



EdReady Montana Impact Report 2016

Presented June 16, 2016 to
the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation



Made possible
by:

**DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION**



**THE
NROC
PROJECT**



Conceived to prepare students for college, EdReady has soared past all expectations. Now, it's poised to explode on the national scene.

Why? Because it works.

Join us to expand this groundbreaking program. Together, we can eliminate remedial math education for thousands more students.

"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

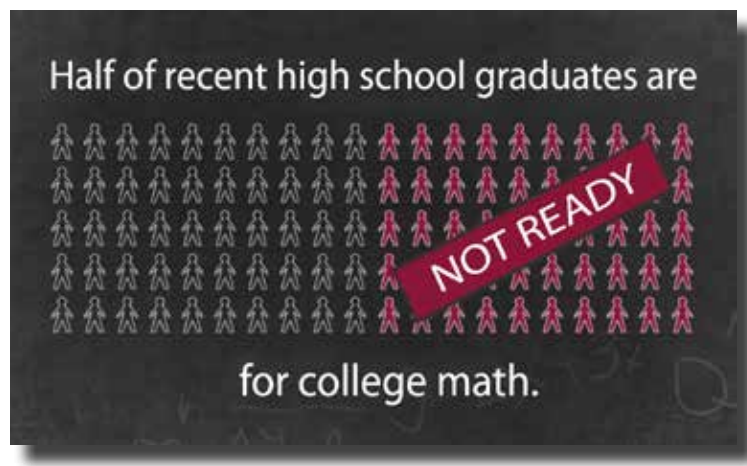
Table of Contents

Program Overview	4
The Problem EdReady Montana Works to Fix	6
Re-thinking Developmental Tracks with EdReady	8
EdReady's Best Assets	10
Broadening Usage Scope	12
Exponential Growth	14
EdReady Results	15
Nationwide Demand	16
Testimonials	18
Students	18
Teachers & Administrators	19



Program Overview

EdReady Montana is a free, individualized math curriculum that assesses students' math skills and then provides a personalized learning path to meet their educational goals. EdReady has effectively eliminated math as a roadblock and source of fear for students of all ages.

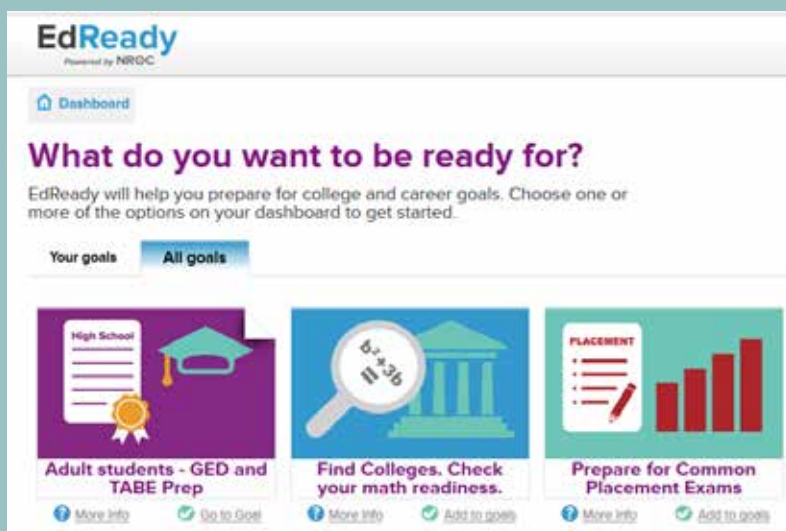


Montana was chosen as one of five states to beta test the EdReady program, and, thanks to leadership from the Montana Digital Academy, it was piloted with students at the University of Montana, Corvallis High School, Missoula Sentinel High School and Lolo Middle School in 2013 (seed funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation enabled the NROC Project, a national not-for-profit organization, to create EdReady as a tool for college math readiness).





The results of the pilot were outstanding – and inspired a generous \$2.4 million gift from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to launch a field test and roll out the program statewide, making it available for all middle school, high school, post-secondary and adult basic education students in Montana.



Now, with the dedicated leadership of the Montana Digital Academy, EdReady is available in over 290 schools statewide and expanding nationally.



“We are seeing more and more students who arrive at our doorstep who don’t necessarily have all the tools that they need to succeed. That’s why we were seeing lower pass rates in our developmental classes.”

