

1/23/23 Advanced Opportunity Grant Re-appropriation Testimony

Thank you for allowing me to present some of the programs we are instituting in the Red Lodge School District.

We have made College, Career, and Life Readiness a top priority in our district.

- We recently passed a bond to build a state of the art Career Technical Education Center that resembles a small community college.
- The building includes automotive, metal fabrication and trades, welding, construction trades, business, robotics, media arts and two classrooms for STEM education.
- We also renovated one of our existing buildings into a agricultural education classroom and lab that includes a greenhouse, chicken coop and raised gardens

We have developed pathways for every CTE Field including:

- Welding & Fabrication
- Automotive
- Carpentry & Construction
- Media Arts
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Information Technology
- Animal Sciences & Veterinary
- Horticulture
- Textile Arts
- Culinary Arts
 - We also offer a CTE Honors program for those students who complete a CTE Pathway and actively participate in the pathway's student organization.

RLHS offers the following AP/Dual Credit offerings:

- 5 AP Classes - Biology, Calculus, Language, Literature, and Government
- 12 Face to Face Dual Credit Opportunities
 - Offered concurrently with existing programs at RLHS
 - Partnering with MSU-Billings and MT Tech
- 14 Online Dual Credit Opportunities
 - Partnering with MSU-Billings, GF MSU College of Tech, MT Tech, and Miles Community College
- 15 Internships in the community completing various trades of individual student interest
- We have also implemented a 7-8th Grade Career Exploration class

We have invited students from other Carbon County schools. to take part in some of the programs that are offered in their own districts.

- Transportation and Scheduling is our/their obstacles

We host an annual Career Technical Education Fair consisting of 38 local and regional organizations.

- Students in grades 8-12 attend from Red Lodge and surrounding communities

Another major initiative for the district is Adult Education Certificate Programming, which is slated to begin in the Fall of 2023:

- Job Site Ready Curriculum
- Certified Nursing Assistant Curriculum

Much of what I have discussed would not be possible without the Advanced Opportunities Grant

With that being said, in our first year of utilizing Advanced Opportunities Funding we paid for:

- EMT Course Fees
- 27 College Credits
- Costs associated with Career Technical Education Fair - 38 vendors, CC Schools
- Provide student supplies and materials for full participation in CTE courses
- 1 Certificate of Achievement w/the National Restaurant Association
- School Sponsored College Visits
- Our Students are currently visiting CAT and Bobcat in Billings today

We do anticipate continued and further utilization of these funds as they directly benefit our students, by allowing them to participate or complete courses/programs in areas of their interest. Reducing the financial burden on families is paramount to successful implementation.

This funding allows us to be creative, and this creativity provides opportunities that match student interests.

We are very appreciative of the support and funding the legislature has provided our schools and we look forward to your continued support.

Thank You

John Fitzgerald
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