

Biennial Budget

HB 2 - General Appropriation Act

- **MUS HB2 Budget:** General Fund & State Special

Biennial Increase

2023 Biennial Budget = \$547,080,314

2025 Biennial Budget = \$591,313,681

Total Biennial \$\$ Inc = \$37,833,367

Total Biennial % Inc = 6.9%

Increase Over Base Year

FY23 = \$280,296,842 FY23 = \$280,296,842

FY24 = \$291,133,886 FY25 = \$293,779,795

\$ Inc = \$10,837,044 \$ Inc = \$13,482,953

%Inc = 3.9% % Inc = 4.8%

Total Increase + OTO = \$30,719,997 (+4.3%/yr)

[Link to HB 2 Funding Chart by Program](#)

- **State Insurance Holiday (General/Property):** 2-year holiday on insurance payments totaling approximately \$19M in savings (\$12M in the Ed. Unit Current Unrestricted)
- **Shared Policy Goals:** The MUS entered into a [Shared Policy Goals](#) agreement with the Joint Education Appropriations Sub-Committee

HB 13 - State Employee Pay Plan ([link to HB 13 Funding Chart](#))

- MUS Pay Plan Funding (including Ed. Units, CC's, Agencies, & OCHE) = \$32M
- Based on 4% or \$1.50 per hour whichever is higher, increases applied in July of each year
- One-time Payments: \$3.3M (distributed in May 2023)
- Benefits reserve backfill (HB 424) = \$18M

One-Time-Only Funding (OTO)

\$6.4 million (HB 2) + \$6.2M (HB 10) = \$12.6M total

Sprint Degrees: funding to support the development of accelerated degree pathways that train skilled graduates for high wage, high demands careers. **Total = \$2M** biennial (restricted OTO)

Seamless Education: funding to support the implementation of a single learning management system (LMS) and online course catalog. **Total = \$3M** biennial (restricted OTO)

12FREE: funding to support the continuation of 6 free dual enrollment credits for all high school students. **Total = \$1.4M** FY25 (restricted OTO)

CyberMontana Cybersecurity Initiative: funding to continue the buildout of cybersecurity training and education center at UM. **Total = \$6.2M** biennial (HB 10)

Building Projects / Major Repairs / Authority Only Projects

(HB 5)

Total Funding Approved = \$442M (cash = \$193M), (authority = \$249M)

[Link to LRBP Funding Chart](#)

Building Projects Total = \$131 (cash), \$32.5M (authority)

- FLBS Water & Sewer Systems – UM, \$2.5M (cash)
- Acquire & Renovate Airport Hangar – Helena College, \$3.6M (cash)
- Clapp Building Renovation – UM, \$27M (cash), \$10M (authority)
- Gallatin College – MSU, \$23.5M (cash), \$22.5M (authority)
- Engineering Hall Full Interior Renovations, MT Tech, \$8M (cash)
- Main Hall Remodel & Renovation, MT Tech, \$30M (cash)
- MAES BART Farm Life-Safety & Programmatic Improvements, MSU, \$10M (cash)
- Campus Storage/Warehouse Building, UM Western, \$1.25M (cash)
- Health & Recreation Complex (Phase II), MSU Northern, \$25M (cash)

Major Repairs = \$35M (various projects and campuses)

Authority Only Projects = \$200.5M

- \$20M general spending authority
- \$180.5M for nine additional privately funded projects

Supplemental Funding = \$26.5M (cash) \$16M (authority)

- \$18.8M for five capital development projects
- \$7.7M for nine major repair projects
- \$16M for three authority only projects

BILLS IMPACTING MUS

Senate Bills

SB 232 – Provide for deadlines to respond to public information requests.

