

# Governor Bullock: Opportunity and Innovation in Education



Early Edge MT is Governor Bullock’s initiative to ensure every Montana child arrives at kindergarten ready to learn. Children who receive high-quality early learning are more likely to read at grade level, graduate from high school, and earn more money as adults. Despite the high return on investment, Montana is one of only eight states that has not made consistent investments in our earliest learners. During the next legislative session, the Governor will bring forward a proposal for voluntary preschool, available to all four-year-olds. <http://earlyedge.mt.gov/>



Schools can lead the way in promoting energy efficiency and health in Montana by entering the SMART Schools Challenges. “SMART” Schools refers to a schools’ ability to “Save Money and Resources Today” by implementing simple behavioral and operational changes to promote energy efficiency and health. Schools that sign up to become more energy efficient, reduce waste, promote health, and/or implement sustainable practices qualify for additional resources and statewide recognition as a SMART School. <http://smartschools.mt.gov>



The goal of Breakfast After the Bell is to increase participation in existing—and initiate the start-up of—breakfast after the bell programs in Montana’s schools. Breakfast After the Bell mini-grants are open to ALL schools interested in implementing an alternative breakfast model. The mini-grants are meant to help with equipment, training, staffing, or other start-up costs. <http://breakfafterthebellmt.com>



Dual enrollment courses are designed to provide Montana students with the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. These courses give students the opportunity to earn college credit at half the price of tuition at a college or university. Dual enrollment classes not only give students a head start on earning college credit and reduce their time to degree, they also show students who may not think they are college bound that it is a path that is open for them. Over the last year, Montana has increased the number of high school students participating in dual enrollment classes by nearly 50 percent. <http://mus.edu/>



State employees competed in a contest across all executive office agencies for the best ideas to create mobile apps. These mobile apps had to use available data, have a realistic implementation and make state government more accessible to Montana citizens. The Governor and the Lt. Governor selected the top six ideas to be created as mobile apps by Montana students this fall. The winning mobile apps will be scored on their capabilities with current mobile phones, operational effectiveness, and user likeability. Our goal is to make this challenge an annual event that awards students interested in STEM careers with a chance to gain technical experience from state government and scholarship opportunities. <http://governor.mt.gov/>