

# State Funds Supporting Gifted & Talented



All learners deserve and need an enriched school experience. Identified gifted students need specific interventions that provide high quality, rigorous, and appropriate challenges in their regular classroom throughout their K-12 educational experience to grow and thrive. Utilizing the Gifted and Talented Grant along with the Title IV-A funding are some ways to fund your district's new or existing programs.

## Gifted and Talented E-Grant

The Gifted and Talented State Grant program provides grant funds for supplemental financial assistance to school districts to strengthen the quality of programs for gifted and talented students. The Gifted and Talented E-Grant is a two year grant. Schools will complete the following process in the E-Grants system in order to receive funding for the grant:

1. **The Intent to Apply** - In order to apply for the Gifted and Talented State Grant, the Intent to Apply needs to be submitted through E-Grants. Districts who submit the Intent to Apply will be included in the allocation based on legislative funding. It will be opened in March every odd year.
2. **Gifted and Talented State Grant Application** - Needs to be submitted through E-Grants after the approval of the Intent to Apply. It will be opened in June every odd year.

Grants are awarded according to a formula determined by the:

1. size and number of applicants,
2. amount of matching funds by the district, and
3. amount of funds provided by the legislature.

### How are Montana Districts Using the funds?

Helena School District will invite a National Gifted and Talented Expert to present in-person to their teachers, staff, students, and parents. They will also drive their students to field research locations that may include: Montana Colleges, Biological Field Stations, Hamilton Research Facility, and Montana businesses. Students will conduct active research with professionals in the field. Gifted and Talented educators and administrators will attend the National Association for Gifted Children Conferences to work with National Leaders in the field.

Helena SD will also start using the funding to support the hiring of a GT Standards Coach, who will attend PDSA cycles, PLC's, and support staff training. The Coach will also help the Gifted Coordinator in tracking student growth data, and addressing needs with high level apprentice-style in the field learning experience that will support the gifted learner.

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## Title IV, Part A: Student Support & Academic Enrichment

Title IV Part A, also known as Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE), is part of the Every Student Succeeds Act reauthorization of the ESEA. The SSAE program is intended to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of state educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and local communities to provide all students with:

### 1. Access to a well-rounded education

2. Improve school conditions for student learning, safe and healthy students
3. Effective use of technology to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students

The SSAE funds have significant flexibility so your school can allocate funding to meet the needs of your unique student population including:

- STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Accelerated Learning Programs

## How are Montana Districts Using the funds?

Utilizing Title IV-A funds, Sidney Public Schools will be starting a gifted and talented program in which they will be ordering new curriculum and materials as well as providing Project-Based Learning (PBL) on Fridays when they do not have school scheduled. Guest speakers and instructors with skills in the STEAM area will be contacted to help conduct the PBL lessons. They are also exploring the offering of a gifted and talented summer camp, utilizing area presenters, anatomage table, and robotic hands for qualified students in 3rd—5th grade. Funds will also be used for virtual attendance at the National Gifted & Talented Conference, Hormel Gifted & Talented Symposium and other GT conferences to get the program underway; travel by grades 3-5 Gifted & Talented (SOAR) program staff to Lockwood to observe and learn about their successful program; purchase of Robotic Hands for use in Grade 4-6 Gifted & Talented Program; and purchase of updates and accessories for anatomage table.

### Resources:

- ◇ [Montana Gifted Education Planning Guide](#)
- ◇ [Montana Advanced Learning Plan](#)
- ◇ [Montana Program Planning Template](#)
- ◇ [Gifted Education Training Site](#)
- ◇ [ESSA, Title IV, SSAE Program](#)
- ◇ [E-Grants Webpage](#)