

Montana Grow Your Own Educator



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Montana's Grow Your Own

- HB 499 Sponsored by Representative Thedis Crowe
- Provides:
 - \$500,000 appropriation
 - Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for one year up to \$10,000 total for student matriculation
 - Work-based component
 - Innovative local opportunities for students to start and finish their degree where they live
 - In partnership with at least one K-12 school district who is on the BPE Quality Critical Educator shortage list

2025-27 Awardees



- Montana State University/Blackfeet Community College
- Dr. Lauren Davis
- Will deliver a community-centered teacher preparation initiative that will prepare educators in Browning, Glendive and along the Hi-Line by expanding course modalities and expanding competency-based education work.
- Number of students served this biennium: 18



- University of Montana Western/Lewistown Public Schools
- Dr. Katrina Kennett
- Will extend the very successful Great Falls Public School CORE school model to the Lewistown Central Montana Academy and deliver teacher preparation to small cohorts from multiple rural communities by engaging the Central Montana Academy as the hub.
- Number of students served this biennium: 23

Montana Educator Recruitment and Retention Landscape

MUS Campus-led Program (Funding Streams Vary)	
Dual Enrollment on Ramps	✓
2 + 2 Pathways/Para Pathways	✓
Educator Residency	✓
Development of Education Micro-pathways	✓
Master of Arts in Teaching/Post Bacc Pathways	✓
Center for Research on Rural Education	✓
Grow Your Own Educator (CORE School)	✓

State/Federal Investment or Policy Lever	
Quality Educator Loan Forgiveness	✓
Increase to Starting Educator Pay	✓
Mentorship	✓
REL Recruitment and Retention Study	✓
Recognition of Education as a CTE Pathway	✓
Changes to Educator Licensure Chapter 57	✓
Educator Apprenticeship /Pre Apprenticeship	✓ 2026



Next Steps

- Establish Educators Rising as a state recognized CTSO.
- Continue to grow opportunities for place-based/community centered educator prep.
- Remain focused on growing the educator pipeline through effective outreach and marketing.



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