

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



Angela McLean
LT. GOVERNOR

August 25, 2014

Dear Montana Educator:

Since taking office, my staff and administration have been working to bring Montana's children the best educational opportunities in the country. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs are essential components of our children's education and future careers. Not only do our children need an advanced education, they also need an understanding of their state government and how it relates to their everyday lives. I know that the future of our state is in the hands and fingertips of our younger generations.

That is why I created the *Governor's Mobile App Challenge*. I asked Montana's state employees to submit mobile app ideas that help state government become more accessible to our citizens, more effective for their needs, and more transparent and accountable to all Montanans. Lieutenant Governor McLean and I selected the top six ideas, and now we are asking Montana's high school students to develop these ideas. This contest will highlight the incredibly talented and innovative students that fill our classrooms across Montana.

Montana high schools can submit one mobile app for each of the six mobile apps available for development. This means each school can only submit a total of six mobile apps. High school app development teams are limited to six or fewer people. Each of the six app ideas will have one winning team or individual.

The winners of this challenge will be rewarded with statewide recognition for their achievement, a ceremony in the capitol rotunda highlighting their winning app, and a private lunch with Lieutenant Governor McLean and me. This is an incredible opportunity for students to not only improve their college resumes, but also to be involved in something they are passionate about. Participating students will gain useful experience working with State of Montana technicians and will become civically engaged in a project that involves their community.

To sign your school up for the *Governor's Mobile App Challenge*, go to: appchallenge.mt.gov. Please review the grading rubric, official rules, deadlines, and the six State of Montana app ideas. Completely fill out the sign up form specifying which of the mobile apps your school will submit. This will help our IT department estimate how many participants we will have, however, you may sign up for additional apps until the **September 26th** deadline, if more students are recruited or gain interest.

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Over the past decade, mobile technology has increasingly become an integral part of our society. Our state is continually moving into a 21st century economy and government. Montana's children will always be the path towards our future—let's give them a chance to show us what they can accomplish.

Thank you for your participation in this contest and make sure to pass this information along to your appropriate staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Bullock', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela McLean', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANGELA McLEAN
Lieutenant Governor