



Montana Educational Talent Search has been housed at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education since 1979.

2021-2026 Talent Search Grant Highlights

The Montana Educational Talent Search (METS) Program received funding for another five years of continued services to its annual 1,287 participants. The grant has an annual budget of \$713,964 (\$3,569,820 over the five-year span). METS serves schools through four target areas, with a central office in Helena. METS is a college access grant that works primarily with potential first generation, low income 6-12th graders.

In addition to the continued financial literacy, career exploration, and college awareness curriculum, METS will be offering enhanced services this grant cycle:

- Competitive priorities focusing on STEM awareness and engagement, and preparing students to be informed, thoughtful, and productive individuals and citizens.
- Continued focus on re-entry services for students in the target area to assist them back into both the secondary and post-secondary education pipelines, respectively.
- Student leadership cohort track for high school participants.
- Montana Careers in Action Series:

Accounting—Teri McCormick, Bozeman	Marketing—Deanna Johnson, Helena
Cinematographer—Paris Bread, Great Falls	Mechanic—Logan Williamson, Shelby
Computer IT—James Hodges, Bozeman	Nurse—Rebecca Fox, Helena
Construction Project Manager—Travis Kabalin, Bozeman	Paleontologist—Kallie Morre, Missoula
English Teacher, Jake Arrowtop, Heart Butte	Police Detective—Hazeer Rafiu, Polson
Entrepreneur, Spencer Williams, Bozeman	Public Administrator—Kirk Miller, Helena
Executive Chef—Kacey Guardipee, Missoula	Social Advocate—Dawne Scott, Polson
Fabricator/Welder—Cole Henrekin, Seely Lake	Veterinarian—Dr. Dominic Eickert, Bozeman

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdUUhQc-6DFqD2S8iLnwKOW>

Program Objectives:

1. Meet Funded to Serve Ratio: Must meet 90% to receive Prior Experience points of other objectives.
2. Meet Eligibility Requirement: Two-thirds (66.67%) of participants served during the project year must be both low-income and first generation
3. Secondary School Persistence: 81% of all non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and continue on to the next academic year, at the next grade level.
4. Secondary School Graduation: 77% of high school seniors served during the project year will graduate during the project year with a regular diploma within standard number of years.
5. Secondary School Graduation: 21% of high school seniors served during the project year will complete a rigorous secondary school program of study with a regular diploma within standard number of years.
6. Post-Secondary Enrollment: 31% of senior participants that graduate with a regular secondary school diploma will enroll in an institution of higher education by fall term immediately following high school graduation or have received acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic term.
7. Post-Secondary Degree Attainment: 30% of participants served, who enroll in an institution of higher education, by the fall semester immediately following high school will complete within six years.