- Requires an agency to respond to a public information request by acknowledging receipt of the request within 5 days of the agency’s designated contact person having received the request.
- Requires the agency to provide the information within 5 days if the request is for a single specific, readily available public record. For other information, the agency shall provide an estimated timeline for fulfilling the request and any fees that may be charged. The bill imposes additional timelines and requirements for agencies in responding to public information requests and in making available information about the agency’s public request process.
- Effective May 4, 2023.

SB 289 – Allow tuition waivers for qualified survivors of firefighters and police officers.

- Allows the Board of Regents to waive tuition and fees for surviving spouses and children of Montana firefighters or peace officers who died in the line of duty. Previously, Section 20-25-421 allowed the Board to waive tuition only.
- Effective October 1, 2023.

SB 480 – Remove opt-in requirement for student contact information on ACT test.

- Removes from law the requirement that students opt in to sharing information with postsecondary institutions and scholarship organizations as part of statewide assessments that are also used for college entrance examinations.
- States that legislature intends the release of the information be for the sole purpose of increasing awareness of and access to postsecondary opportunities for students.
- Effective October 1, 2023.

House Bills

HB 31 – Generally revise laws related to academic brewer license.

- Allows a unit of the MUS or a Montana community college that is part of a community college district the ability to apply for an academic brewer license.
- Effective March 16, 2023.

HB 140 – Establishing modernization and risk analysis committee.

- Creates a bipartisan committee to study long-term future budget and revenue needs of the state with changing economics and demographics.

- Among the duties of the committee is to “use available data and analytical resources to study the past, present, and future costs and revenues of all state and local government entities” and other policy areas, higher education.
- Effective upon signature of Governor.

HB 185 – Increase appropriation to MSU Fire Services Training School.

- Appropriates \$352,152 from the general fund to the MUS for each fiscal year in the biennium to fund the MSU-Extension’s Fire Services Training School. This appropriation is considered part of the ongoing base.
- Appropriates \$120,000 in one-time-only funds for the biennium.
- The funds are intended to be used for an increase in training staff capacity, fire engine maintenance, and training materials.
- Effective July 1, 2023.

HB 367 – Providing clarification for use of federal funds for data modernization.

- Requires that federal funds for data modernization received by the Office of Public Instruction be used to facilitate use of data by school districts, community colleges, and the MUS “to improve individual student outcomes and periodically evaluate student academic performance.”
- Requires that the federal funds also be applied toward the secure sharing of data among the OPI, the MUS, OCHE, and the Department of Labor and Industry.
- Effective May 3, 2023

HB 482 – Provide access to education and support for children aging out of foster care.

- Establishes a Montana foster youth higher education assistance program administered by the Board of Regents through OCHE for the purpose of “helping youth who have aged out of the foster care system meet their educational, vocational, and professional goals without accruing debt.”
- An educational or training institution is eligible for grant funding through the program if it is a community or tribal college, a 2-year or 4-year institution of the MUS, or a publicly funded vocational training program.
- Educational and training institutions may receive grants to develop programs that provide to participants room and board, admission and enrollment assistance, tutoring, life skills training, career assistance, and scholarship funds.
- Requires OCHE to report annually to the Education Interim Committee and the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee on the status and impacts of the grants. Requires BOR to adopt policies for administration of the program.
- The bill does not include an appropriation to administer or fund the program.
- If signed by the Governor, the bill becomes effective October 1, 2023.

HB 531 – Establish annual combined meeting of the Board of Education

- Reduces from twice annually to once annually the frequency with which the Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents shall meet jointly as the State Board of Education.
- Effective April 18, 2023.

HB 749 – Revise Montana Digital Academy laws.

- Revises the purpose of the Digital Academy to “enhance the state’s system of education and support the development of the full educational potential of each person consistent with the provisions of Article X, section 1(1) of the Montana Constitution.”
- Requires Digital Academy to provide courses that empower students to become community, college, and career ready.
- Requires participation on the Digital Academy governing board by a member of the Board of Regents or a designee.
- Requires detailed reporting to the Legislature’s interim Education policy and budget committees.
- Effective July 1, 2023.

