

**Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Mike Vinton - (H) Appropriations**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Laura Sankey Keip,

HB0361.002.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 361

INTRODUCED BY C. KEOGH, J. REAVIS, J. ISALY, M. LEE, T. CROWE, J. SECKINGER, B. CLOSE, S.  
FYANT, J. WEBER, A. GRIFFITH, D. POWERS, E. MATTHEWS, T. RUNNING WOLF, F. SMITH, M. FOX, D.  
BAUM, M. CAFERRO, B. CARTER, J. COHENOUR, T. FRANCE, J. KARLEN, M. ROMANO, E. STAFMAN, K.  
SULLIVAN, M. THANE, Z. ZEPHYR, M. MARLER, D. JOY, C. FITZPATRICK, J. LYNCH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING EDUCATION LAWS RELATED TO ENGLISH  
LEARNERS; ESTABLISHING STATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVING ENGLISH  
LEARNERS; ESTABLISHING PROFESSIONAL STIPENDS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS SERVING  
ENGLISH LEARNERS; PROVIDING A DEFINITION; PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS; AND PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

WHEREAS, the Legislature has defined, in section 20-9-309, MCA, the basic system of free quality  
public elementary and secondary schools to include educational programs to provide for students with limited  
English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is required under section 20-9-309, MCA, to consider the needs of students  
with limited English proficiency in developing a mechanism to fund the basic system of free quality public  
elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, currently there is no mechanism in Montana's school funding formula that addresses the  
needs of students with limited English proficiency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Programs to serve English learners -- funding.** (1) A public school  
district or a consortium of public school districts receiving subgrants under 20 U.S.C. 6825 from the office of  
public instruction for the purposes of conducting programs serving students with limited English proficiency, as  
defined in 20-1-101 and referred to in 20-9-309, is entitled to state matching funds under this section.

(2) The office of public instruction shall distribute from money appropriated for this purpose by the

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2        NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated ~~\$5~~ \$1 million from the state  
3 general fund to the office of public instruction for both fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for the purposes described in  
4 [section 1].

5        (2)        There is appropriated ~~\$25,000~~ \$75,000 from the state general fund to the office of public  
6 instruction for both fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for the purposes described in [section 2].

7        (3)        The legislature intends that the appropriations in subsections (1) and (2) be considered part of  
8 the ongoing base for the next legislative session.

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10       NEW SECTION. Section 4. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a  
11 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

12

13       NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
14 integral part of Title 20, chapter 9, part 3, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 9, part 3, apply to [section 1].

15       (2)        [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, and the  
16 provisions of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, apply to [section 2].

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18       NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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20       NEW SECTION. Section 7. Termination. [Sections 1 and 2] terminate June 30, 2031.

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