



2024 GIFTED AND TALENTED STATE GRANT REPORT

Biennial Report, September 2024

OVERVIEW

The current biennial grant period for the Gifted and Talented State Grant runs from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. The Montana State Legislature provided \$700,000 total in grant funds for the two-year grant cycle. The amendment to 20-7-904, MCA added new district reporting requirements set out in section (4), effective October 1, 2019. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) data shown below includes data from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STATE GRANT

Fifty-one school systems submitted the *Intent to Apply* for the Gifted and Talented State Grant funds in this grant cycle. The *Intent to Apply* also documents the school system’s intended local match. Gifted and Talented Funds are not awarded above the districts stated local match. All school systems selected one of their Legal Entities (Elem, HS or K-12) to act as the fiscal agent for the two-year Gifted and Talented State Grant.

The table below summarizes the number of schools receiving funds from the Office of Public Instruction for Gifted and Talented programs (pursuant to 20-7-903, MCA) by student enrollment/school system size. A detailed list of all FY 2023-25 Gifted and Talented Allocations is available in **Appendix A**.

FY 2023-2025 Grant Funding Summary

School System Size	Enrollment Range	Maximum Award based on School System Size	# of School Systems Awarded	Total Enrollment 2022-23	% of total enrollment	Total Funding	% of funding
Small	≤ 999 students	\$8,145	31	8,821*	10%	\$210,000	30%
Medium	1000-2499	\$14,636	13	21,654*	24%	\$175,000	25%
Large	≥ 2,500 students	\$45,833	7	60,856*	67%	\$315,000	45%
All G/T Grants			51	91,331*	100%	\$700,000	100%

*Total enrollment (All Students) for school systems served through the G/T Grant.

In the assurance portion of the Gifted and Talented State Grant application, each district's authorized representative assures the following:

- the LEA will comply with all appropriate sections of Montana Code Annotated 20-7-901-904, MCA;
- the LEA will keep records and provide information to the state education agency as reasonably may be required for fiscal audit and program evaluation, consistent with the requirements of the state agency under this statute, including reporting the local district match and awarded grant funds on the school system Trustees report; (pursuant to 20-7-903, MCA)
- the design, planning, and implementation of programs authorized by this chapter will provide for systematic consultation with parents, teachers and administrative personnel in the school(s) and with other groups as may be deemed appropriate by the local education agency; and
- the LEA will comply with the provisions of Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.804, effective 12/8/00
- provide a description of the way(s) they are meeting the requirements to include a child's parents in the Gifted and Talented evaluation process (pursuant to 20-7-902, MCA).

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Districts receiving grant funds were required to submit their Gifted and Talented Program Plan to the Office of Public Instruction prior to grant approval. The OPI Gifted and Talented Program Plan template includes a section to provide for parental involvement in the evaluation process.

On the FY 2023-25 grant application, twenty eight of fifty-one school systems (55%) noted parental involvement in the evaluation process through the use of a Parental Observation Checklist.

GRANT FUNDED TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The FY 2023-25 school systems receiving grant funds are currently utilizing the funds in a variety of ways for professional learning and development. Thirty-five of the fifty-one grant school systems (69%) are using grant funds for staff professional development. Some examples include attending the Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE) Conference and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Conference.

DESCRIPTION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED SERVICES

The school systems receiving grant funds identified unique uses for the funds to meet their local needs for providing Gifted and Talented Services. Of note:

- Forty-five of the districts are using grant funds for curriculum differentiation
- Sixteen of the districts are using grant funds for acceleration programs
- Nineteen of the districts are using grant funds for individual long-range learning plans
- Seventeen of the districts are using grant funds for secondary level programming

EVALUATION OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

At the end of the 2021-23 grant cycle, districts completed a program report to detail the effectiveness of Gifted and Talented programs. Interim reports on the FY 2023-25 grant were not required. This Program Report included the outcome of their locally identified student growth objectives. The data included

measures such as student achievement or growth, indicators of student and parent satisfaction with the program; and other gauges of program quality as determined by the OPI. The objectives and measurements are provided by each district in the “Objectives” portion of the grant application. Individual G/T Grant Program Reports are viewable through the [E-grants System Public Access](#). Select E-grants Access Select, search for a District, select “2023” Fiscal Year, and scroll down to find “Gifted and Talented Program Report” and click “Open”.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STATEWIDE DATA

Statewide Gifted and Talented data from the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school year was collected through OPI’s TEAMS and AIM data management systems and is aggregated below.