HB 797 – Require agency reporting on financial assistance to tribes.

- Requires designated agencies, including OCHE, that have distributed funds to a tribal entity or that have received or retained funds related to a program that indirectly or directly provides financial assistance to a tribal entity to report that information to OBPP.
- Effective upon signature of Governor.

HB 833 – Establish teacher residency program.

- Creates a teacher residency program to be administered by OPI in collaboration with K-12 districts and professional educator preparation programs to enhance teacher recruitment and retention.
- Allows the Superintendent of Public Instruction to contract with a professional educator preparation program located at a unit of the MUS to coordinate aspects of the program.
- Effective July 1, 2023.

HB 946 – Implement provisions of HB 2, Section E.

- Requires OCHE to report to the Education Interim Budget Committee on the funding provided to the tribal colleges for High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) preparation.
- Requires OCHE to report three separate times to the interim budget committee on “all existing collaborations, partnerships, contracts, donations, and contributions related to an entity or individual associated with a foreign country of concern.”
- Effective July 1, 2023.

HB 949 – Generally revise education laws related to data governance.

- Establishes the Education and Workforce Data Governing Board, naming as a member the Commissioner of Higher Education or a designee.
- The board’s duties include developing policies for linking and sharing education and workforce data among the Office of Public Instruction, OCHE, and the Department of Labor and Industry “in order to maximize the operational efficiency of the state’s education and workforce systems.”
- Requires OPI to establish, maintain, and continually improve a data system that, among other things, “facilitates matching of student-level K-12 data with higher education and workforce data.”
- Effective July 1, 2023.

Resolutions**SR 32 – Confirm governor’s appointee for Board of Regents of Higher Education**

- Resolution concurring in, confirming, and consenting to the Governor’s appointment of Jeff Southworth to the Board of Regents of Higher Education

SR 51 – Confirm governor’s appointee for Board of Regents of Higher Education

- Resolution concurring in, confirming, and consenting to the Governor’s appointment of Norris Blossom to the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

Failed Legislation Significant to the MUS**HB 288 – Tuition waivers for Native American students.**

- HB 288 would have removed the blood quantum requirement for the waiver so the waiver would apply to “enrolled members or descendants of a federally recognized Indian tribe located within the boundaries of state of Montana,” provided the individual has been a resident of Montana for at least one year prior to enrollment.
- Would have required that for a descendant of a tribe to be eligible, a process for certification of descendance must be formally adopted by the tribe and a copy of a certificate of descendance be provided to the MUS.
- The fiscal note, which the sponsor did not sign, estimated decreased tuition revenue of \$4.8 million.
- The bill was tabled in Senate Finance and Claims and died upon session adjournment.

HB 517 – Constitutional amendment regarding Board of Regents.

- HB 517 was a referendum to revise the Board of Regents’ constitutional authority to manage the university system. A vote of at least 100 members of the Legislature was required for the measure to be included on the ballot.

- The bill was amended three times. In its final version, it proposed to revise Article X, section 9, of the Montana Constitution to provide that the legislature may enact laws requiring the BOR and units of the MUS to adopt and maintain policies and practices “that protect freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and due process,” and that “in pursuit of these protections the state may provide judicial remedies.”
- The bill’s final vote took place on the Senate floor, approving the Senate Judiciary Committee’s latest amendments and directing the bill back to the House for its concurrence, but the bill was not transmitted and failed in the process.

HB 944 – Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program.

