- A. All high schools and colleges that are recipients of Perkins funds will be required to submit evidence of ONE local Big Sky Pathway by June 2011. All BSP 2010-11 consortium participants will be required to submit completed BSPs for all funded programs of study.
- B. By May 12, 2010, all Perkins-eligible colleges will be asked to:
1. Identify the Big Sky Pathways they will seek to develop or improve/expand with regional high schools. (There is no limit on the number of programs.)
 2. Identify the faculty member and advisor who will represent the college in the development of each BSP.
Alternatively, indicate that the college is opting out of the interim BSP process and will not receive additional funding for BSP development. If a college chooses this option, the college is still responsible for submitting the one required BSP by June 2011.
- C. By June 15, 2010, high schools will be asked to:
1. Use the potential BSPs identified by the colleges to identify the Big Sky Pathway (BSP) they want to develop or improve/expand first and which college they will partner with to achieve this purpose. High schools will be asked to choose a college in reasonable proximity to the high school.
 2. Identify and prioritize up to six (6) more BSPs they are interested in developing with a college reasonably nearby. Because not every college offers a program in every BSP, it is possible that high schools will partner with multiple colleges in developing BSPs.
 3. Alternatively, indicate that they are opting out of the interim BSP process and related funding. If a school chooses this option, the school is still responsible for submitting the one required BSP by June 2011.
- D. In June 2010, OPI and OCHE will consult with participating colleges to identify each consortium based on the information submitted by the high schools and develop a schedule for the development of BSPs. By August 1, the schedule will be communicated to all participating high schools and colleges.
- E. Faculty Training
1. Each college will identify a faculty member to be a lead for a specific pathway. Lead faculty members will meet in Helena for one to two days for collaboration and training (the first training session will be no later than September).
 2. It is anticipated that there will be 7-16 state-level faculty training sessions. Each training session will be specific to a Big Sky Pathway.
 3. Each participant will be given a manual developed by OCHE and OPI to facilitate the local efforts.

F. Funding

1. Each college will receive funding based on the number of participating high schools. The funding will pay for (a) faculty coordination and meeting facilitation and (b) reimbursement to high schools for substitute costs and mileage for high school faculty.
2. High schools will receive reimbursement from the college for substitute costs and mileage for the participation of one content-specific teacher and a guidance counselor for two all-day meetings for each BSP. When participation of additional counselors does not add to budgeted costs, high schools are encouraged to send more than one counselor. Also, administrators are welcome.

G. Meetings will be scheduled to allow enough time for the high school to complete the work required between meeting one and meeting two.

1. Meeting One :

Clarification of expectations

Overview of Big Sky Pathways (how to use the state-level template to design a customized high school BSP)

Content Standards, Knowledge and Skill Statements, and Industry Standards

Role of Advisory Committee

MCIS as a guidance delivery tool

Postsecondary credit opportunities

Dialogue between secondary teachers and post-secondary faculty

High school teacher/counselor homework:

Work with appropriate faculty and local program advisory committee for input and bring a draft of BSP to next meeting.

2. Meeting Two:

Dialogue about the homework

Peer review of proposed Big Sky Pathways

Secondary/postsecondary faculty preliminary approval of the BSP

Enter Big Sky Pathway into MCIS

Complete paperwork for substitute pay and mileage reimbursement from college

Follow-up:

Approval of BSPs by high school principal, college chief academic officer, an OPI CTE specialist, and appropriate representatives of secondary/postsecondary program advisory councils.

Reserve fund allocation:

After a high school has completed the required one Big Sky Pathway, there is additional funding to develop up to six more.

Using the same funding formula as described for the first Big Sky Pathway, high schools will be reimbursed for the participation of one counselor and one content-specific teacher. Because of funding capacity, there is funding to develop only six Big Sky Pathways beyond the one required (7 total).

Funding formula:

The formula is based on 12 colleges and 200 possible high schools. Funding may be adjusted to pay for more BSPs based on the number of high schools and colleges choosing to opt out. Fewer participating schools and colleges means more funds will be available for participating institutions. Although the formula uses calculations for high school expenses and college responsibilities, the allocation will be provided to the college coordinating each consortium for disbursement.

Funding based on 200 high schools and 12 colleges. Capacity for one required and six optional.		RESERVE Funds	TECH PREP Funds	POSTSECONDARY LOCAL AP CARRYOVER	TOTAL
FUNDING for HIGH SCHOOL EXPENSES (7 possible programs of study)	FIRST BSP 200 high schools @ \$325 each		\$65,000		\$65,000
	UP TO 6 MORE BSP 200 high schools @ \$325 each	\$335,000	\$55,000		\$390,000
FUNDING for COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITIES (7 possible programs of study)	Colleges will receive \$260 per high school per BSP (up to 6)		\$280,610	\$84,390	\$365,000
TOTAL		\$335,000	\$400,610	\$84,390	\$820,000

Example: FVCC works with 13 high schools to develop a BSP in Finance. FVCC will receive up to \$7,605 to oversee the development of the Finance BSP. Of that amount, \$3,380 (\$260 x 13) will fund the college’s expenses for fiscal management of high school reimbursements and compensation of the college faculty member planning, coordinating and facilitating two meetings with the teachers. The remainder, a total of \$4,225 (13 high schools at approximately \$325 each), will be used to reimburse each of the 13 high schools for subs and mileage to cover two meetings.

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