2022/23 School Year Data:

- 6076 students were evaluated for Gifted and Talented programs
- 6058 students were identified as Gifted and Talented
- 325 of 409 districts report providing services for Gifted and Talented students
- 193 of 409 districts identified a gifted coordinator
- 285 of 409 districts offer training to their staff regarding Gifted and Talented education

2023/24 School Year Data:

- 5996 students were evaluated for Gifted and Talented programs (1.1% decline)
- 5986 students were identified as Gifted and Talented (1.3% decline)

Data collection:

- a. SY 2022-23 TEAMS (School Data Collection System) - TEAMS previously used a checkbox to indicate if a district provided Gifted and Talented services. If the district did not provide Gifted and Talented services, the box would be left unchecked. For SY 2022-23, TEAMS asks for further information in order to collect more specific data. Specific additional questions are (1) What services for Gifted and Talented students do the districts implement and (2) What professional learning and development opportunities do the districts offer?
- b. AIM (Student Data Collection System)- AIM has been changed to include indicators of “students evaluated” and “students identified”. Starting in SY 2024-25, OPI will be collecting the dates evaluated and identified that will carry with the student and will no longer need to be marked in AIM annually.

A description of the training provided by districts to teachers of Gifted and Talented students is listed in **APPENDIX B**.

A description of services provided by districts to Gifted and Talented students is listed in **APPENDIX C**.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOURCES

The following resources were created by the Office of Public Instruction and presented to multiple stakeholders. These resources have been shared via email and the OPI Compass newsletter with Montana districts:

1. [Gifted Education Training Site](#)
2. [Program and Student Success Checklist](#)

3. [Montana Advanced Learning Plan](#)
4. [Montana Program Planning Template](#)

OPI PARTNERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Office of Public Instruction Learning Hub:

- [Introduction to Gifted Students](#)
- [Introduction to Twice-Exceptional Students](#)

Office of Public Instruction Summer Institute June 2023:

- *Assessing and Developing Creativity in the Classroom*, Jeb Puryear, University of Montana, Missoula
- *GT in P-3: Working with Young Gifted Students*, Estee Aiken, University of Montana, Western

Office of Public Instruction Summer Institute June 2024:

- *Different, Not More! Strategies to Support Gifted Learners*, Estee Aiken, University of Montana, Western
- *Transforming Education Through Advanced Opportunities*, OPI

Montana Digital Academy (MTDA):

- OPI Session at *Innovation Runs Through It Symposium*; Gifted Ed on a Shoestring Budget: Making the Most of Limited GT Funds, Jenny Jarvis, OPI Gifted and Talented Program Support Specialist

Association of Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)

Higher Education Consortium (HEC)

University of Montana, Missoula

University of Montana, Western

Montana State University, Bozeman

Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted (CSDPG)

National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)

APPENDIX A

2023-2025 ALLOCATIONS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STATE GRANTS

LEA Fiscal Agent for School System Application	LEA Combined Application (Same School System)	Intent to Apply Match Amount 2023-2024	Intent to Apply Match Amount 2024-2025	Final Allocation 2023-2025
Anderson Elem		\$37,500	\$37,500	\$ 8,145
Beaverhead Co HS		\$750	\$1,000	\$ 1,750
Belgrade Elem	Belgrade HS	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$ 45,833
Belt Elem	Belt HS	\$11,000	\$22,000	\$ 8,145
Billings Elem	Billings HS	\$702,120	\$714,653	\$ 45,844
Bonner Elem		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$ 8,145
Bozeman Elem	Bozeman HS	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$ 45,833