Juli Rognlie
Math Faculty, Gallatin College
Montana State University

The Problem EdReady Works to Fix

55% At two-year campuses, 55 percent of freshmen are enrolled in remedial math; at four-year campuses, 25 percent are enrolled in remedial math.

71% According to Complete College America (CCA) research, 71 percent of students in the Montana University System do not make it through gateway level college math classes within two years, which becomes a major deterrent to continuing their education.

45% Also according to CCA, over the past five years, of the 16,000+ students enrolled in college algebra in the Montana University System, 45 percent failed and 60 percent considered algebra a terminal math course.

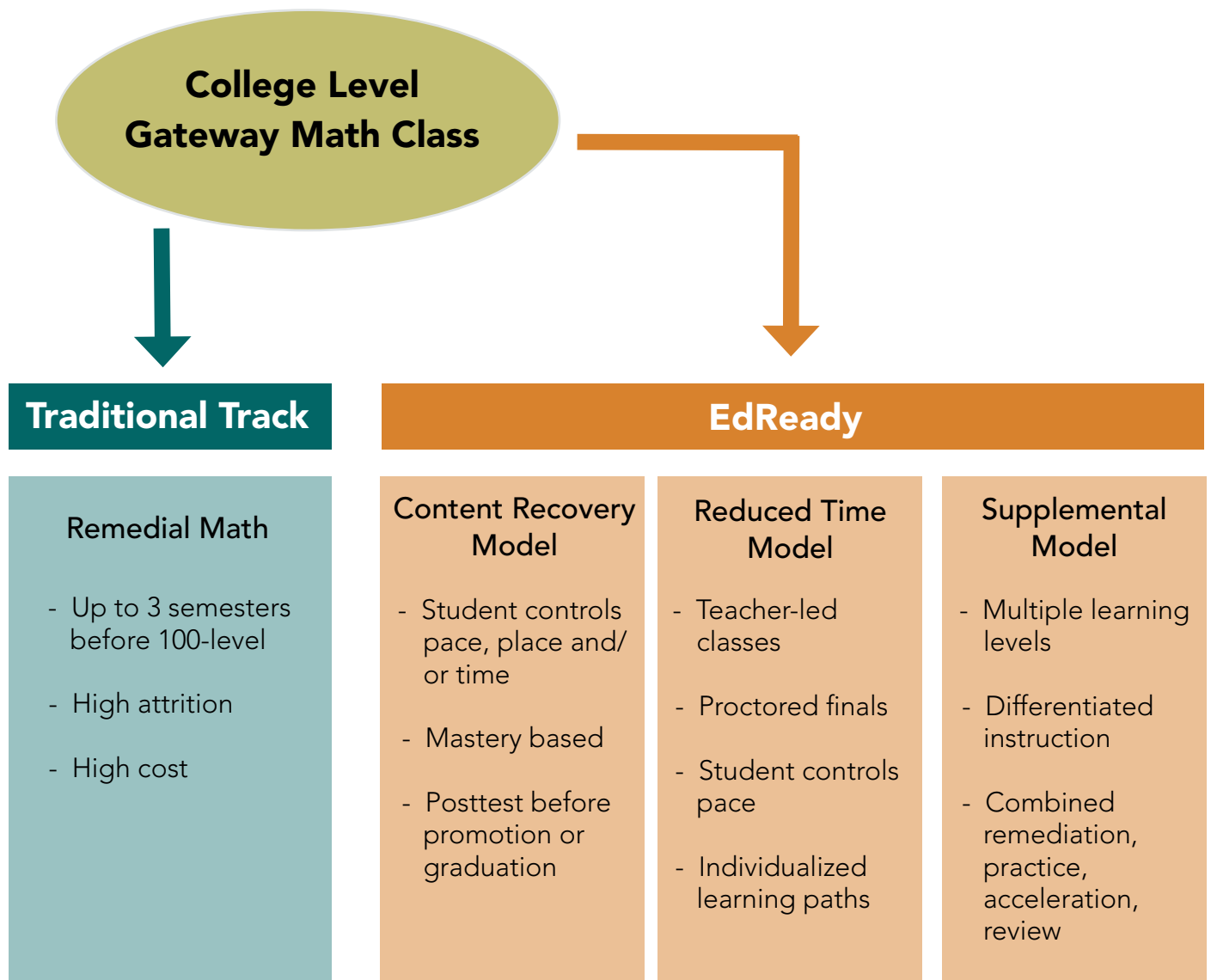
33% Such students are 33 percent less likely to obtain a college degree.

