Message from the Superintendent

“It is my honor to serve Montana’s students, families, and educators as Superintendent of Public Instruction. As a public school teacher, state legislator, and as Superintendent, my commitment has always been to put Montana students first. It has been an unprecedented year in education that has provided challenges but also new opportunities to learn and grow. I am so proud of Montana’s students, families, and educators for their dedication to student safety and learning through COVID-19. At the Office of Public Instruction, we are promoting student success under four initiatives: Montana Hope is a whole-child approach to education, Montana Teach is putting the best educators in front of our students, Montana Learn is creating individualized learning opportunities for students, and Montana Ready is preparing students with tangible skills for success in careers or college. Together we will make Montana proud!

Thank you for putting Montana students first,”

Elsie Arntzen
Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction

About the Big Sky State

- Population: 1,062,105 (2018 Estimate)
- Size: 147,046 square miles (fourth largest state)
- Population density: 7.0 per square mile
- State racial make up White 89.4%, American Indian 6.3%, Hispanic 2.9%, Asian 0.8%, Black 0.4%, Pacific Islander 0.1% and other 0.1% (2010 Census)
- Seven Indian Reservations and 12 Tribal Nations, including one landless tribe, the Little Shell Chippewa
- School racial makeup White 78.1%, American Indian 10.8% Hispanic 5.2%, Asian 0.8%, Black 0.1%, Pacific Islander 0.2%, and more than one race 4.1%
- 570 miles long, 315 miles wide
- Elevation range: 1,820 to 12,799 feet above sea level
- Borders three Canadian provinces and four states
- Headwaters for two major rivers – Missouri and Columbia
- Primary industries: agriculture, services, government (including education) and retail trade

For more school data:

For more information about Montana, contact:
- www.mt.gov
- Travel Montana 1-800-847-4868
- The Census & Economic Information Center (406) 841-2870

Montana Public School Districts Statewide Revenues and Expenditures

- Local and County Revenue
- State Revenue
- Federal Revenue
- Instruction and Support
- Administration
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Other

Montana Public School Districts Statewide Expenditures With ARRA 2018-2019

- Local and County Revenue
- State Revenue
- Federal Revenue
- Instruction and Support
- Administration
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Other

2020

Putting Montana Students First
Facts About Montana Education 2020

High School Graduates 2019
High School Graduates 2019: 9,273
2019 NAGIEE recipients (ages 16 to 19): 650

Public and State-funded Only Montana 4 Year Cohort Graduation Rates
Overall high school graduation rates have improved over the past five years. The gap between American Indian students and all students combined is just under 20 percentage points. The gap between white students and American Indian students is just under 23 percentage points.

American Indian White, Non-Hispanic Statewide
8.3
2.9
3.6
2018-19

Dropout Rates for Grades 9-12, 2012-13 to 2018-19
First two year increase in the statewide (9-12) dropout rate in over ten years.

Licensed K-12 Staff and Paraprofessionals 2019-20
Teachers- Classroom, Title I, Special Ed. 10,686
Other Educator Staff 129
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents 155
Principals and Assistant Principals 548
Other Administrative Staff 104
Education Specialists (Library, Guidance Counselors) 994
Licensed Professional (Noneducator) 408
Paraprofessionals 2,948
Total Licensed and Paraprofessional Staff 15,972

Student/Teacher Ratio 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18
Montana average 14 14 14
National average 14.4 14.3 14.2

Data from Common Core of Data, U.S. Department of Education

Montana Public School Enrollment 2019-20
Grade 9-12
Total 42,430 42,590 0.4%
Elementary
Prekindergarten 1,052 1,142
Kindergarten 11,877 12,398
Grades 1-6 69,331 69,449
Grades 7-8 23,002 23,551
Total Elementary 105,282 106,540 1.2%
High School
Grades 9-12 42,430 42,590 0.4%
Total High School 42,430 42,590 0.4%
State-Funded Schools*
Elementary (PK-6) 16 16
High School (9-12) 57 35
Total State-Funded 73 51 30.3%
Schools
Total Public School Enrollment 147,785 148,181 0.3%

* The state-funded schools are Poni Hills School and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Riverside School closed during the summer of 2016.

Riverside School showed an increase in enrollment in 2019-20 of 0.9%. Elementary grades (PK-8) showed an increase in enrollment of 1.2%. High school enrollment increased by 0.4%.

School Size and Enrollment 2019-20
School Size # of Schools Percent of Schools Enrollment Percent of Enrollment
500 or greater 58 7% 49,761 33%
250 to 499 162 20% 57,240 39%
100 to 249 166 20% 27,178 18%
50 to 99 114 14% 7,992 5%
<50 326 39% 2,010 5%
Total 826 100% 149,181 100%

Poverty Indicators
Poverty indicators MT National Rank
Age 5-17 in Families in Poverty* 14.8% 17.6% 23**
Percent Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch** 45.6% 52.3% 23**

MT** (Critical Reading) 2017 2018 2019
NA 533 NA 536 NA 534
MT** (Math) 2017 2018 2019
NA 527 NA 531 NA 526

2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
This chart shows the percent of the “All Students” category in Montana and the National Public who scored at or above proficient. A proficient achievement level in NAEP represents solid academic performance for each grade assessed. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.

School Data
Elementary Schools 439
Middle, 7&8 216
High Schools 171
Total Schools 826

2019 Nonpublic School Enrollment (Self-Reported)
2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 % of Total Enrollment
Private 8,442 8,216 7,845 5.0%
Home school 5,390 5,743 5,810 3.6%
Total 13,832 13,832 13,660 8.6%

College Readiness Tests
Test Scores 2017 2018 2019
SAT*
Critical Reading 20.2 21 20 20.8 19.8 20.7
Math NA 533 NA 536 NA 537
ACT**
Critical Reading 22.0 21 20 20.8 19.8 20.7
Math NA 527 NA 531 NA 536

2019 Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Results
In Spring 2019, Montana students took the SBAC test in the 3rd through 8th grade, measuring progress towards state standards in math and English/language arts.

Performance by Grade Level
High School (9-12)
K-12 districts 63
Combined high school (joint board) 95

Public School Districts 2019-20
K-12 districts 63
Combined elementary (joint board) 95
Combined high school (joint board) 95
Single districts (134 el, 46hs) 146
State-funded districts 2
Nonoperating districts 2
Total School Districts 403

Data obtained from the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE): http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
Data from Common Core of Data, U.S. Department of Education

NAEP 2019 Percent of Montana and National Public At or Above Proficient in Grades 4 and 8 (All Students)