

ITEM 122-115-R0104: Budget Attachment

Annual Cost of Montana University System Writing Assessment

Activity	OCHE	K-12 Schools	SAF
Printing Tests, Mailing, Scanning Forms, Reporting Scores	\$10,500.00	\$ 830.00	
Steering Committee Meetings and Staff Travel to Meetings	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	
Training and Scoring	\$ 4,200.00	\$36,135.00	
Webwriters	0	0	\$11,000.00
Administration (.66 Director; .33 Assistant, Salary plus Benefits)	\$69,522.00	0	
Totals:	\$87,622.00	\$38,165.00	

Possible Additional Funding Sources or Cost Sharing

1. Title II Improving Teacher Quality Grants can be used for professional development, training teachers to score, and evaluation of data if college credit can be offered and partnerships formed consisting of the schools of education, colleges of arts and sciences, and school districts.
2. Schools may voluntarily join a Montana Writing Assessment Consortium, funded through member fees of \$5 to \$8 per test. Some oversight by a Writing Assessment Advisory Committee, OCHE, OPI, and the Board of Education would be required to guarantee that consistency, fairness, reliability, and validity were maintained.
3. After analyzing feedback from an OPI district survey, the CSPAC Assessment Advisory Group (a subcommittee of the Board of Public Education) may recommend that OPI pursue funding from the Montana Legislature in 2006 to modify the Montana Writing Assessment to become part of the K-12 Montana Comprehensive Assessment System, perhaps adding additional grade levels at later dates.
4. OCHE submitted a pre-proposal to the Fund for Improvement for Secondary Education (FIPSE), requesting \$487,339 over a three-year period to fund a writing assessment with professional development, mentoring, programs for pre-service teachers, and online tutoring. This project would expand on the basic work above and does require that the state provide matching, including in-kind contributions.
5. Other grant funding sources will be pursued as available.
6. Since October of 2000, Writing and Mathematics Proficiency Initiatives have been funded from indirect costs generated by GEAR UP, a grant slated to conclude in July 2005.