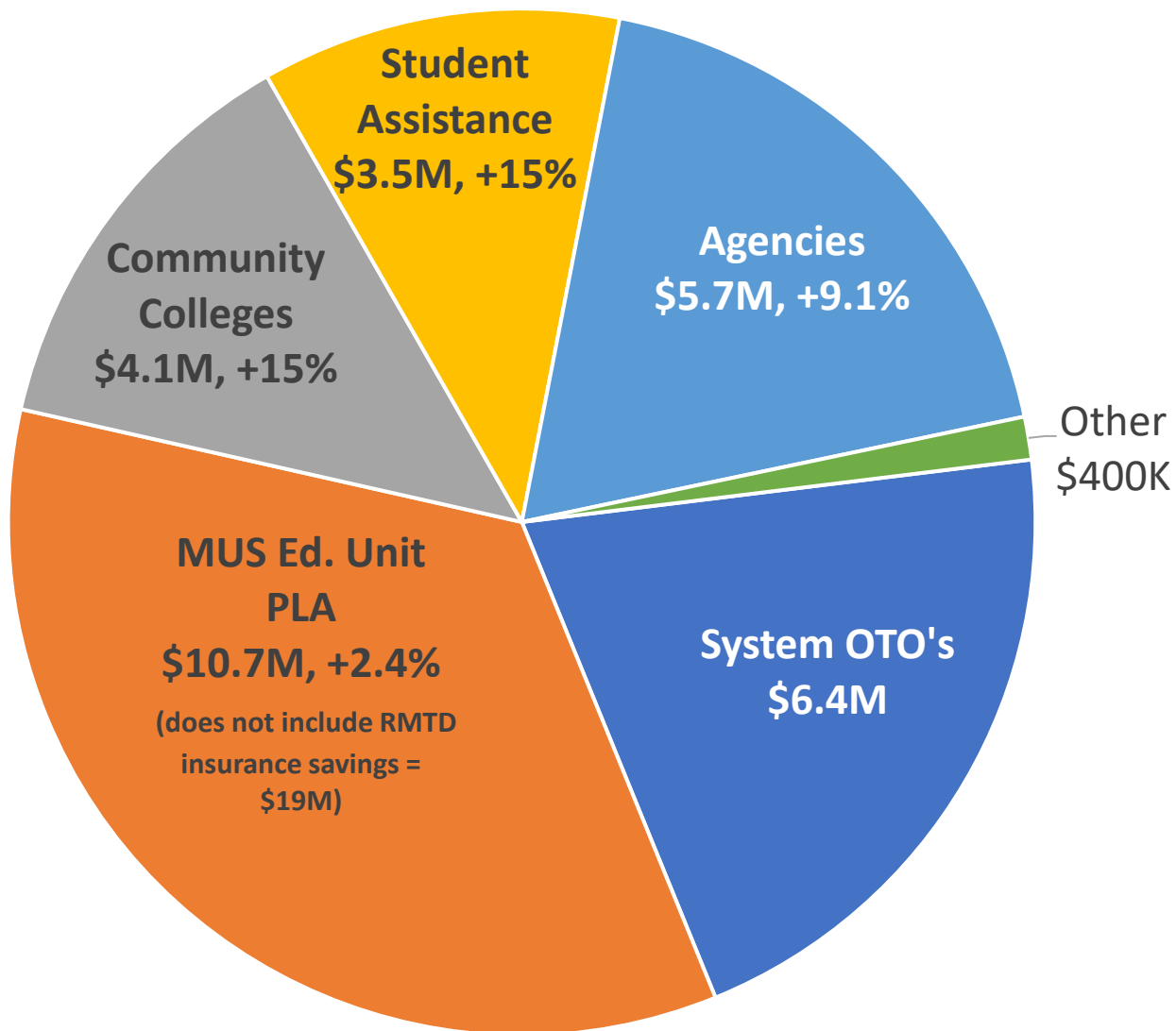
- Sought to establish a grant program to be administered by OCHE to strengthen career and technical education pipelines “to ensure a skilled workforce in the trades and especially in those trades facing workforce shortages in the state.”
- Would have required OCHE to create a grant program for: school districts to develop their own programs to encourage students to pursue careers in the skilled trades; postsecondary CTE campuses to enhance CTE in specific areas most impacted by skilled trades workforce shortages; and an in-demand skilled trades investment scholarship.
- The bill included an appropriation of \$1.1 million which was intended to become part of the MUS ongoing base budget.
- The bill easily passed out of House committees and the floor. It was tabled in Senate Finance and Claims and died upon session adjournment.