10% Less than 10 percent graduate in fewer than six years.

Re-Thinking Developmental Tracks with EdReady Montana

The "Algebra Problem"

The goal of developmental education at the secondary and post-secondary level is to overcome the "algebra problem," where a large number of students never master this fundamental math skill set. The traditional track through developmental education is not working well for many students.



Effective Ways to Use EdReady

Content Recovery Model

Through this model, students use EdReady in programs outside of the traditional classroom to learn pre-algebra and basic algebra content so they can start taking college-level math. The pilot at the University of Montana was the first such program, but others have emulated it successfully. Students usually sit for a placement exam after completing the program and have performed as well or better than peers who go through traditional tracks.

Reduced Time Model

At both the college and high school level, teachers and math programs integrate EdReady into pre-algebra and algebra curriculum and allow students the opportunity to finish at their own pace to reduce learning time and individualize learning pathways. This model gives students more control over their learning pace, but still requires them to pass tests before advancing.

Supplemental Model

Teachers integrate EdReady into their classes to help differentiate instruction across multiple levels of learning within one class. This model allows for remediation, practice, acceleration and review, usually with the help of one teacher.



Early results from pilot cases show that EdReady provides an innovative solution to costly, time-consuming and ineffective remedial and developmental math tracks.

EdReady's Best Assets

With training from EdReady Montana staff, educators successfully use EdReady as a comprehensive learning tool that enables students to achieve mathematical success. An evaluation conducted by the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of Montana's Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences revealed that administrators, teachers, parents and students are using EdReady as a complete educational experience:

Assessment

EdReady assesses students' mathematical knowledge, identifies strengths and weaknesses, and uses the information to build upon current skills. Administrators would like to see EdReady used as an assessment tool *and* placement test, as it would be helpful for students to have assessment, placement and skill building in one system.



“To me, EdReady is first an assessment. It assesses the abilities of students individually...Math is one of the biggest departments where there are gaps for our students...There is a lot of poverty here. We are a GEAR UP school. If [our students] complete Algebra 2, and then qualify in other areas, they can receive a \$22,000 college grant, so it's very important for our kids to go as far as they can.”

- Rob Hankins, Principal, Hardin High School

Course Supplementation

Instructors use EdReady as a supplement to class lectures, or in homework, demonstrating its ability to reinforce class content. Some have instructed students to take screen shots of completed units as part of course requirements. Others allow students who have missed classes to access lesson material through EdReady and catch up using the program.



One student shared, “If I didn't understand what was taught in class, I could just go back and read more about it [later with EdReady].”

Skill Building

Through its tailored, individualized tutorials, students use EdReady as a skill builder and refresher when preparing for additional attempts on placement tests, improving their placement scores or preparing for math courses or tests.

One administrator shared, “Students inevitably have gaps in their knowledge...EdReady is wonderful at filling in those gaps - let’s just fill in this one piece and then you can move forward.”



Standardized Curriculum

Over time, some instructors have transitioned to using EdReady as a tool to standardize their math curriculums. Instructors report altering their course organization and teaching style to more closely align with EdReady. They follow the list of math topics covered in EdReady and work the program into the developmental math curriculum.

One instructor concluded, “EdReady is pretty versatile; you can use it any way you want to.”



Personalization

EdReady allows teachers to better gauge their students’ abilities. EdReady’s interface includes a dashboard where teachers can view how students are progressing in different areas, both individually and as a group. This helps teachers identify when additional work and instruction is needed on a particular concept and when one-on-one support is appropriate or necessary. This is especially helpful with large classes, where it is challenging for teachers to follow students’ individual progress.

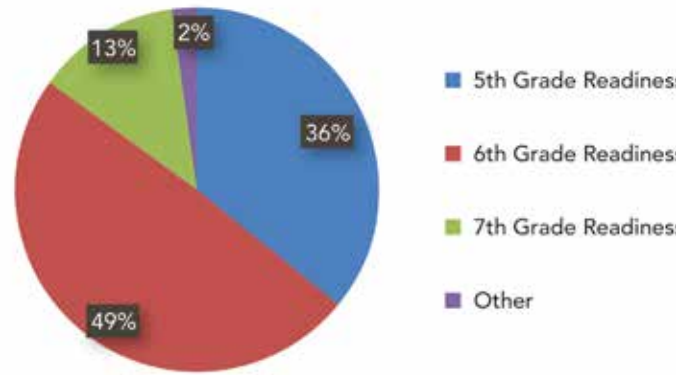
As an EdReady team member shared, “The biggest benefit is the personalization, which allows teachers to be better teachers.”



Broadening Usage Scope *

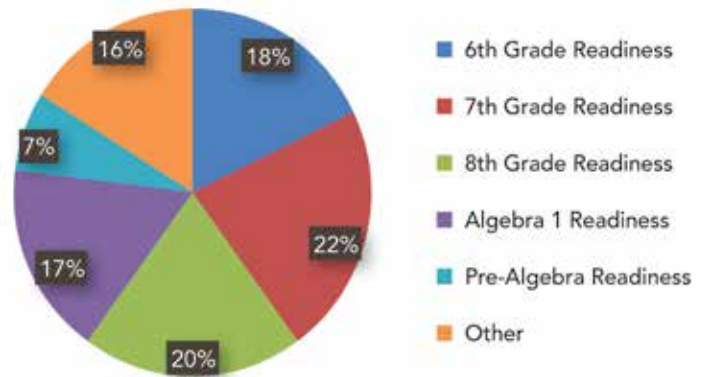
Elementary School Usage

EdReady helps elementary school students transition to middle school. Goals help teachers know where students need assistance before moving on to the next grade.



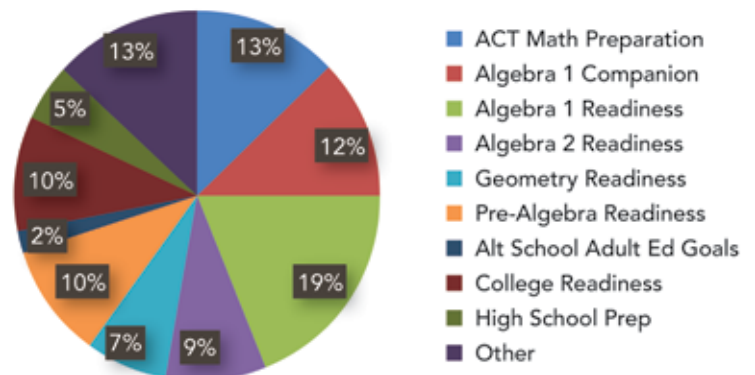
Middle School Usage

Middle school teachers are faced with preparing students at varying grade levels and capabilities. This usage chart shows how middle school teachers are using EdReady across grades to prepare students for high school coursework.



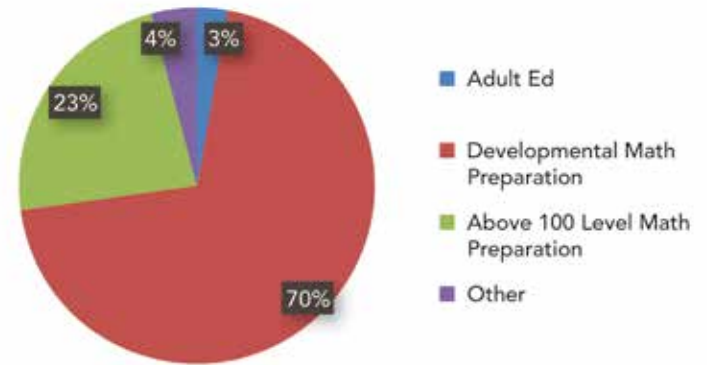
High School Usage

High schools in Montana are using EdReady to prepare students for algebra well in advance of heading to college – in fact, 53 percent use the curriculum for this purpose.



