

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



Montana Office of Public Instruction

INVITATION TO APPLY

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY ACT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ISSUED BY

Montana Office of Public Instruction
1227 11th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Application Period: 1st Monday December – 2nd Monday January

Application Opens: 8:00 a.m. MST on December 2, 2019

Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. MST on January 13, 2020

Questions regarding this application should be directed to:

Montana Office of Public Instruction
1227 11th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent of Operations

jule.walker@mt.gov

406-444-7325

Sharyl Allen, Transformational-Personalized Learning Manager

sharyl.allen@mt.gov

OVERVIEW

House Bill 387, The Montana Advanced Opportunity Act, sponsored by Representative Llew Jones, was signed into law on May 9, 2019. HB 387 amends section [20-7-701, MCA](#).

Purpose: The Montana Advanced Opportunity Act:

- Expand personalized career and technical education opportunities for middle and high school pupils.
- Reduce out-of-pocket costs for pupils and families in support of a pupil's postsecondary success.
- Empower pupils to actively engage in forming their postsecondary success path
- Provide expanded flexibility to districts in supporting each pupil's postsecondary success path to align with each pupil's individual interests, passions, strengths, needs and culture.
- Authorize elected boards of school districts to developing initiatives using advanced opportunity aid that makes a prudent long-term investment in Montana youth by providing state funding for opportunities and individualized pathways for career and postsecondary through Career and technical education that allows pupils to accelerate and self-direct their learning.

Definitions:

Advanced Opportunity means any course, exam, experiential, online, or other learning opportunity that is incorporated in a district's advanced opportunity plan and is designed to advance each qualifying pupil's opportunity for postsecondary career and educational success.

Advanced Opportunity Aid means for fiscal years 2021 and beyond.

Advanced Opportunity Plan means a plan adopted by a board of trustees of a district that provides advanced opportunities for the pupils of the district.

Specific requirements for the district of the application:

- District Development of an Advanced Opportunity Plan
- Include a strategic plan, with appropriate planning horizons for implementation - measurable objectives to ensure accountability, and planned strategies to:
 - Develop an advanced opportunity plan for each participating pupil grades 6-12 that fosters individualized pathways for career and postsecondary opportunities.
 - Embed community-based, experiential, online and work-based learning opportunities and foster a learning environment that incorporates both virtual and face-to-face connections.
 - Ensure equality of educational opportunity to participate by all pupils of the district.
- The local school district's application must be formally approved by the district's board of trustees and signed by the district board chair.

Key Dates:

- Opening and closing dates for the Fiscal Year 2021 application: 1st Monday of December – 2nd Monday in January

- Deadline for submission of your annual report for the Board of Public Education: TBA
- The application is available on the OPI website. (This page will have a submit button where all applications will be digitally submitted to the OPI.).

Note: All applications received by the OPI will be submitted to the Board of Public Education for qualification.

FUNDING

For fiscal year 2021 there is appropriated \$750,000.00 for distributions of advanced opportunity aid to qualified districts. The FY 2021 payment will be distributed no later than October 1. Districts are to deposit these state payments into the school district flexibility fund.

For fiscal year 2021, an elementary district would received 3% of the total quality educator payment as defined in 20-9-306,MCA, in the prior year; a high school district would receive 20% of the total quality educator payment as defined in 20-9-306, MCA, in the prior year; and a K-12 district would receive 8.5% of the total quality educator payment as defined in 20-9-306, MCA, in the prior year.

Advanced opportunity aid may be expended by the district for any pupil from grades 6-12, subject to certain conditions specified in the bill. At least 60% of the advanced opportunity aid payment must be used to address out-of-pocket costs for pupils or pupil’s family, as specified in the bill. The remaining 40 percent of the district advanced opportunity aid may be spent by the district to provide any K-12 career and vocational/technical education course offered by the district.

A qualified district 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 payment. These funds must be used in the same manner the advanced opportunity aid payment is expended.

The following table shows the calculation to derive the appropriations for FY 202, FY 2023 and FY 2024.

FISCAL YEAR	Quality Educator Payment (prior year)	Elementary - 3%	High School - 20%	K-12 - 8.5%	Anticipated Appropriation
2022	\$3,335	\$100.05	\$667	\$283.48	\$1,649,057
2023	\$3,378	\$101.34	\$675.5	\$686.40	\$2,505,479
2024	\$3,482	\$102.96	\$686.40	\$291.72	\$3,394,042

Funding is provided on a “first come – first served” basis per HB 387 Section (3)(d).

ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRESS

A district's annual report is due _____ (TBA). The following are the minimum annual report requirements for continued qualification:

- The number of pupils benefitting from advanced opportunity aid
- The number and type of credits and certifications or credentials earned by pupils that have been paid for by the program
- Projected growth of pupil participation
- Issues experiences and how issues are being addressed
- **A report of progress toward measurable objectives under the district's advanced opportunity plan and updates to the plan.**

ASSISTANCE

Superintendent Arntzen has hired an a Transformational-Personalized Learning Manager to administer the program. Technical assistance is available to any school district that has a need and is planning to apply for transformational learning funding. When emailing for assistance, be sure to include your timeline and phone number. This can be sent to [Jule Walker](#), Deputy Superintendent of Operations or [Sharyl Allen](#), Transformational-Personalized Learning Manager.



OPI – Montana Advanced Opportunity Application **Application Window: 1st Monday in December – 2nd Monday in January**

Background: House Bill 387, passed in the 2019 Montana state legislative session and provides state funding to school districts for expanding personalized opportunities for students to accelerate their career and college readiness and reduce out-of-pocket costs for families; empower students to actively engage in forming successful postsecondary pathways.

You may be a district that serves both an elementary and HS LEA. The LEA Name and Number are dropdown menus. A second LEA Name and Number is provided so you can submit a single application for an elementary and high school district served by a single Board of Trustees.

SUBMITTER NAME:

DISTRICT NAME:

LE Name & Number:

2nd LE Name & Number:

Guidance: Use this checklist to ensure that your advanced opportunity application contains all the elements outlined in HB 387. Include this application page with your other materials that will be submitted to the OPI. The submission will be a digital submission on the OPI website.

- The district’s board of trustees shall submit an application that has been approved, by motion of the board of trustees and signed by the board chair, to the Board of Public Education, on a form provided by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- District Development of an Advanced Opportunity Plan
- Include in your district’s strategic plan, with appropriate planning horizons for implementation - measurable objectives to ensure accountability, and planned strategies to:
 - Develop an advanced opportunity plan for each participating pupil grades 6-12 that fosters individualized pathways for career and postsecondary opportunities.
 - Embed community-based, experiential, online and work-based learning opportunities and foster a learning environment that incorporates both virtual and face-to-face connections.
 - Ensure equality of educational opportunity to participate by all pupils of the district.

The school district’s board chair signature affirms that the application has been completed and approved by the Board of Trustees. It is acknowledged that the full application will be kept at the district site. The checklist and attached documents is affirmation that the required elements of HB 387 are part of the application’s supporting documents. (You will have the option to upload the document with board chair’s signature as part of the digital submission of the application.)

School District Board Chair Printed Name

School District Board Chair Signature