HB 950 – Establish the Student and Administration Equality Act.

- HB 950, as drafted, sought to “establish procedural protections and rights for postsecondary students in disciplinary proceedings.” It would have created a separate multi-step process for the proceedings.
- The bill prompted the preparation of a Legal Review Note by the Legislative Services Division’s legal staff expressing potential constitutional concerns associated with Article X, section 9(2) of the Montana Constitution,
- The bill passed the House and was tabled in the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee. It died upon session adjournment.

HB 2 - MUS Biennial Increase, \$31M

(biennial total over base) as of 5/9/23



Shared Policy Goals

2023 Legislature

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education agrees to partner with the Montana Legislature, represented by the Joint Subcommittee on Education to further the following Shared Policy Goals:

Financial Literacy and College Affordability: Ensure all campuses of the MUS provide financial literacy programs for students, including mandatory tutorials upon entry and ongoing communication with students through the financial aid process.

- Expand the Montana 10 student success intervention and evaluate its impact on affordability topics, including student retention, credit accumulation, and time-to-degree. If proven effective, evaluate options to expand Montana 10 program services to more Montana students.

Free Speech: Reaffirm the Montana University System's commitment to fostering environments that ensure the free expression and open exchange of ideas and viewpoints in accordance with the First Amendment. Examples include,

- Ensuring all campuses have policies and procedures that comply with the First Amendment and affirm the rights of individuals to freely express their views.
- Providing a system-wide training module for campus faculty and staff on free speech and expressive activities.
- Establishing the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education as a resource hub for training materials, guidance, and best practices for upholding rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Proficiency-based Education: Implement teaching methodologies and programs that facilitate the development of proficiency-based education opportunities.

- **Teacher Prep:** provide proficiency-based education modules/courses as part of Educator Prep Programs.
- **Credit for Prior Learning:** Improve and expand assessment-based approaches that recognize prior learning for college credit.
- **Digital Academy:** Refine the partnership between the MUS, the OPI, and the Montana Digital Academy so that the MTDA can serve as a portal to a broader range of course opportunities, including more online dual enrollment opportunities through the MUS.

Tribal College Relations:

- **American Indian Language and Culture:** Expand American Indian language, linguistic, and culture programming.
- **Tribal College/MUS Transfer:** Continue efforts to engage Tribal Colleges to improve the experience of students transferring between Tribal Colleges and MUS institutions.

Shared Policy Goals

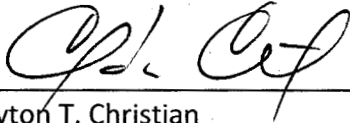
2023 Legislature

Career & Technical Education: Continue to develop and improve CTE opportunities, particularly those that leverage public/private partnerships and expand high school CTE pathways.

- **Sprint Degrees:** Establish and evaluate new accelerated degree pathways in in-demand fields ("Sprint Degrees") in partnership with industry.
- **High School Student Access:** Expand CTE dual enrollment opportunities and pathways, particularly those that incorporate industry credentials that articulate with degree programs.

Data Sharing: Collaborate with the OPI and the DLI to deepen P20W data sharing partnerships in a manner that provides actionable insights to policymakers and educators and helps to streamline agency processes.

