



Why Now?

Montana's graduation and retention rate challenges are significant.

- 18% of Montana's youth drop out of high school.
- 50% math remediation rate for Montana public high school graduates entering Montana Two-Year Colleges.
- 50% of students who take remedial courses never complete a program.

US Department of Education's Carl D. Perkins Act

Current and future US DOE funding for career and technical education requires continued pathway refinement and development.

Other Montana Agencies Adopting Career Pathways

- Department of Labor & Industry
- Department of Public Health & Human Services
- Workforce Investment Board
- Occupational training
- Adult Basic Education

What is a Big Sky Pathway?

- Partnership between the Montana University System, Office of Public Instruction, & Montana Department of Labor and Industry
- Clearly defined sequence of courses from high school to college-level certificate and associate degree opportunities.
- The alignment of efforts between high school and higher education in order to promote college access and success.
- Opportunities for students to earn college credits while in high school making college more affordable and attainable.

What are the Goals of the Big Sky Pathways Initiative?

- Maximize opportunities for secondary graduation and transition to post secondary educational opportunities.
- Increase student awareness of careers and education and training.
- Strengthen the planning process using the Montana Career Information System which allows teachers, parents and peers to facilitate and lead the development of a MAP (Montana Achievement Plan).
- Ease student transitions between secondary and post-secondary education through:
 - Concurrent enrollment
 - START Articulation agreements
 - Skill assessment recognition
 - Comprehensive guidance beginning in the 7th grade
 - Regional and state planning
- Align training with employer needs.
- Provide strong academic skills and real-world problem solving skills.

What Are the Anticipated Outcomes by Participating in Pathways?

- Increased graduation rate of all secondary school students.
- Increased academic and skill achievement at secondary and post-secondary levels.
- Decreased need for remediation at the post-secondary level.
- Increased enrollment and persistence in post-secondary education.
- Increased attainment of post-secondary degrees, certificates, or other recognized credentials.
- Increased rate of entry into employment or further education.
- Savings of time and money for students.

For the latest Big Sky Pathway news & information:

mus.edu/BigSkyPathways