Montana Alternative Student Testing Pilot Program
Assessment Innovation-Through Course Model
[MAST Webpage](#)

Why is the OPI redesigning and innovating assessments to better evaluate students' proficiency?
- Assessments must model how students learn content and skills over time.
- This is a new, "classroom up" approach to assessment designed to support more personalized opportunities for students to demonstrate what they have learned while providing proficiency measures of state standards.
- It is being developed to flexibly align to the local scope and sequence of the standards driven curriculum.
- It will eliminate the need for a single, end-of-year summative assessment as we move out of the pilot phase into full implementation. The testlets will inform what is needed for the summative. Less testing and more granular feedback for teachers in real-time.

Details about the MAST Pilot:
The first testing window had successful state-wide participation in 5th and 7th grade Math and Reading:
- 62 schools
- 33 school districts
- 75 educators
- 4,156 students
- 5,529 tests completed

Teachers, test coordinators, principals, counselors, administrators, and superintendents participated in a feedback survey about the first testing window between November 18 and December 13, 2022. Respondents were asked to rate their experience in preparing to administer the testlets:
- 46% said it was easy
- 14% said it was neither easy nor difficult
- 18% said it was difficult

Respondents were asked to rate their experience in administering the testlets:
- 69% said it was easy
- 10% said it was neither easy nor difficult
- 21% said it was difficult

Testing Window #1: November 7-18, 2022
Testing Window #2: January 17-31, 2023
Testing Window #3: March 6-17,2023
Testing Window #4: April 17-28, 2023

In addition to MAST: How is the OPI Advancing a Personalized Learning Model?

Levers	Initiatives	Notes
Build self-confidence, focus on learner agency, and improve learning and teaching in math.	Update math content standards. Offer professional development programs and facilitate collaborative learning networks.	Seek BPE approval for revision timeline—Sept 14-15
Foster and support local innovations for personalized learning models.	Math Innovation Zones	Provide technical assistance, information, and resources to school districts to help them transform learning models. Leverage partnerships to increase local capacity to support personalized learning models.
Expand industry, military, and post-secondary partnerships. Emphasize STEM, CTE, CTSO and workforce development in Montana's K-12 schools.	Montana Ready	Every Montana student will have an opportunity to build a solid foundation of: ● Academic Skills ● Employability Skills ● Post-Secondary Aspirations ● Career Efficacy ● Community Engagement ● Life-long Learning
Emphasize proficiency rather than seat time.	ARM Chapter 55 Recommendations for an Integrated Strategic Action Plan	Montana graduates would be better prepared for success, if a high school diploma aligned with a graduate profile certified proficiency of academic competencies and also a comprehensive set of skills, knowledge, and dispositions.
Upgrade the accreditation system to more effectively evaluate school quality and performance. Implement accountability to shift from compliance to continuous improvement and outcomes.	Ch. 55 Recommendations	Chapter 55 changes are necessary to increase flexibility for innovation, an important consideration in light of the passage of Montana House Bills 351 and 387, both of which focus on increasing flexibility for schools to personalize student learning opportunities. The recommendations upgrade, innovate and aim to transform rules and processes that are not in service of school improvement or student success.
Develop educator capacity to lead change from a traditional system to a personalized learning model.	Montana Teacher Leadership and Executive Leadership Academies	Educational leaders must be empowered and supported to change the way they and their students use their time and the learning models in which they operate.

Impact the Educator Workforce while modeling personalized learning.	[Montana Residency Demonstration Model](#)	Prepare aspiring educators with the knowledge and skills they need to design and implement learner-centered environments.