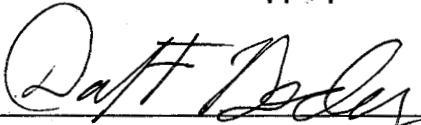
On behalf of the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education:



Clayton T. Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education

5-2-23
Date

On behalf of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education:



Rep. David F. Bedey, Chairman

5/2/2023
Date

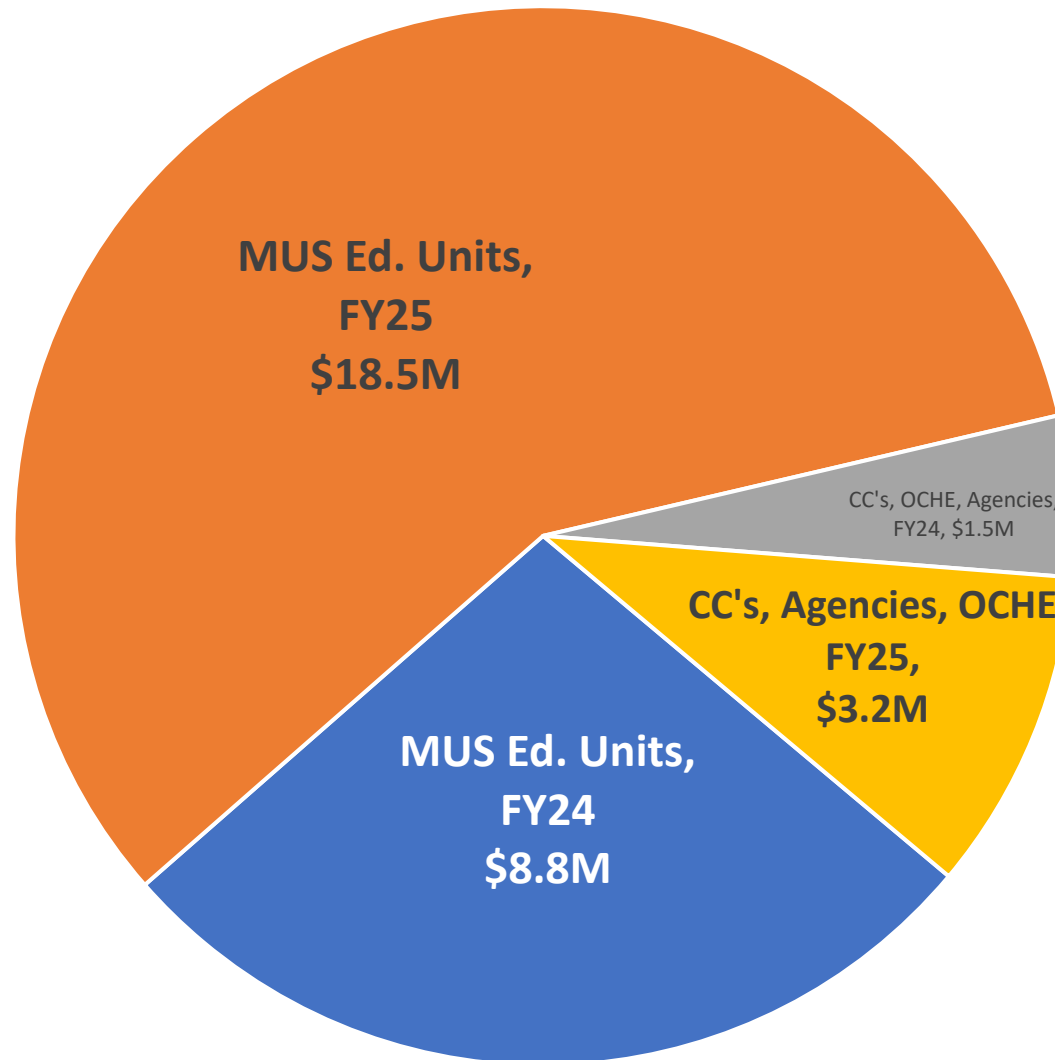


Sen. Daniel Salomon, Vice Chairman

5/2/2023
Date

HB 13 Pay Plan - MUS Biennial Increase, \$32M

(biennial total over base) as of 5/9/23



HB 5 LRBP - Biennial Increase, \$442M

(does not include New Space O&M) as of 5/9/23

Cash = \$193M
Auth = \$249M

