



Montana University System – Office of Public Instruction Rigorous Programs of Study

Rigorous Programs of Study (RPOS) is a partnership between the US Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) and six states; Montana, Kansas, Maryland, Utah, Wisconsin and Arizona.

Four Montana high schools are working with three Montana colleges of technology to create a RPOS in the construction pathway. These schools are:



The RPOS project focuses on how successful students are in 7 metrics:

- Secondary Completion
- Technical Skill Attainment
- Earned postsecondary credit in high school
- Enrollment in postsecondary
- Enrollment in same postsecondary field as secondary
- Need for postsecondary developmental courses
- Attainment of postsecondary credential

In preparation for the reauthorization of Perkins V, the primary program supporting career and technical education in the United States, OVAE is exploring new ways to help secondary school students prepare themselves to be better prepared for college and career. Furthermore, OVAE is collecting data from the six state partners designed to show that students who complete a rigorous program of study are better prepared for college than students in a traditional CTE pathway.

The Montana program is focused on:

- Helping students plan for high school and college in middle school
- Using the Montana Career Information System (MCIS) to enable students to work with their parents, teachers and counselors in creating a six-year education plan
- Montana is focusing on improving college readiness in two areas; math proficiency and reading/writing proficiency
- The focus on math and reading/writing is designed to reduce the 50 – 60 percent remediation rate in Montana’s two-year colleges
- Give secondary students the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school

The Montana partners are improving math proficiency by implementing these strategies:

- Integrating math into career and technical education courses by implementing the National Research Center for CTE’s “Math-in-CTE” program. This program brings math teachers and construction teachers together to refocus instruction on embedded math principles.
- Applying math concepts directly to CTE skills by blocking a geometry class and a construction class for sophomores using the Geometry in Construction program.
- Giving CTE students the opportunity to improve their math knowledge by taking the college level M111 Technical Math class in high school

Rigorous Programs of Study are based on integrating the OVAE 10 component framework into the career and technical education program. These components are:

