



## Montana Special Education Cooperatives

Full service special education cooperatives are an essential component of Montana’s Special Education programming. Under the “big sky” of Montana, a vast and varied landscape encompasses seemingly endless miles of terrain containing a multitude of small schools. In the 2023-24 school year, nearly one-third (32.4%) of Montana students were attending schools with an enrollment of fewer than 400 students. Special Education Cooperatives, boundaries defined by the Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction, are tasked with providing special education and related services using highly trained and specialized personnel to students with disabilities in member schools. Were it not for the cooperatives’ ability to share scarce resources among its members, children in these schools most assuredly would lack access to needed services. In Montana, there are currently 21 full service special education cooperatives fulfilling this vital role.

Following is a list of Montana’s Special Education Cooperatives, their member districts and director’s contact information. Districts not listed below are found on the [District Special Education Director’s List](#).

| <b>Montana Special Education Cooperatives</b>   |
|---|
| <b>Bear Paw Cooperative</b> , Sara Tempel, Director, 406-357-2269, <a href="mailto:stempel@bpc.k12.mt.us">stempel@bpc.k12.mt.us</a>   |
| <i>Bear Paw Cooperative Member Districts:</i> Bear Paw Elem., Big Sandy K-12 Schools, Box Elder Elem/HS, Chester-Joplin-Inverness Elem/HS, Chinook Elem/HS, Cleveland Elem, Cottonwood Elem, Davey Elem, Dodson K-12, Gildford Colony Elem, Harlem Elem/HS, Hays-Lodge Pole K-12 Schools, Hinsdale Elem/HS, Liberty Elem, North Harlem Colony Elem, North Star Elem/HS, Rocky Boy Elem/HS, Saco Elem/HS, Turner Elem/HS, Whitewater K-12 Schools, Zurich Elem |
| <b>Big Country Cooperative</b> , Aaron Skogen, Director, 406-778-3329, <a href="mailto:skogena@baker.k12.mt.us">skogena@baker.k12.mt.us</a>   |
| <i>Big Country Cooperative Member Districts:</i> Baker K-12 Schools, Carter County HS, Cohagen Elem, Ekalaka Elem, Forsyth Elem/HS, Garfield County HS, Jordan Elem, Kester Elem, Kinsey Elem, Kircher Elem, Pine Grove Elem, Plevna K-12 Schools, Rosebud K-12, Ross Elem, SY Elem, Sand Springs Elem, Trail Creek Elem  |
| <b>Big Sky Special Needs Cooperative</b> , Kris Magruder, Director, 406-271-7558, <a href="mailto:krismdi@bigskycoop.org">krismdi@bigskycoop.org</a>  |
| <i>Big Sky Special Needs Cooperative Member Districts:</i> Auchard Creek Elem, Augusta Elem/HS, Bynum Elem, Choteau Elem/HS, Conrad Elem/HS, Cut Bank Elem/HS, Dupuyer Elem, Dutton/Brady K-12 Schools, East Glacier Park Elem, Fairfield Elem/HS, Galata Elem, Golden Ridge Elem, Greenfield Elem, Heart Butte K-12 Schools, Miami Elem, Mountain View Elem, Pendroy Elem, Power Elem/HS, Shelby Elem/HS, Sunburst K-12 Schools, Valier Elem/HS              |

## Montana Special Education Cooperatives

**Bitterroot Valley Cooperative**, Jenny Rammel, Director, 406-777-2494, [rammellj@bvec-mt.org](mailto:rammellj@bvec-mt.org)

*Bitterroot Valley Cooperative Member Districts:* Darby K-12 Schools, Florence-Carlton K-12 Schools, Lone Rock Elem, Stevensville Elem/HS, Victor K-12 Schools

**Cabinet Mountain Cooperative**, Taylor Salmi, Director, 406-827-3007, [director@cmcoop.org](mailto:director@cmcoop.org)

*Cabinet Mountain Cooperative Member Districts:* Hot Springs K-12, Libby K-12, McCormick Elem, Noxon Elem/HS, St. Regis K-12 Schools, Thompson Falls Elem/HS, Trout Creek Elem, Troy Elem/HS, Yaak Elem

**Central Montana Learning Resource Center**, Chelsey Rogers, Director, 406-535-9012, [Chelsey.rogers@lewistown.k12.mt.us](mailto:Chelsey.rogers@lewistown.k12.mt.us)

*Central Montana Learning Resource Center Member Districts:* Ayers Elem, Deerfield Elem, Denton Elem/HS, Fergus County HS, Geyser K-12 Schools, Grass Range Elem/HS, Harlowton K-12 Schools, Hobson K-12 Schools, Judith Gap Elem/HS, King Colony Elem, Lavina K-12 Schools, Lewistown Elem, Melstone Elem/HS, Moore Elem/HS, Roundup Elem/HS, Roy K-12 Schools, Ryegate K-12 Schools, Spring Creek Colony Elem, Stanford K-12 Schools, Winifred K-12 Schools, Winnett K-12 Schools

**Choteau County Joint Services**, Roxie Benjamin, Co-Director, 406-622-5691, [rbenjamin@fortbenton.K12.mt.us](mailto:rbenjamin@fortbenton.K12.mt.us) and Corey Clark, Co-Director, 406-737-4371 ext. 4901, [cclark@geraldine.k12.mt.us](mailto:cclark@geraldine.k12.mt.us)

*Choteau County Joint Services Member Districts:* Benton Lake Elem, Carter Elem, Fort Benton Elem/HS, Geraldine K-12, Highwood K-12, Knees Elem

**Eastern Yellowstone Cooperative**, Christina Olstad, Director, 406-200-7795, [colstad@huntley.k12.mt.us](mailto:colstad@huntley.k12.mt.us)

*Eastern Yellowstone Cooperative Member Districts:* Custer K-12 Schools, Huntley Project K-12 Schools, Hysham K-12 Schools, Pioneer Elem, Shepherd Elem/HS, Spring Creek Elem

**Flathead County Cooperative**, Marcia Stolfus, Director, 406-257-1852, [stolfusm@fsecoop.com](mailto:stolfusm@fsecoop.com)

*Flathead County Cooperative Member Districts:* Cayuse Prairie Elem, Creston Elem, Deer Park Elem, Fair-Mont-Egan Elem, Fortine Elem, Helena Flats Elem, Kila Elem, Marion Elem, Olney-Bissell Elem, Pleasant Valley Elem, Smith Valley Elem, Somers Elem, Swan Lake-Salmon Elem, Swan River Elem, Trego Elem, West Glacier Elem, West Valley Elem

**Gallatin-Madison Cooperative**, Lani Smith, Director, 406-388-6508, [lsmith@galmadspecialcoop.org](mailto:lsmith@galmadspecialcoop.org) and Kim Wagner-McCauley, Coordinator, 406-388-6508, [kmccauley@galmadspecialcoop.org](mailto:kmccauley@galmadspecialcoop.org)

*Gallatin-Madison Cooperative Member Districts:* Amsterdam Elem, Anderson Elem, Big Sky K-12 Schools, Cottonwood Elem, Ennis K-12 Schools, Gallatin Gateway Elem, Harrison K-12 Schools, LaMotte Elem, Malmborg Elem, Monforton Elem, Pass Creek Elem, Springhill Elem, West Yellowstone K-12 Schools, Willow Creek Elem/HS

## Montana Special Education Cooperatives

**Great Divide Educational Services**, Sara Novak, Director, 406-846-2147, [snovak@gdes.k12.mt](mailto:snovak@gdes.k12.mt)

*Great Divide Educational Services Member Districts:* Alder Elem, Anaconda Elem/HS, Avon Elem, Deer Lodge K-12 Schools, Dillon Elem, Divide Elem, Drummond Elem/HS, Elliston Elem, Garrison Elem, Grant Elem, Hall Elem, Helmville Elem, Jackson Elem, Lima K-12 Schools, Lincoln K-12 Schools, Ovando Elem, Philipsburg K-12 Schools, Polaris Elem, Powell County HS, Reichle Elem, Twin Bridges K-12 Schools, Wisdom Elem, Wise River Elem

**Missoula Area Education Cooperative**, Stacia Vaughn, Director, 406-532-4861, [svaughn@maecooperative.org](mailto:svaughn@maecooperative.org)

*Missoula Area Education Cooperative Member Districts:* Alberton K-12 Schools, Arlee Elem/HS, Bonner Elem, Charlo Elem/HS, Clinton Elem, DeSmet Elem, Dixon Elem, Lolo Elem, Potomac Elem, Seeley Lake Elem, St. Ignatius K-12 Schools, Sunset Elem, Superior K-12 Schools, Swan Valley Elem, Woodman Elem

