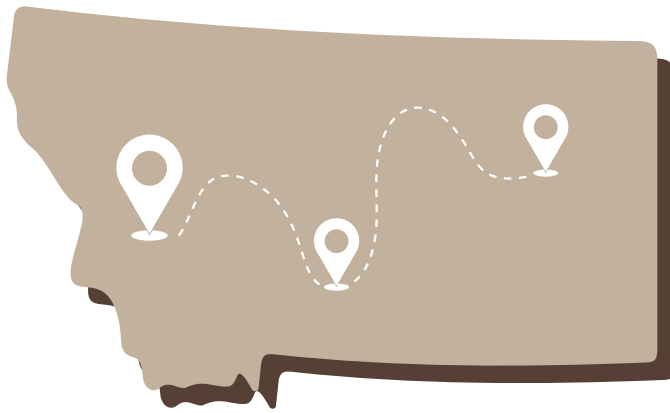
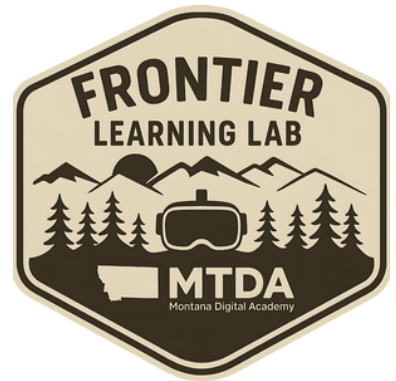


# The Frontier Learning Lab

Governor Greg Gianforte's signature on House Bill 2, the 2025 General Appropriation Act unlocked funding for the **Frontier Learning Lab (FLL)**—a bold next step for Montana Digital Academy (MTDA), building on its established leadership in virtual education to deliver a focused, statewide initiative supporting AI and XR integration in K–12 schools.

## Overview

The Frontier Learning Lab, an initiative of MTDA, is designed to equip **Montana's students, educators, and schools** with the tools, skills, and support needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving technological world. Anchored in the values of expanding access, privacy, learning science, and innovation, the Lab will serve as a **statewide hub for implementing cutting-edge educational technologies**, including *Artificial Intelligence (AI)*, *Virtual Reality (VR)*, and *Augmented Reality (AR)*.



## Projected Impact

With the critical investment by the State of Montana, the Frontier Learning Lab will build capacity across Montana's educational ecosystem, preparing students for the AI-driven workforce while supporting teachers with meaningful tools and training.

## Implementation Strategy

MTDA will lead the initiative by:

- Developing a **modern, responsive professional learning strategy** that seeks to meet educators where they are at, including active social media to support educators
- Designing and facilitating adaptive local, regional, and statewide **professional learning programs**
- **Establishing the first-in-the-nation "AI Help Desk"** for teachers, professors, or administrators
- **Collaborating with schools, vendors, policymakers, tribal leaders, private businesses, workforce development, and higher education**
- **Offering a one-stop catalog for vetted AI/VR/AR services** integrated with existing systems for access to schools across Big Sky Country
- Upholding **strong data privacy standards** aligned with Montana law and future-looking expectations of educational technology toolsets

## Benefits of the Lab

As a statewide initiative developed by Montana Digital Academy, FLL builds on a proven foundation of digital learning to deliver the clear benefits of these core goals:

- **Build AI and Immersive Learning Literacy** for educators and students, developing clear competencies that promote ethical awareness, critical thinking, and responsible use.
- **Expand Access to Vetted Tools and Learning Platforms** through a centralized system that prioritizes reduced vendor overhead and ensures usability across diverse learning environments.
- **Deliver Scalable, Stackable Professional Learning Experiences** via workshops, pop-up labs, microlearning, and train-the-trainer models—supporting enhanced teacher efficiency through AI-assisted practices.
- **Foster Local Innovation Through Co-Design and Implementation Support**, allowing schools to pilot, refine, and share practices, including using personalized AI-powered tutoring platforms and community-authored approaches.
- **Close Opportunity Gaps by Prioritizing Rural Reach and Readiness**, with a strong commitment to accessibility, support for students with special needs, and immersive CTE experiences powered by VR/AR technologies.

## Why It Matters

Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and augmented reality **transform how we live, learn, and work**. While the potential is vast, the path to thoughtful, responsible implementation—especially in education—is complex.

Many Montana schools, particularly those in rural or under-resourced communities, lack the time, tools, and staffing capacity to navigate this shift alone. **Without coordinated support, these innovations risk reinforcing inequities rather than reducing them. The Frontier Learning Lab was established to meet this challenge head-on!**



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