

EdReady Montana Status and Impact Report

Submitted to the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
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“EdReady Montana has enjoyed tremendous success, and not just for its original intended purpose of assisting postsecondary students with remedial math...

Students of all ages are also using it to help master concepts they are struggling with while middle and high school teachers are supplementing their classroom instruction with EdReady...

The rate at which Montana students and teachers are utilizing EdReady is a testament to the need for such a program, the quality of the product, and the great implementation team at the Montana Digital Academy,”

Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana

Robert Currie
Executive Director
Montana Digital Academy
November 25, 2015

Contents

Overview of the Challenge	1
The Impact of EdReady on Montana (Schools and Students)	2-4
EdReady Montana's National Impact	5-6
Looking Ahead: What's Next for EdReady Montana	6

Overview of the Challenge

Overview of the initial challenge and evolution of the EdReady Montana project

"Ed Ready has already begun to change the math landscape in Montana. Students, their teachers and their parents are all seeing the positive transformation in math readiness."

Angela McLean,
Lieutenant Governor
of Montana

When the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) presented the initial plan to the University of Montana President and leadership team at the University of Montana and the Washington Foundation Board Chairman and Executive Director in early 2014 the concept of bringing EdReady to Montana was primarily focused on the challenge of assisting incoming freshman students in improving their math placement test scores to avoid developmental math classes. With the generous support from the Foundation and under the direction of the MTDA EdReady Montana team, the EdReady Montana project plan was to field test and implement the tool across a broad swath of the educational spectrum in Montana. Over the past 20 months this has occurred at a rapid pace and the enrollment has exceeded all expectations reaching nearly 25,000 at this time with a projection of 28-30,000 by the end of the calendar year. Along with this surge in enrollment has come an ever increasing variety of unique uses by students and adult learners in Montana. While EdReady Montana is still focused on the initial challenge of assisting students in avoiding developmental math course placement the ways in which educators across the state have answered the simple question, **"What do you want your students to be ready for?"** have shown how uniquely customizable the tool really is. This ability to adapt EdReady to meet the needs identified by schools has led to the significant growth in enrollment and usage in middle and high schools. These uses include;

- Preparation for high school courses - pre-algebra, algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2
- Intervention during the school day - labs
- Support of instruction – individualization
- Summer remediation – “boot camps”
- Transfer student math skill assessment
- ACT math prep
- College math readiness

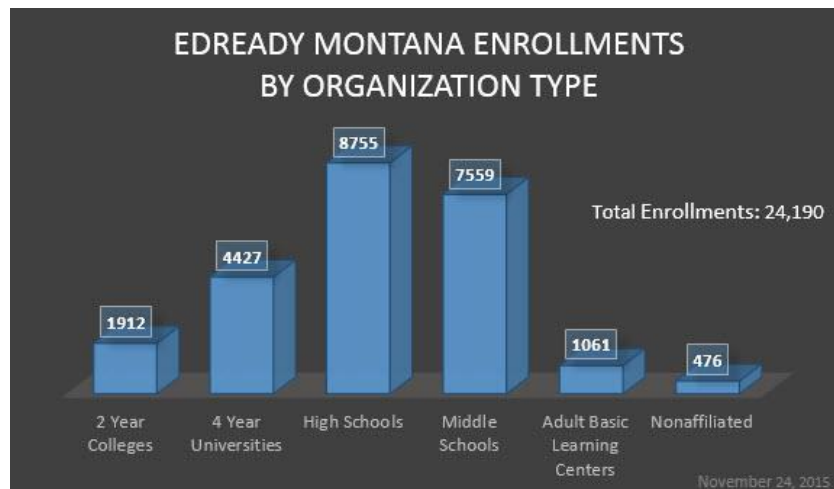
This growth in usage illustrates the significant need for a tool of this type for all math learners. Further, use by middle and high school students is significantly connected to meeting the initial college readiness challenge as well. It stands to reason that as middle and high school students continue to use EdReady to strengthen their math academic skills they will be less likely to be in need of remediation when they enter college. In effect this is an upstream use for EdReady.

The Impact of EdReady on Montana (Schools and Students)

As has been noted one of the most remarkable aspects about EdReady is its ability to be adapted to a wide variety of use cases by students and educators. The chart below illustrates the most current enrollment information based on organization type. The examples of student use in these organizations illustrate the wide range of use across the various institutions and organizations served by EdReady Montana.

“The use of EdReady has grown exponentially in the last year, which tells me students and teachers are using all of the tools available to ensure success in life after K-12. More Montana students are graduating from high school than ever before and EdReady is one more way we can work toward making sure all students are ready for college and careers.”

