Land Board  
Fiscal Year 2022

The Land Board oversees the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's management of Trust Land resources, which in turn help fund Montana's public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Acres Managed</th>
<th>5.2 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Acres Managed</td>
<td>6.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leases, Bonuses &amp; Timber Sales</td>
<td>$40,992,756 (approx.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Royalties &amp; Rights of Way</td>
<td>$41,870,416 (approx.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: Montana DNRC Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2022, Trust Lands Management Division

About the Big Sky State

- **Population:** 1,122,867 (July 1, 2022 estimate)
- **Size:** 147,040 square miles (fourth largest state), 556 miles wide: 320 miles long
- **Population density:** 7.6 per square mile
- **State racial make up:** White 85.3%, American Indian 6.5%, Hispanic 4.5%, Asian 1.1%, Black 0.6%, Pacific Islander 0.1% and other 1.9% (July 1, 2022 estimate)
- **American Indian Tribes:** Eight Federally Recognized Tribes and Seven Indian Reservations
- **School racial makeup:** White 77.75%, American Indian 10.92% Hispanic 5.38%, Asian 0.73%, Black 0.77%, Pacific Islander 0.2%, and more than one race 4.25%
- **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:
- [http://GEMS.opi.mt.gov](http://GEMS.opi.mt.gov)

For more information about Montana:
- [www.mt.gov](http://www.mt.gov)
- Travel Montana 1-800-847-4868
- The Census & Economic Information Center (406) 841-2870 or [http://ceic.mt.gov](http://ceic.mt.gov)

Message from 2023 Montana Teacher of the Year

Teaching and learning are two of the most joyful and empowering adventures that human beings can take part in. No matter who you are, or into what circumstances you are born, that adventure awaits. A teacher can guide a student to discoveries and success that they may never have imagined, and vice versa. As a teacher your days are never the same, you are never bored, and you create relationships that last a lifetime.

Being named the Montana Teacher Of The Year 2023 has allowed me the opportunity to celebrate amazing educators and students within our State and Nation and has demonstrated the positive impact that our profession has on our students, families, and society as a whole. I am inspired by what I have learned from this experience, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity and I am thrilled for the next Montana Teacher of the Year to begin their journey. Let the adventure begin!

Catherine Matthews
Bozeman, MT

Message from the Superintendent

The uniqueness of our over 800 Montana schools reflects the frontier nature of our great state. This is why local accountability through parent, family, and community engagement are important for strengthening the academic achievement of our Montana students. Last year math scores on the federally mandated assessments were slightly higher than the previous year but our reading scores are still trending down. I am dedicated to educational excellence for all our students, which is why I am revising our math and reading standards. Thank you for joining me in putting our Montana students first!

Elsie Arntzen
Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction

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This document was produced by the OPI and was printed at state expense. Information on the cost of this publication can be obtained by contacting Brian O'Leary at brian.oleary@mt.gov or 406-444-3559.
## Facts About Montana Education 2023

### High School Graduates 2021-2022
- High School Graduates 2022: 9,579
- 2022 HiSET recipients (ages 16 to 19): 728

### Student/Teacher Ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montana average</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National average</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Please note: the 2022-2023 graduation, dropout, and licensed staff data will be released at the beginning of 2024.

### Public and State-Funded Only: Montana 4 Year Cohort Graduation Rates

- Overall high school graduation rates dropped slightly last year. The gap between American Indian students and all students combined is just over 17 percentage points. The gap between white students and American Indian students is around 20 percentage points.

### Total Licensed and Paraprofessional Staff 2022-2023

- Total Licensed and Paraprofessional Staff: 16,016

*Licensed K-12 Staff and Paraprofessionals 2022-22*

- Teachers - Classroom, Title I, Special Ed: 10,797
- Other Educator Staff: 1,35
- Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents: 159
- Principals and Assistant Principals: 545
- Other Administrative Staff: 88
- Education Specialists (Library, Guidance Counselors): 951
- Licensed Professional (Noneducator): 352
- Paraprofessionals: 2,989

### Federal COVID Relief Dollars

- **ESSER I** $41,295,230
- **ESSER II** $170,099,465
- **ESSER III** $382,019,236
- **EANS** $11,904,804

Montana received Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) funds in March 2021. These funds are allocated to our public and non-public schools.

For monthly allocation and expenditure information, please visit https://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information/ESSER.

### School Data 2022-2023

- Elementary Schools: 433
- Middle, 7 & 8, Junior High Schools: 220
- High Schools: 173
- **Total Schools**: 826

### Nonpublic School Enrollment 2020-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020-21</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>% of Total Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>8,634</td>
<td>8,906</td>
<td>5.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeschool</td>
<td>9,868</td>
<td>7,368</td>
<td>7,799</td>
<td>4.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17,468</td>
<td>16,002</td>
<td>16,705</td>
<td>9.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dropout Rates for Grades 9-12, 2017-18 to 2021-2022

- Dropout Rates for Grades 9-12: 10.7%

### School Size and Enrollment 2022-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Size</th>
<th># of Schools</th>
<th>% of Schools</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>% Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 plus</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>7.02%</td>
<td>49,875</td>
<td>33.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 to 499</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>19.25%</td>
<td>56,296</td>
<td>37.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 to 249</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>20.58%</td>
<td>28,780</td>
<td>19.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 99</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>15.50%</td>
<td>8,960</td>
<td>5.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 50</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>37.65%</td>
<td>6,662</td>
<td>4.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>826</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>150,573</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Poverty Indicators

- **Age 5-17 in Families in Poverty**: 13.4% MT 14.9% National Rank 25th
- **Percent Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch**: 39.0% MT 52.3% National Rank 11th
*US Census Bureau 2020 **National Center for Education Statistics 2020

### Public School Districts 2022-2023

- **Total Districts**: 401
  - K-12 districts 64
  - Elementary districts *234
  - High school districts 2
  - State-Funded Districts 2
  - Nonoperating Districts 3

*64 of these districts are *combined elementary-high school districts* which means the elementary and high school districts of a community are combined into a single school system for district administration purposes.

Please note: all data is current as of October 5, 2023.