



## MONTANA READY & WORK-BASED LEARNING

Constitutional Players  
June 17, 2024

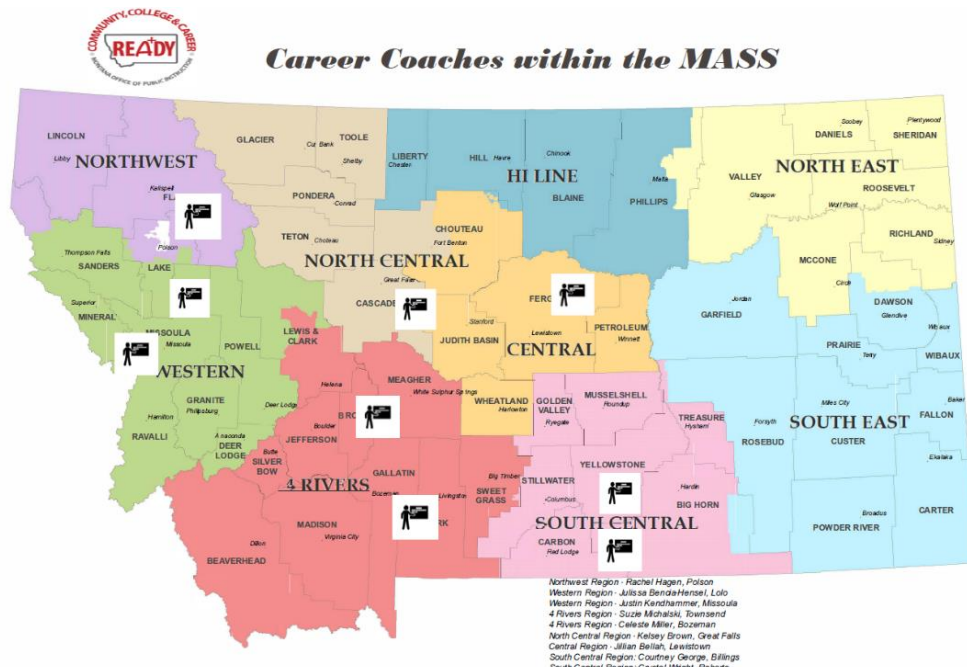
Montana Ready is an initiative driven by Superintendent Elsie Arntzen to promote Community, College, and Career preparedness with K-12 and adult education students. Focused on STEM, CTAE, and CTSOs, Montana Ready partners with the public and private sector, the military, and post-secondary entities to promote career ready students as the quality, high-skilled workforce of tomorrow.

### CAREER COACHES

Nine Montana Ready Regional Career Coaches (RCCs) were fully hired by September 2023. These coaches:

- Work with public and private sector, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to help all students be ready for college, career, community, and life.
- Educate and connect business and industry to resources with the OPI and Montana schools, teachers, and students.
- Help with events hosted by various organizations to build a connection for career pathway learning and future workforce development in Montana.
- Collaboratively implement Work Based Learning (WBL) to help teachers, parents, business, and industry guide students for quality world of work experiences.
- Utilize the Career and Technical Student Organizations to:
  - Connect business and industry to schools, teachers, and students.
  - Build leadership quality in students.
  - Teach employability skills (aka "soft skills") to students and give students opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials.
- Oversee and work with licensed, education professionals to ensure WBL experiences can be used for student-earned transcript credits and school-earned accreditation.

For more information about the Montana Ready program, please contact [Mary Heller](mailto:Mary.Heller@mt.gov), Montana Ready Coordinator, at [mary.heller@mt.gov](mailto:mary.heller@mt.gov)



The RCCs have done a lot of work that carries out the mission of Montana Ready and the goals of the ARP ESSER state plan. Also within that timeframe, upon direction from the Education Interim Budget Committee, the RCCs collected pertinent information from schools who were willing to participate in answering data questions. The following is an account of some of the data collected.

- Schools who participated in the survey: 104
- Type of school:
  - AA: 10
  - A: 18
  - B: 22
  - C: 54
- Did the school utilize RCCs for 2 or more activities, events, or engagements?
  - No: 33
  - Yes: 71
- Does the school actively use a Career Navigation System (CNS)?
  - No: 19
  - Yes: 52
- What CNS does the school use?
  - MCIS: 46
  - Naviance: 2
  - Career Cruising: 1
  - Pathful: 1
  - You Science: 2
- How many students use a CNS?
  - School actual response to question: 4,170
  - School that merely stated “All”: 1
  - School that didn’t provide an answer: 3
  - School that said “just starting this year”: 1
  - School that responded “unknown”: 4
- Grade level of students using a CNS in the school:
  - 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 3
  - 5<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade: 20
  - 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade: 29
  - *Note: This is a good indication that more work is needed at the younger grades.*
- Is the school participating in Dual Enrollment (DE) with a higher education institution:
  - No: 13
  - Yes: 58
- How many students in the schools are participating in DE?
  - 1,850
  - *There were many duplicating participants in this number. Meaning, many of the students counted were taking multiple classes in DE.*

- Grade level of students participating in DE?
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8
  - 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 25
  - 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 13
  - 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 6
  - Other: 4
- Does your school currently participate in Work Based Learning (WBL) activities?
  - No: 16
  - Yes: 55
- Did your school participate in WBL prior to the RCCs helping them?
  - No: 18
  - Yes: 53
- Did your students receive credit for WBL Career Training as defined by the SB444 Legislation?
  - No: 24
  - Yes: 31
  - Didn't specify: 16
  - *NOTE: Most of the "No" answers are because schools acknowledge work release is conducted rather than WBL.*
- Amount of students participating in one or more of the four levels of WBL activities?
  - 1,535 (many of these were students attending Career Awareness and Exploration activities)
  - 2-10 students (the schools didn't provide a specific number): 2
  - Unknown (the schools didn't provide any information for clarification): 7
- What career clusters did students participate in WBL activities?
  - All schools responded CTE
  - Note: Only CTE provides a template for career pathways.
- What type of business offers WBL opportunities for students?
  - Vertical construction (Examples: Dick Anderson Construction, Langlas, Jackson Contractors)
  - Horizontal construction (Build Montana)
  - Health/Medical (many local health/medical clinics in the communities)
  - Hospitality/Tourism (many local restaurants and hotels in the communities)
  - Government (Forest Service, local city government, DOT)
  - Agriculture (local veterinary clinics, AgLand Coop, local ag equipment dealers)
  - Transportation (Lithia Motors, Kentworth Auto)
- Does the school actively work with DLI Business Engagement Specialist to help with industry connections & career pathway opportunities?
  - No: 88
  - Yes: 3
  - Don't know: 13
- What government agencies does the school work with to help students with career pathway opportunities?
  - OPI (including CTE and RCCs): 104
  - DLI (Registered apprenticeship, Career Lab/MCIS, JMG specified): 14
  - DPHHS (Voc Rehab): 10
  - Military: 8
  - Tribal Organization: 2
  - Local City: 6
  - BLM, Forest Service, FWP, DNRC: 8
  - None: 39
- Does your school assist students with leadership and/or employability skill training?
  - No: 7
  - Yes: 64
  - Note: 61 schools contributed this training to CTE teachers and student participation in CTSOs.
- Does your school currently receive Advanced Opportunity funding?
  - No: 42
  - Yes: 29
  - Note: Since the time of the data collection and help from the OPI and RCCs, there was an increase of 39 school district applicants for AO funding. 10 school districts were turned away because there currently is not enough AO funding available.