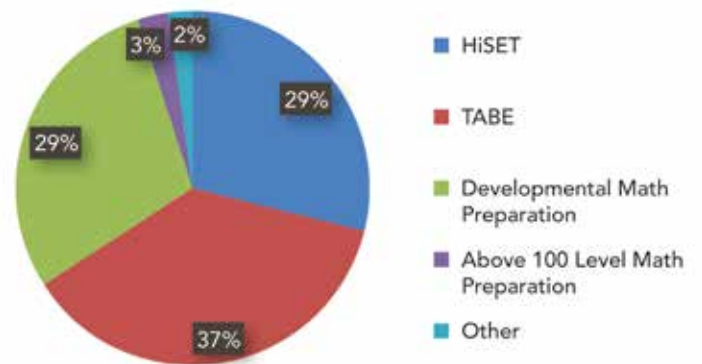
Higher Education Usage

Colleges and universities continue to use EdReady predominantly to transition students to college-level math (usually learning pre-algebra and algebra skills). A potential growth area for EdReady Montana is encouraging faculty to integrate the program into their curriculum to supplement teacher instruction and class activity.



Adult Basic Education Usage

EdReady usage within adult basic education in Montana is focused equally on three main areas: the Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE), HiSET (the new GED test) and college-level math preparation. Educators and administrators have praised EdReady Montana for enabling them to expand and improve their impact in college preparation.

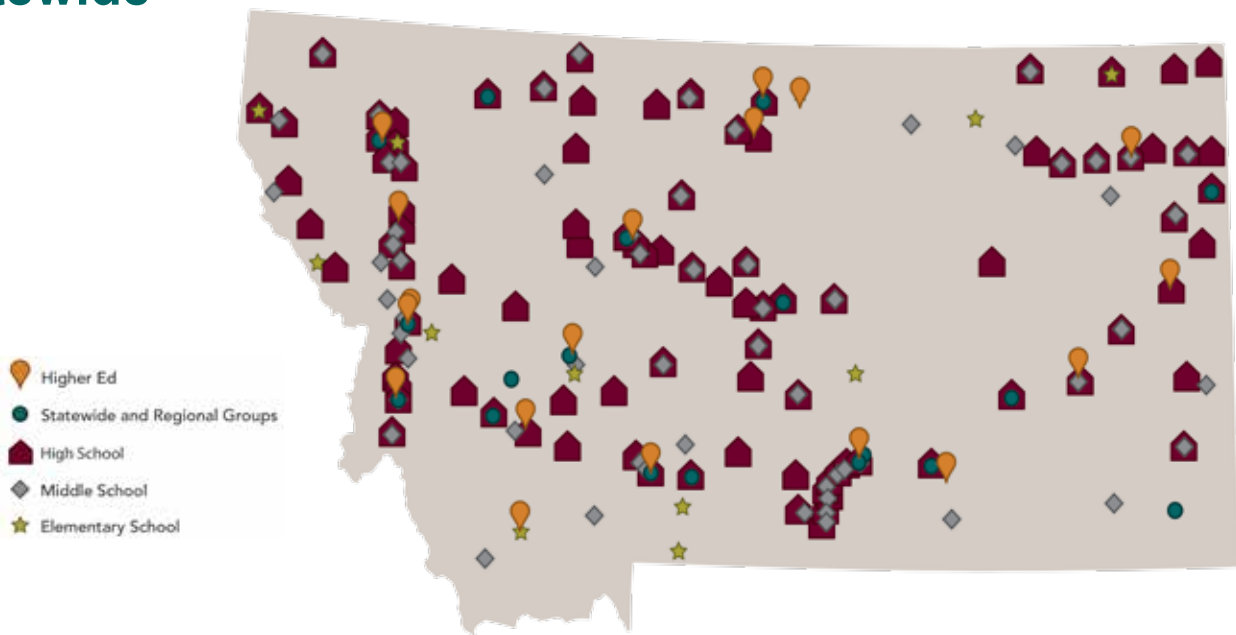


* These pie charts show the percentage of students who have logged in and used EdReady for the specific goals listed in each chart.

EdReady Montana's Exponential Growth

Over
290
schools
statewide

Our collaborative approach has resulted in a systemic endorsement of EdReady, active engagement with teachers and administrators, and enrollment statewide. We are now in over 290 different Montana schools. Increasingly, EdReady is being integrated into math courses at all levels (from upper elementary through adult basic education) as a supplemental learning tool, going beyond the original scope to enhance math education in countless creative ways.



“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

“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,
State of Montana

EdReady Results

The initial three-year investment from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation has made the following possible:

EdReady is beginning to show results in improving high school students' scores on state exams. For example, during the pilot, students using EdReady at Corvallis High School

improved MAPS scores by 7 to 7.5 points.