LEA Fiscal Agent for School System Application	LEA Combined Application (Same School System)	Intent to Apply Match Amount 2023-2024	Intent to Apply Match Amount 2024-2025	Final Allocation 2023-2025
Bynum Elem		\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ 5,000
Cayuse Prairie Elem		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$ 6,000
Clinton Elem		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$ 8,145
Colstrip Elem	Colstrip HS	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$ 8,145
Columbia Falls Elem	Columbia Falls HS	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$ 10,000
Corvallis K-12 Schools		\$83,000	\$83,000	\$ 14,636
Darby K-12 Schools		\$8,000	\$8,000	\$ 8,145
Dillon Elem		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$ 8,145
East Helena K-12		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 14,636
Fairview Elem	Fairview HS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 8,145
Frontier Elem		\$7,000	\$7,500	\$ 8,145
Gallatin Gateway Elem		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ 2,000
Geyser K-12		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$ 2,400
Great Falls Elem	Great Falls HS	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$ 45,833
Hamilton K-12 Schools		\$134,000	\$137,000	\$ 14,636
Havre Elem	Havre HS	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$ 4,000
Helena Elem	Helena HS	\$305,000	\$315,000	\$ 45,833
Hellgate Elem		\$7,500	\$7,500	\$ 14,636
Joliet Elem	Joliet HS	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$ 8,145
Kalispell Elem	Flathead HS	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$ 40,000
Kila Elem		\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ 5,000
Laurel Elem	Laurel HS	\$31,777	\$31,777	\$ 14,636
Libby K-12 Schools		\$92,700	\$93,000	\$ 14,636
Lincoln K-12 Schools		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$ 4,000
Livingston Elem	Park Co HS	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$ 14,636
Lockwood K-12		\$420,000	\$424,000	\$ 14,636
Lolo Elem		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$ 8,145
Missoula Elem	Missoula HS	\$70,559	\$71,264	\$ 45,833
Montana City Elem		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 8,145
Pioneer Elem		\$2,900	\$2,900	\$ 5,800
Polson Elem	Polson HS	\$94,032	\$90,916	\$ 14,636
Roberts K-12 Schools		\$7,000	\$7,000	\$ 8,145
Ronan Elem	Ronan HS	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$ 14,636
Shepherd Elem	Shepherd HS	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$ 8,145
Sheridan Elem	Sheridan HS	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$ 3,000
Smith Valley Elem		\$4,919	\$5,200	\$ 8,145
Stanford K-12 Schools		\$8,000	\$8,000	\$ 8,145

LEA Fiscal Agent for School System Application	LEA Combined Application (Same School System)	Intent to Apply Match Amount 2023-2024	Intent to Apply Match Amount 2024-2025	Final Allocation 2023-2025
Sun River Valley Elem		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$ 4,000
Sweet Grass County H S		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$ 8,145
Target Range Elem		\$37,657	\$39,319	\$ 8,145
Trout Creek Elem		\$5,300	\$5,300	\$ 8,145
Troy Elem	Troy HS	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$ 8,145
West Glacier Elem		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$ 8,145
Whitefish Elem	Whitefish HS	\$58,000	\$59,750	\$ 14,636
				\$ 700,000

APPENDIX B

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING BY SOURCE: SY 2022/23

Professional Development and Learning Source	Number of Districts
Learning Hub (OPI)	144
Local District Training	74
Association of Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)	47
Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)	21
Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)	20
National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)	15
*Other (Montana Small School Alliance, College Board Advance Placement training, Dual Credit training, OPI Summer Institute, MTSS Training from OPI, Montana Digital Academy, Teaching Critical Thinking Using Brain Research and Scaffolding: Lisa Van Gemert, BetterLesson cohort focused on high achieving students, Visiting other district G/T Programs, Training in Las Vegas on Differentiated	50

Instruction, STEM Training from Golden Triangle Curriculum Consortium, 21 st Century/Gear Up PD, Montana Education Co-op, NWEAC, Quantum Learning)	
None	124

APPENDIX C

SERVICES BY TYPE: GIFTED AND TALENTED SY 2022/23

Services Provided	Number of Districts Providing
Accelerated Pace	124
Dual Enrollment	112
Independent Study	107
Grouping Strategies	104
Flexible Tasks	85
Problem-Based Learning	75
Honors/Advanced Placement	73
Curriculum Compacting	55
Send-Out	51
Specialized Curriculum Programs	49
Assessments	49
Distance learning/special schools for gifted	43
Whole-Grade skipping	41
Talent Opportunities	27
Early Entrance	24
Early Admission	18

Services Provided	Number of Districts Providing
Most Difficult First	16
Other Services	5
None	84

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