Denise Juneau,
Superintendent of
Public Instruction



Middle School

Belgrade Middle School:

Summary - Teachers are using the program to supplement their middle school instruction. They are seeing excitement and motivation to participate in EdReady by their students. The ability to help students individually to better understand math has been the largest benefit of the program.

Billings Public Schools Gifted and Talented Extended Study:

Summary – Teachers in the program are using EdReady MT this fall with accelerated middle school (7th and 8th) students who, due to schedule conflicts, could not travel to the high school to pursue advanced math classes. The facilitator is using EdReady to challenge students with new topics as they finish the initial middle school math goals. Some students have already moved from 7th grade math to algebra and geometry readiness.

High School

Corvallis High School

Summary - The program involves 20 students and 2 teachers using the first 2 periods of the day where struggling math students will complete the EdReady goals of pre-algebra by winter and algebra by spring to get "back on track" for geometry for next school year.

Helena Public Schools

Summary - As a part of a district-wide effort to enroll all middle and high school students, Capital High in Helena has led the way with a teacher-led effort to supplement all high school math classes with EdReady. The use of teacher planning time to integrate EdReady was piloted in 2014 and spread to almost every math class in the fall of 2015 as well as ACT preparation for college-bound students. The implementation in Helena is bolstered by a district-wide team who have helped communicate and coordinate with MTDA to make the program a success.

"EdReady Montana is a transformative approach to helping students succeed in college with lower costs and less burden of developmental education.

The Montana University System is a national leader in developing math pathways and delivering gateways to success in college mathematics.

EdReady Montana is an integral strategy for increasing our state's educational attainment level at affordable costs for students and families.

Montana is eager to help America regain our global strength and success in postsecondary education."

Clayton Christian,
Commissioner of
Higher Education,
Montana University
System.

Two Year College

Highlands College of Montana Tech

Summary- By using EdReady the College has helped to address the high numbers of enrolling students needing developmental math classes before entering their college program. In the past 2 years, over 1000 EdReady enrollments have been used to supplement instruction, allowing students to take more than one class in a semester, saving them money on tuition and fees and accelerating their time to degree.

Gallatin College

Summary: The College has used the program primarily to support efforts at Gallatin College and MSU-Bozeman to help students achieve a higher score on the MPLEX entrance exam. In the past two summers, over 500 enrollments have been utilized to help students succeed.

Four Year College

University of Montana

Summary: Every 100-level math student has access to EdReady. It is also used to help students improve their placement scores and reduce their time to the entry level math class for their program. UM is partnering with MTDA and the Office for Student Success to pilot the EdReady Scholar Mentorship program to help students who are at risk of failing their M115 Probability and Linear Math class.

University of Montana-Western

Summary: Over 400 student enrollments, this and last school year, have been used by students in conjunction with their M090 Basic Algebra and M095 Intermediate Algebra classes in Western's unique 6 week block format.

Workforce / Adult Learning

Lifelong Learning Center Missoula Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE)

Summary: The Missoula-based program, due to their vision, leadership and cooperation, helped EdReady Montana create most of the math goals used by the ABLE students at the other adult centers throughout the state.

HealthCARE Montana

Summary: This federally funded program is designed to provide training to students pursuing healthcare related fields. EdReady Montana is working with the HealthCARE Montana and the 15 college campuses to provide customized math skills assessment and curriculum to help prepare these students for their major.

Impact of EdReady on Students – (Educational and Financial)

The Department of Educational Leadership (EDLD) at the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences is in the process of conducting both quantitative and qualitative research on EdReady usage and will be compiling a report in the next few months. Here are a few examples of the comments made to the researchers during interviews with students and educators;

- “I think it is safe to say that I don’t really enjoy math, but I do like EdReady a lot.”
College student
- “I align things much more closely with EdReady and I am requiring students to turn in screenshots that show they have completed their practice and review problems.”
College mathematics instructor
- “Students inevitably have gaps in their knowledge or perhaps they haven’t used it for a while. EdReady is wonderful at filling in those gaps—let’s just fill in this one piece and then you can move forward.”
College administrator

During the 2013 EdReady pilot at UM it was calculated that 43 students saved an estimated \$30,000 in tuition and fees by bypassing developmental education math courses. The EDLD research noted a very similar calculation at Highlands College in Butte. According to the study,

“EdReady was also used by 26 students to skip from Math 090 (Introduction to Algebra) directly into Math 115 without taking Math 095 (Intermediate Algebra). These 26 students saved a total of 78 credit hours. Tuition and fees for each 3 credit course are approximately \$758 meaning the total savings was \$19,708. Those students had an average GPA of 2.4 compared to 1.92 for the students who ascended from Math 095.”