**North Central Learning Resource Center**, Jenny Reeves, Director, 406-727-6303, [Jenny.reeves@nclearning.org](mailto:Jenny.reeves@nclearning.org)

*North Central Learning Resource Center Member Districts:* Belt Elem/HS, Cascade Elem/HS, Centerville Elem/HS, Simms HS, Sun River Valley Elem, Ulm Elem, Vaughn Elem

**Park County Cooperative**, Jenny Malloy, Director, 406-222-6600, [jmalloy@parkcoop.k12.mt.us](mailto:jmalloy@parkcoop.k12.mt.us)

*Park County Cooperative Member Districts:* Arrowhead Elem, Cooke City Elem, Gardiner Elem/HS, Pine Creek Elem, Shields Valley Elem/HS

**Prairie View Cooperative**, Pam Pettigrew, Coordinator, 406-377-5446, [ppettigrew@pvssmt.org](mailto:ppettigrew@pvssmt.org)

*Prairie View Cooperative Member Districts:* Bloomfield Elem, Brorson Elem, Circle Elem/HS, Deer Creek Elem, Fairview Elem/HS, Lambert Elem/HS, Lindsay Elem, Rau Elem, Richey Elem/HS, Savage Elem/HS, Terry K-12 Schools, Vida Elem, Wibaux K-12 Schools

**Prickly Pear Cooperative**, Maria Pace, Director, 406-227-7322, [mpace@pricklypearcooperative.org](mailto:mpace@pricklypearcooperative.org)

*Prickly Pear Cooperative Member Districts:* Basin Elem, Boulder Elem, Cardwell Elem, Clancy Elem, East Helena K-12 Schools, Jefferson County HS, Montana City Elem, Townsend K-12 Schools, Trinity Elem, White Sulphur Springs K-12 Schools, Whitehall Elem/HS, Wolf Creek Elem

**Roose-Valley Cooperative**, Janessa Parenteau, Director, 406-787-6246, [parenteauj@culbertson.k12.mt.us](mailto:parenteauj@culbertson.k12.mt.us)

*Roose-Valley Cooperative Member Districts:* Bainville K-12 Schools, Brockton Elem/HS, Culbertson Elem/HS, Frazer Elem/HS, Froid Elem/HS, Frontier Elem, Lustre Elem, Nashua K-12 Schools, Opheim K-12 Schools

## Montana Special Education Cooperatives

**Sheridan/Daniels Cooperative**, Joe Bennett, Director, 406-765-1803, [bennej@plentywood.k12.mt.us](mailto:bennej@plentywood.k12.mt.us)

*Sheridan/Daniels Cooperative Member Districts:* Medicine Lake K-12 Schools, Plentywood K-12 Schools, Scobey K-12 Schools, Westby K-12 Schools

**Stillwater/Sweet Grass Cooperative**, Michael Grizzaffi, Director, 406-322-5298, [mgrizzaffi@ssgc.k12.mt.us](mailto:mgrizzaffi@ssgc.k12.mt.us)

*Stillwater/Sweet Grass Cooperative Member Districts:* Absarokee Elem/HS, Big Timber Elem, Columbus Elem/HS, Fishtail Elem, Greycliff Elem, McLeod Elem, Melville Elem, Nye Elem, Park City Elem/HS, Rapelje Elem/HS, Reedpoint Elem/HS, Sweet Grass County HS

**Tri-County Cooperative**, Debbie Stieg, Director, 406-436-2488, [dstiegtricity@gmail.com](mailto:dstiegtricity@gmail.com)

*Tri-County Cooperative Member Districts:* Alzada Elem, Biddle Elem, Birney Elem, Broadus Elem, Hawks Home Elem, Powder River County HS, South Stacy Elem

**Yellowstone/West Carbon County Cooperative**, Brandyn Romo, Director, 406-633-4039, [brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us](mailto:brandyn@ywccssc.k12.mt.us)

*Yellowstone/West Carbon County Cooperative Member Districts:* Belfry K-12 Schools, Blue Creek Elem, Bridger K-12 Schools, Broadview Elem/HS, Canyon Creek Elem, Elder Grove Elem, Elysian Elem, Fromberg K-12 Schools, Independent Elem, Joliet Elem/HS, Luther Elem, Morin Elem, Plenty Coups HS, Pryor Elem, Red Lodge Elem/HS, Roberts K-12 Schools, Yellowstone Academy