



MT Advanced Opportunity Aid Guidance Document

Updated July 2021

Background:

The Montana Advanced Opportunity Act is established in [20-7-1501-1503 and 1506, MCA](#), [House Bill 387](#) of the 2019 legislative session and provides state funding to school districts for expanding personalized learning opportunities for students to accelerate their career and college readiness and reduce out-of-pocket costs for families and empower students to actively engage in forming successful postsecondary pathways.

Accounting:

Recording Funds Received:

Fund 29
Revenue Code 3770

Recording Expenditures:

Fund 29
Program Code 377

Advanced opportunity aid **may be expended on any qualifying pupil** by the district subject to the following conditions:

(5)(a) at least 60% of a district's annual distribution of advanced opportunity aid must be spent or encumbered to address out-of-pocket costs that would otherwise, in the absence of such expenditure, be assumed by a qualifying pupil or the pupil's family as a result of participation in an advanced opportunity.

The trustees have full discretion to allocate expenditures among all pupils of the district or any select group of pupils, using any reasonable method they consider appropriate in their full discretion to meet the individual needs of each pupil who pursues an advanced opportunity. The trustees may create free district initiatives of their own that satisfy the conditions of this subsection (5)(a).

Permissible expenditures include:

- (i) dual credit tuition at any institution under authority of the board of regents;
- (ii) exam fees used for postsecondary advancement, placement, or credit, including but not limited to exam fees associated with the ACT, SAT, CLEP, career advancement, international baccalaureate, and advanced placement;
- (iii) fees charged by and any out-of-pocket costs of any business providing work-based learning opportunities to a qualifying pupil of the district, including the cost of workers' compensation insurance for work-based learning opportunities;
- (iv) exam and other fees of any industry-recognized credential or license for which a qualifying pupil is eligible as a result of participation in an advanced opportunity; and

- (v) the costs of participation for qualifying pupils that are identified as necessary, in the discretion of the district and upon request of a qualifying pupil, to maximize the benefit of an advanced opportunity for a qualifying pupil;

(5)(b) Advanced Opportunity Aid Remaining that is not expended or carried forward for the purposes of subsection (5)(a) may be spent by the district to provide any K-12 career and vocational/technical education course offered by the district.

(6) A district qualified for funding under subsection (3) may supplement state funding of advanced opportunity aid with matched expenditures from its adopted adult education budget, not to exceed 25% of the district's advanced opportunity aid. The conditions under subsection (5) apply to any matched expenditures funded under this subsection (6).

Matched Expenditures from Adult Education Fund (17):

Recording Expenditures:

Fund 17

Program Code 377

Additional questions can be directed to:

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