

## OPI and the Land Board

2020

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.

Surface Acres Managed	5.2 million
Mineral Acres Managed	6.2 million
Leases, Bonuses & Timber Sales	\$39,436,000 (approx.)
Mineral Royalties & Rights of Way	\$23,575,800 (approx.)

\* Source: Montana DNRC Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2020, Trust Lands Management Division



## About the Big Sky State

- Population: 1,068,778 (2019 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 0.8%, 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:

- <http://GEMS.opi.mt.gov>

## For more information about Montana, contact:

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

## Message from 2021 Montana Teacher of the Year

Montana educators care deeply about the academic, social, and emotional well-being of our students. In a year unlike any other, teachers across the state have navigated difficult situations and made tough decisions, all with the best interests of the children and families we serve. I'm proud to be recognized as Montana's Teacher of the Year, and so grateful for the opportunity to promote the profession of teaching. It's a humbling experience, and I look forward to continuing to champion the children of Montana.

Kristi Borge  
Polaris, MT

## Message from the Superintendent

As we reflect on the 2020-2021 School Year, I hope we all take a moment to thank the parents and teachers who, working together, adapted to rapidly changing circumstances for the benefit of Montana children. Some schools were able to maintain in-person instruction for most of the year; others were remote or pursued a hybrid approach to learning. Regardless of one's experience, this was a year unlike any other in public education. We at the OPI continue to **put our Montana students first**, helping our school districts navigate the uncertainty and ensuring that the new Federal relief aid will further our children's education and well-being. Together, I am confident we **will make Montana proud!**

  
Elsie Arntzen  
Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction



[www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov)

photo credit: Polaris School  
Polaris, MT

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# 2021

# Facts About Montana Education



HOPE  
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TEACH  
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Putting Montana Students First

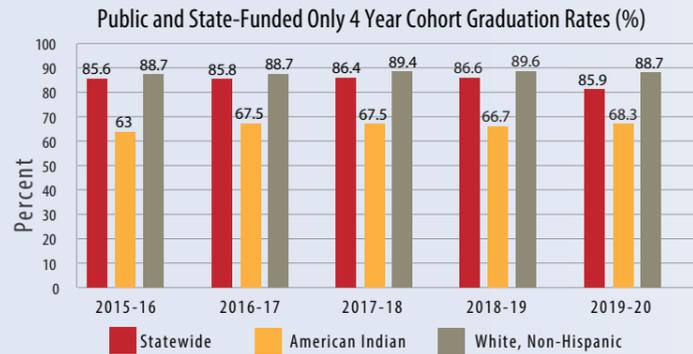
# Facts About Montana Education 2021

## High School Graduates

High School Graduates 2019	9,243
2020 HiSET recipients (ages 16 to 19)	496

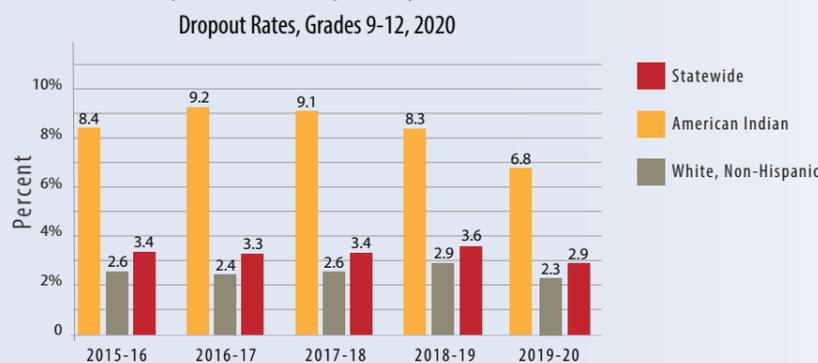
## Public and State-Funded Only Montana 4 Year Cohort Graduation Rates

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 18 percentage points. The gap between white students and American Indian students is around 20 percentage points.



## Dropout Rates for Grades 9-12, 2015-16 to 2019-2020

Statewide (9-12) dropout rate lowest in past five years.