The University of Montana pilot in the fall of 2014 found:

Forty-three incoming freshmen, slated for remedial math classes, enrolled in EdReady. After an average 12-15 hours using the program, 86 percent raised their math placement scores and were able to test out of at least one developmental course and/or immediately start on college-level coursework that fall.



Students who used EdReady before their college math classes, versus those who did not, earned a quarter to three quarters of a point higher average G.P.A. during their first semester.



A smaller case study found that EdReady can save students money. Twenty-six students who used EdReady saved nearly \$20,000 each in college course fees by avoiding remedial/developmental classes.



There is growing interest in EdReady throughout the nation

from Colorado, Alabama, Tennessee, New Mexico, North Dakota, Iowa, South Carolina, New Jersey, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin and many others.

As our work continues, we will have more quantitative results to share!

Montana has played a leading role in the national scaling effort over the past 28 months:



Bob Currie and Ryan Schrenk of Montana Digital Academy led EdReady implementation sessions at the National NROC Member Conference in March of 2015 and 2016. The leadership in the EdReady effort and effective use of NROC resources by the Montana Digital Academy Team and EdReady Montana Program led to the award for “NROC Contributing Member of the Year” in 2016.

Bob and Ryan are also helped the NROC team design and deliver a regional training session in Denver, CO in June 2016. This session is the first effort by NROC to create a model for teaching others to scale EdReady adoption using the lessons learned by Montana.



Student Testimonials



“At the beginning of the year, I wasn’t too happy with math. Since I started EdReady, it’s become a little easier. I just like the way that the program is set up. If you don’t get something right, it explains it to you and shows you how to do it.”

Alisyn McDonnell

Belgrade Middle School student



“Working with EdReady was not something I was very excited about when I first started. I thought it was another standardized test that the state gives, and it wasn’t going to be helpful. But, it proved to be one of the more helpful things we did this year.”

Trey Smollack

Anaconda High School student



“I was intrigued because I learned that EdReady could help me prepare to re-take the math placement test and possibly skip some classes and save money. I then completed the EdReady program, and it resulted in me skipping two math classes and being on track for my major. And it saved me and my parents a lot of money.”

Danielle Sewell

University of Missoula college student



“When I was first introduced to EdReady, I had been working on a lot of math packets and books, and the math just wasn’t clicking. It wasn’t making any sense. I was getting frustrated. I didn’t want to come back. It was just a nightmare for me. When [my teachers] introduced me to EdReady, it just broke down the components in a simpler form, in a way that I could understand. I can get through math a lot easier now.”

Anna Fruechte

Adult learner at Missoula Lifelong Learning Center

Teacher & Administrator Testimonials

“What I find with a lot of my students is that with traditional paper and pencil, it’s hard to get the work done. But, with the online learning system, it gives them something they are used to, with this new generation using technology as much as they do.”

Emily Hessler

Sixth Grade Math Teacher, Belgrade Middle School



“When this program came along, it really was perfect. It allowed me to individualize with every single student, and so I worked with the EdReady people to make tests specific to my class and what I wanted out of it. We got the students on it, and they began to work on exactly what they needed to work on.”

Stefan Schreibeis

Assistant Principal, Dawson County High School



“It is really easy to get frustrated with math...With EdReady, once you are done with that initial assessment, you can access the work examples, presentations, practice problems, and you can move back and forth. It allows people to find their own way to study.”

Mike MacCarthy

Math Instructor, Missoula Lifelong Learning Center



“As a student, math was not my strong suit. I got good grades because I worked hard; I went to class; and I studied and paid attention, but math didn’t come naturally to me. If I would have had a program like [EdReady], I think I would have had other career choices because I would have felt stronger in math.”

Kim Stanton

EdReady Montana Ambassador and
Prairie View Curriculum Consortium, Miles City



We are deeply appreciative of our partnership with the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. This funding has enabled innovation and flexibility that would not have been possible with public funding alone. Thanks to your support, we are a shining example of how to administer and implement this program at the system and state level. We look forward to continuing our important work in Montana and beyond.

For further information contact:

Robert Currie, Executive Director, Montana Digital Academy
robert.currie@montanadigitalacademy.org

Ryan Schrenk, EdReady Montana Program Manager
ryan.schrenk@montanadigitalacademy.org

