

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	Extensive use of AP throughout the state	Yes	The Office of Public Instruction has made a special effort in recent years to promote AP opportunities to rural students	Yes	State funding; AP incentive program
Breaking Ranks	Yes	Blueprint for school reform issued by NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals). The state participates in this reform and hosted a summit to develop education improvement plans based on the blueprint.	Yes	Rural students	No	
Bridge Programs	Yes	Few bridge programs	Yes	Rural students	Yes	State policy
Career Academies	Yes	Program began recently	Yes	Rural students	Yes	State funding
<u>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</u>	Yes	All college campuses in Montana provide CLEP.	No		Yes	State policy
<u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u>	Yes	Expanded program due to rural characteristics of state	Yes	Almost all of the distance learning programs in Montana focus on small, rural schools because of difficulty in providing specialized courses to students in those communities.	Yes	State policy and funding
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	Yes	Starting to develop these programs, and this development is expected to accelerate in the next few years. The most successful programs are in communities that have a 2-year college.	Yes	Rural students	Yes	State funding began recently; The state endorses a large dual credit program that gains increasing importance.
Early or Middle College High Schools	No		No		No	

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GED in College Settings	No	Offered through adult basic education program	No		No	
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	The IB program is very new; only 1 high school participating	No		Yes	State funding
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Montana provides a well-developed program. College connections have been made to transition the program into career pathways.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural students • Special populations 	Yes	Federal Perkins funding
<u>Writing Proficiency Project</u>	Yes	The initial partnership with ACT ended in 2003.	No		Yes	State funding

Summary of academic pathways:

Currently the Governing Board of Higher Education is attempting to ease the transition from high school to college. While there is a lot of local control over different secondary programs, the institutions of higher education are creating structures at the college level to facilitate transition. Colleges accept AP as well as CLEP scores and Flathead High School just developed an IB program. Colleges are also creating college connections through the dual credit and Tech Prep programs.

State’s effort to encourage college prep curriculum:

Montana requires a college preparatory program for admission to its four-year campuses. Each campus is permitted to exempt up to 5% of the entering freshman class from the requirement. The college preparatory program does not apply to non-traditional students, part-time students, or transfer students who enter the campus as a freshman.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Distance learning
- Tech Prep and career pathways
- Writing proficiency project



Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

A rural state, Montana focuses its attention on rural students. Native Americans are the largest minority population. To increase access, the state is working on a transition program, Career Pathways, with a reciprocal relationship between high schools and colleges.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Primarily, the state supports the academic pathways with funding, but many decisions are left to the local schools.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Tech Prep students have not always claimed the credits they deserve. As a result the state is placing an emphasis on advising these students so they receive the credits they are due.
- The state needs to set clear definitions regarding the policies, practices, and relationships between the high schools and colleges. An example where clear definitions are needed has to do with dual credit. Dual credit has no clear transfer policy, so different institutions treat the classes differently.

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment	Flathead Valley Community College	Jane Karas	jkaras@sbcc.edu	--
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Flathead High School	Jhon York	shsib@sd5.k12.mt.us	--
Writing proficiency project	--	Jean Clinard	--	(406) 444-0652

State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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*George Burns	State Coordinator Tech Prep and Perkins Grant Manager	Office of Public Instruction	--	(406) 444-9797

(Prepared by Christopher Evans/ Updated June, 2006/ *State official was forwarded this state profile for review.)