

# MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

## LEVEL I REQUEST FORM

<b>Item No.:</b>	128-2007+R0905	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	September 21-23, 2005
<b>Institution:</b>	Montana State University – Bozeman		
<b>Program Title:</b>	Early Childhood Education – Distance Delivery		

Level I proposals are those that may be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education or the Commissioner's designee. The approval of such proposals will be conveyed to the Board of Regents at the next regular meeting of the board. The institution must file the request with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education by means of a memo to the Deputy Commissioner.

**A. Level I action requested (check all that apply):** Level I proposals include campus initiatives typically characterized by (a) minimal costs; (b) clear adherence to approved campus mission; and (c) the absence of significant programmatic impact on other institutions within the Montana University System and Community Colleges.

- 1. Re-titling existing majors, minors, options and certificates; (e.g. from B.S. in Mechanized Agriculture to B.S. in Agricultural Operations Technology);
- 2. Eliminating existing majors, minors, options and certificates via a Program Termination Checklist;
- 3. Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major;
- 4. Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major;
- 5. Departmental mergers and name changes;
- 6. Program revisions; and
- 7. Distance delivery of previously authorized degree programs.

**B. Level I with Level II documentation:** With Level II documentation circulated to all campus chief academic officers in advance, the Commissioner or designee may propose additional items for inclusion in the Level I process. For these items to move forward, the Commissioner or designee must reach consensus with the chief academic officers. When consensus is not achieved, the Commissioner or designee will move the item to the Level II review process.

- 1. Options within an existing major or degree;
- 2. Eliminating organizational units within larger institutions such as departments, divisions and colleges or schools *with the exception of the five Colleges of Technology where changes require Board action;*
- 3. Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees.

**C. Temporary Certificate or A.A.S. degree programs:** Certificate or Associate of Applied Science Degree Programs may be submitted as Level I proposals, with memo and backup documentation, when they are offered in cooperation with and/or at the request of private or public sector partners and the decision point to offer the program is not consistent with the regular Board of Regents program approval process. Level I approval for programs under this provision will be limited to two years. Continuation of a program beyond the two years will require the normal program approval process as Level II Proposals.

<b>Item No.: 128-2007+R0905</b>	<b>Institution: Montana State University-Bozeman</b>
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All other Certificate or Associate Degree programs may be placed on submission at any Board of Regents meeting. They will be placed on action agendas at subsequent meetings. All campuses agree to insure that all other campuses receive program information well in advance of submission.

**Specify Request:**

Montana State University – Bozeman seeks approval from the Montana Board of Regents to offer by distance delivery the junior and senior years of its program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education: Early Childhood Education Option. This program is in specific response to requests by Montana’s Tribal Colleges and is intended to meet the needs of current and future Head Start teachers in those communities.

The Early Childhood Education Partnership Program is designed to address the needs of Head Start and related Early Childhood Educators to complete a four-year degree. The program was developed in response to a National Head Start initiative that mandates Head Start teachers further develop their educational competencies by completing an Associate and/or Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education.

The distance delivery of the upper-division component of MSU’s existing Early Childhood Program requires that we deliver 45 upper division credits for students to receive their Bachelor degree. To deliver this coursework, a program has been developed that will take approximately two years to complete. Since students are working in their respective Head Start programs, they will only be taking two courses per semester including summers. These courses will be delivered by WebCT, and because technology support for the students is critical for student and program success, this support will be an integral part of the program delivery. The degree requirements are unchanged from our current program offered through traditional instruction.