



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501

www.opi.mt.gov
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Denise Juneau
Superintendent

CCSSO-JP Morgan Chase- New Skills for Youth

The Opportunity

As part of CCSSO's Career Readiness Initiative, JPMorgan Chase dedicated \$35 million of grant funding to lead the New Skills for Youth grant opportunity for states. New Skills for Youth gave every state the opportunity to apply for significant grants that will help turn their bold visions for improving career readiness in K-12 education into a reality. This initiative consists of two phases: a six month plan design, development, and early implementation phase, and a three year implementation phase. The New Skills for Youth Initiative has two over-arching goals:

- To dramatically increase the number of students who successfully complete career pathways that begin in secondary school and culminate in postsecondary degrees and/or industry credentials with labor market value; and
- To develop transformational approaches to the design and implementation of programs and policies to increase students' career-readiness in a cohort of leading states and disseminate lessons learned to the rest of the country.

In April, the Montana Office of Public Instruction was awarded a \$100,000 six-month planning grant through JP Morgan Chase and the Council of Chief State School Officers. With this funding, OPI formed a partnership with the OCHE, HealthCARE Montana, RevUp, and the Montana Area Health Education Center to conduct an in-depth assessment of career readiness programs in Montana, available funding for career programs, strategies for improving career pathways, and development of a formal memorandum of agreement to support career readiness across multiple agencies and programs. Leadership in the planning grant was provided by OPI, OCHE and AHEC. At the end of Phase I, Montana applied to participate in Phase II of the project.

In October, 2016, a presentation team led by John Cech, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education provided information on the strategy for improving career readiness in K-12 education, with a clear pathway to postsecondary education, to a panel of JP Morgan Chase representatives in Washington DC. JP Morgan Chase will announce which states are approved for Phase II grants of \$650,000 per year in January, 2017.

Because Montana is facing a significant healthcare worker shortage, particularly in rural areas, the initial focus of Montana's initiative is to expand access to the Health Science career pathways and to identify ways to significantly increase the number of high school students who complete a pathway, finish a certificate or degree program, and enter a career in a health-related field. Montana will use the success of these strategies as a model to expand access and increase completion of career pathways in at least two other high demand fields. The proposed fields are Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Business Management/Entrepreneurship.

Below is an outline of Montana's Phase II application.

Montana will be focused on the following 6 goals:

1. Demand-driven, employer-led process
2. Rigor & Quality in Career Pathways
3. Career-focused Accountability Systems

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4. Scaled Pathways with credentials
5. Align funding streams/cross institutional alignment
6. Foster greater collaboration between K-12 and post-secondary institutions

Steps Needed to Improve Systems:

- Provide systemic career and occupational exploration
- Embed IRCs at the secondary level
- Expand dual enrollment
- Develop industry responsive statewide pathways
- Align initiatives and funding streams
- Increase work-based learning experience opportunities in secondary education

Challenges Serving Rural Schools, Reservation Communities

- Limited business and industry
- Distance for face-to-face support
- Lack of qualified teachers for dual enrollment or industry recognized credentials

Progress on Scaling Best Practices

- Health Care
 - All 2-year college healthcare curricula has been realigned
 - Strong partnerships with schools and employers have been built
 - Internship programs have been created
- Manufacturing
 - RevUp program created statewide changes scalable to secondary schools
- Information Technology
 - Emerging partnerships between schools and employers
 - Tripled number of teachers trained in computer science for dual enrollment

Early Wins from the Planning Grant

- Engagement with Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
- Commitment from 54 new high schools to provide health science education
- Identified strategies to reach rural, frontier and American Indian communities
- Aligned curriculum with MUS and national standards
- Removed barriers through CTE licensure requirements
- Adopted policy of statewide pathways development and redirection of Perkins funding
- Virtual Mentorships being designed in information technology

Action Plan

- Increase dual enrollment participation by an additional 100 percent by 2019
 - Grow CTE dual enrollment by 50%, double number of rural offerings
- Fully implement Statewide Pathway effort by 2019 (across all clusters)
 - Industry driven pathways
 - Access to apprenticeship programs
- Meet labor market demand through sustained, employer leadership in system
- Increase CTE participation and access in all schools to high-skill, high-demand career pathways
- Increase work-based learning opportunities for targeted sectors in rural, frontier and American communities

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