

Montana Rural Teacher Project

is a competitive teacher residency program linked to Montana State University's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT). The MAT is a 12-15 month full-time graduate degree that prepares individuals for employment in Montana's K-12 rural schools. The Montana Rural Teacher Project is a federally-funded program designed to support rural teacher candidates as they complete the MAT degree and transition into classrooms.



Project support extends from teacher preparation into the first two years of teaching and includes the following:

- Placement in a rural school during the MAT program, with structured activities designed to meet practicum and student teaching requirements.
- Financial support through living-wage stipend during MAT program.
- New teacher mentoring and support during the first two years of teaching.
- Ongoing opportunities for online and face-to-face professional learning provided by a wide variety of statewide organizations.
- Professional Development for school leaders (principals and superintendents, school board members) about best practices in recruiting and retaining high-quality rural teachers.

The goal of the Montana Rural Teacher Project is to strengthen rural education in Montana by placing qualified and motivated teachers in rural K-12 classrooms. Ideally, we seek to “grow” teachers locally by recruiting candidates from within rural communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
MONTANA.EDU/EDUCATION/GRAD/MAT

For Questions and Additional Information:

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Requirements of the Program

Successful applicants for the Montana Rural Teacher Project must meet selection criteria, actively engage in the MAT curriculum, and commit to teaching in a rural school setting for at least three years.

Teaching Residency Requirements:

- Complete the Master of Arts in Teaching program in the designated timeline
- Successfully complete the required Teaching Residency in one of the designated high-need LEA's as determined by the MAT program
- Upon successful completion of the MAT program and Institutional Recommendation for Montana Educator licensure, apply for Class 2 Teaching License.

Service Obligation:

- Apply for and obtain a teaching position in a designated high-need school (does not have to be the same school in which the Teaching Residency was completed).
- Maintain employment as a teacher for a minimum of three academic years in the designated high-need school.
- Participate in the Montana Rural Teacher Project mentoring program.