## Licensed K-12 Staff and Paraprofessionals

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
<b>Total Licensed and Paraprofessional Staff</b>	<b>15,972</b>

## Student/Teacher Ratio

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Montana average	13.99	14.02	13.96
National average	16.03	16.22	15.21

<https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/quickFacts.aspx>

## Montana Public School Enrollment

	2019-20	2020-21**	% Change 2019 to 2020
<b>Elementary</b>			
Prekindergarten	1,142	946	-17.2%
Kindergarten	12,398	11,648	-6.0%
Grades 1-6	69,449	65,989	-5.0%
Grades 7-8	23,551	23,483	-0.3%
<b>Total Elementary</b>	<b>106,540</b>	<b>102,066</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>
<b>High School</b>			
Grades 9-12	42,590	43,516	2.2%
<b>Total High School</b>	<b>42,590</b>	<b>43,516</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>State-Funded Schools</b>			
Elementary (PK-8)	16	19	18.8%
High School (9-12)	35	33	-5.7%
<b>Total State-Funded Schools</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Total Public School Enrollment</b>	<b>149,181</b>	<b>145,634</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>

\*\* 2020-21 Figures are as of October 5th, 2020

Montana (PK-12) showed a decrease in enrollment in 2020-21 of 2.4%.

Elementary grades (PK-8) are showed a decrease in enrollment of 4.2%.  
High school enrollment increased by 2.2%.

## School Size and Enrollment

School Size	# of Schools	Percent of Schools	Enrollment	Percent of Enrollment
500 or greater	52	6%	46,144	32%
250 to 499	156	19%	54,740	38%
100 to 249	173	21%	29,110	20%
50 to 99	125	15%	8,727	6%
<50	319	39%	6,913	5%
	<b>825</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>145,634</b>	<b>100%*</b>

\*does not add to 100% due to rounding

## Poverty Indicators

Poverty Indicators	MT	National	Rank
Age 5-17 in Families in Poverty*	14.2%	15.8%	25 <sup>th</sup>
Percent Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	44.3%	52.6%	18 <sup>th</sup>

\*US Census Bureau 2019

## Public School Districts

	2019-20
K-12 districts	64
Combined elementary (joint board)	94
Combined high school (joint board)	94
Single districts (143 el, 4 hs)	146
State-funded districts	2
Nonoperating districts	2
<b>Total School Districts</b>	<b>402</b>

## School Data

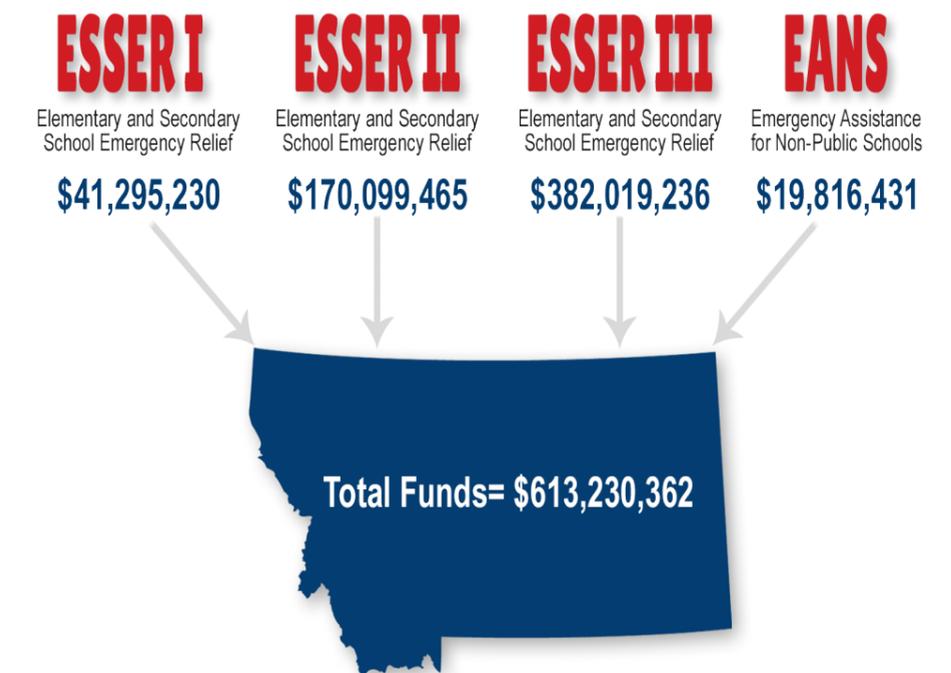
	2020-21
Elementary Schools	436
Middle, 7&8	217
High Schools	173
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>826</b>

## Nonpublic School Enrollment (Reported annually in the Fall)

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% of Total Enrollment
Private	8,236	7,845	7,600	4.6%
Home school	5,743	5,815	9,868	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,979</b>	<b>13,660</b>	<b>17,468</b>	<b>10.7%</b>

## COVID-19 Related Federal Funding Received By Montana Schools

Since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has passed several pieces of legislation containing funding from the Federal government to combat the effects of COVID-19. These include the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act; and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The graphic below highlights the amount of funding allocated to Montana as a result of these laws:



\* ESSER I, II & III - Public Schools; EANS - Private and Home Schools