

MSU Bozeman EDU 101 HiLine Dual Enrollment
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The challenges of meeting the teacher workforce needs are real. In a recent survey of superintendents in Northeastern Montana, they indicated projected openings in a host of grade levels and subject areas. So acute are these workforce challenges that the Office of the Commission of Higher Education has convened a Rural Education Task Force to identify potential opportunities and solutions for increasing the pool of teachers to educate in our state's most rural districts. We think meeting rural Montana teacher needs may be done best close to home. Some may call this the "grow your own teacher" movement. With that in mind, we propose adding a dual enrollment course, for both high school and college credit, to the high school curriculum, EDU 101 Teaching and Learning. EDU 101 is designed to develop a critical understanding of public education and the role of the classroom teachers in today's public schools. Students discuss what it means to know, to learn, and to teach. Most importantly, students are introduced to the classroom as a place of work, of community, of inclusion, and of infinite promise. In addition to learning about the noble profession of teaching, students learn about college, its structure, culture, and expectations through the coursework and course leadership opportunities for both instructors and students.

This course is already offered in a dual enrollment format in Bozeman High School and Park High School. A Graduate Teaching Assistant from MSU-Bozeman has taught these courses. To date, no high school teachers or school leaders are qualified to teach EDU 101 in a dual enrollment format in Montana's high schools. If we are to address Montana's teaching needs, it seems logical to bring EDU 101 dual enrollment to schools along the Hi-Line and in Northeastern Montana.

Since 2012, the number of students accessing dual enrollment courses in Montana has doubled, providing opportunities to earn college credit during high school at half the cost of college tuition. However, dual enrollment courses are not always abundant in rural schools and are often limited to those that are taught online through the Digital Academy. MSU-Bozeman Department of Education is applying for a Title II grant from the Office of the Commission for Higher Education to address this challenge by providing the EDU 101 Teaching and Learning course in a face-to-face format during a regular school day with a local teacher as instructor.

Two distinct needs are addressed by our proposal: 1) Teacher recruitment and retention. 2) Access to face-to-face dual enrollment courses, an advantage many larger school districts have over rural schools.