These examples are beginning to illustrate the value of EdReady in real tuition savings to students and families. Further it has potential to significantly impact the college math readiness for incoming freshman students. By doing so students who, prior to using EdReady, would have been headed to a developmental course will now bypass it and enroll directly in college math courses saving significant time and money. While data is still being collected and studied the MTDA EdReady Montana team projects that by using EdReady the number of 2 year college students who are not college math ready can be reduced by up to 75% and their 4 year counterparts reduced by up to 85%. Again this equates to students and families saving time and money bypassing developmental classes. We believe that further research will also begin to show an increase in the tuition revenue for Montana’s 2 and 4 year colleges and universities as the time to college level math courses is shortened.

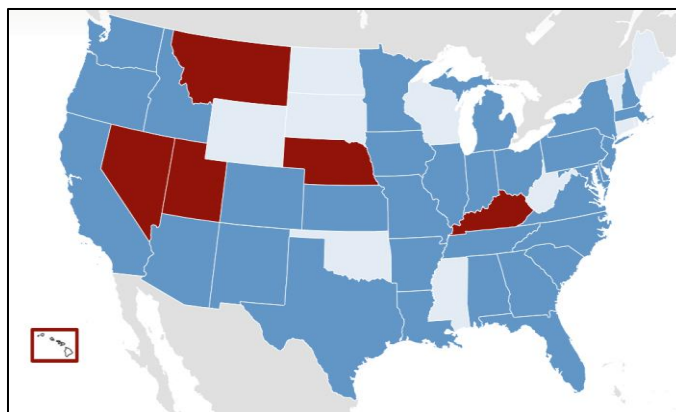
EdReady Montana’s National Impact

Montana’s place on the national scene (Contributed by Gary Lopez CEO of Monterey Institute for Technology in Education/NROC)

“EdReady Montana is a model for the nation as MTDA has built a sophisticated and efficient system for the distribution and support of the tool.”

Gary Lopez,
President and CEO
NROC

Since its release in 2014 there has been rapid adoption of EdReady by systems and states nationwide. The first state to adopt EdReady was Montana and beginning with the 2014-15 school years the tool has been rolled out to secondary and post-secondary institutions statewide. The states of Utah, Hawaii, Nevada, Kentucky, and Nebraska have also adopted EdReady for statewide use by their secondary system, post-secondary system, or adult education system however none have created the comprehensive system for scaling and implementation of EdReady across secondary schools and colleges that MTDA has. In addition to these state and system adoptions, EdReady has also been deployed by hundreds of U.S. districts and schools. In this map the states colored **BLUE** have schools or districts that are using EdReady, while the states colored **RED** have adopted EdReady for system-wide or statewide use.



The State of Montana is the largest user of EdReady with three times more student sessions in October 2015 than the next largest state user, the State of Colorado. Montana Digital Academy (the manager of EdReady for the state) has built a sophisticated and efficient system for the distribution

and support of the tool. *EdReady Montana* (<http://edreadymontana.org>) is a model for the nation and has attracted frequent inquiries from other state education leaders interested in duplicating the Montana system in their home states.

Looking Ahead: What's Next for EdReady Montana

Proposed: EdReady Montana National Training Center –

In 2014 when the Washington Foundation began providing funding for EdReady Montana it was the goal that Montana become the first in the nation to implement EdReady on a state-wide basis. This has occurred and as reported previously in this document we remain by far the largest implementation of EdReady in the U.S. This “first in the nation” status has led to numerous requests for us to provide information about EdReady Montana to a variety of organizations from other states. These organizations include colleges and universities, state departments of education and regional and individual school districts. Based on the status that EdReady Montana has achieved and the volume and types of these requests as well as the comprehensive implementation of the EdReady tool we feel it is time to begin the conversation regarding consider the next steps. First and foremost the students and adult learners of Montana remain our main focus and priority. We will continue to work with all of the educational entities in the state to help meet the needs of their students. Further the working partnership that MTDA has with NROC will allow us to participate in the development and improvement of evolving versions of the EdReady tool at a very high level. We are about to embark upon the third year of the project and we feel it is time to begin the conversation regarding the future funding of EdReady Montana as well as the possibility of further developing Montana’s position as a national leader. Building upon the experience gained in the EdReady Montana project and the unique one of a kind partnership between MTDA, PJWCEHS and NROC, Dean Bobbie Evans, Gary Lopez and I believe we are in an excellent position to propose the development and implementation of the **National EdReady Research and Training Laboratory to be located at PJWCOE&HS at UM.**

The Lab would become **the** national training center for teams of educators and state leaders from around the nation to gain an understanding of how to effectively and efficiently implement EdReady in the states or regions they represent. Further it would serve as the research hub for the collection and dissemination of data and information related to the implementation of EdReady on a national scale. We believe this would take Montana’s status of national leader to the next level and are very interested in discussing this unique possibility with the leadership of Washington Foundation.