



# Montana – Leading the Way in Assessment Innovation

## The Montana Alternative Student Testing (MAST) pilot program gives teachers real-time data

### What work is Montana doing to overhaul the current assessment system?

- The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is developing and piloting a next-generation state testing system that provides teachers with real-time data on student progress. Throughout the year, students take multiple short tests aligned to classroom and local curriculum.
- These assessments measure student mastery of state standards and support personalized, proficiency learning.

### Why are current assessment systems failing our teachers and students?

- Interim assessments test students on material they haven't learned in the classroom, providing an often-frustrating testing experience for students and unreliable data for teachers.
- End-of-year statewide assessments return data too late to provide real-time instructional value.

### How is MAST more beneficial to our students than traditional statewide assessments?

- Assessing students on content they just learned is more fair than testing them months after they were taught.
- Immediate feedback throughout the year will give educators and parents the information they need to support students, unlike traditional statewide assessments which only provide data after the school year has ended.

### How does MAST prioritize educators and parents?

- MAST gives educators real-time student data that ties directly to what they are teaching in the classroom helping them provide more personalized student support as they advance towards grade-level mastery.
- This level of relevant, real-time data will support conversations with parents, strengthening the parent-teacher partnership.

### How will MAST support education leaders and policymakers leverage data-driven decision-making?

- The results of each test will be combined to support a reliable, comparable end-of-year score that education leaders and policymakers can use to allocate resources, making sure every education dollar counts.
- The MAST program creates a single, coherent assessment system that yields rich, actionable data, feeding the needs of stakeholders throughout Montana's education system.

# More than 30 districts and nearly 5,000 students have participated in the MAST Pilot Program to date.

## Participating School Districts by County (33)

Alberton K-12	Butte School District	Fairview Consolidated	Kila	Stanford
Arlee Elementary	Circle	Frenchtown	Lockwood K-12	Superior K-12
Arrowhead	Cohagen	Frontier	Moore	Ulm
Belgrade	Culbertson	Glendive	Power	Whitefish
Bigfork	East Helena	Hamilton	Ronan	Winnett
Big Sky	Evergreen K-8	Havre	Savage	
Billings Public Schools	Fair-Mont-Egan	Kalispell	Shelby	

## Timeline

