

HOUSE BILL NO. 87

INTRODUCED BY E. MCCLAFFERTY

BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE CALCULATION OF AVERAGE NUMBER BELONGING BY ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR A COUNT OF PUPILS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF DECEMBER; CLARIFYING THAT PART-TIME PUPILS ARE INCLUDED IN ANB CALCULATIONS; AMENDING SECTION 20-9-311, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 20-9-311, MCA, is amended to read:

**"20-9-311. Calculation of average number belonging (ANB) -- 3-year averaging.** (1) Average number belonging (ANB) must be computed for each budget unit as follows:

(a) compute an average enrollment by adding a count of regularly enrolled ~~full-time~~ pupils who were enrolled as of the first Monday in October of the prior school fiscal year to a count of regularly enrolled pupils ~~on the first Monday in December of the prior school fiscal year and to a count of regularly enrolled pupils~~ on the first Monday in February of the prior school fiscal year or the next school day if those dates do not fall on a school day, and divide the sum by ~~three~~ two; and

(b) multiply the average enrollment calculated in subsection (1)(a) by the sum of 180 and the approved pupil-instruction-related days for the current school fiscal year and divide by 180.

(2) For the purpose of calculating ANB under subsection (1), up to 7 approved pupil-instruction-related days may be included in the calculation.

(3) When a school district has approval to operate less than the minimum aggregate hours under 20-9-806, the total ANB must be calculated in accordance with the provisions of 20-9-805.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(d), for the purpose of calculating ANB, enrollment in an education program:

(i) from 180 to 359 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as one-quarter-time enrollment;



1 (ii) from 360 to 539 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as half-time  
2 enrollment;

3 (iii) from 540 to 719 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as three-quarter-time  
4 enrollment; and

5 (iv) 720 or more aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year is counted as full-time enrollment.

6 (b) Except as provided in subsection (4)(d), enrollment in a program intended to provide fewer than 180  
7 aggregate hours of pupil instruction per school year may not be included for purposes of ANB.

8 (c) Enrollment in a self-paced program or course may be converted to an hourly equivalent based on  
9 the hours necessary and appropriate to provide the course within a regular classroom schedule.

10 (d) A school district may include in its calculation of ANB a pupil who is enrolled in a program providing  
11 fewer than the required aggregate hours of pupil instruction required under subsection (4)(a) or (4)(b) if the pupil  
12 has demonstrated proficiency in the content ordinarily covered by the instruction as determined by the school  
13 board using district assessments. The ANB of a pupil under this subsection (4)(d) must be converted to an hourly  
14 equivalent based on the hours of instruction ordinarily provided for the content over which the student has  
15 demonstrated proficiency.

16 (e) A pupil in kindergarten through grade 12 who is concurrently enrolled in more than one public school,  
17 program, or district may not be counted as more than one full-time pupil for ANB purposes.

18 (5) For a district that is transitioning from a half-time to a full-time kindergarten program, the state  
19 superintendent shall count kindergarten enrollment in the previous year as full-time enrollment for the purpose  
20 of calculating ANB for the elementary programs offering full-time kindergarten in the current year. For the  
21 purposes of calculating the 3-year ANB, the superintendent of public instruction shall count the kindergarten  
22 enrollment as one-half enrollment and then add the additional kindergarten ANB to the 3-year average ANB for  
23 districts offering full-time kindergarten.

24 (6) When a pupil has been absent, with or without excuse, for more than 10 consecutive school days,  
25 the pupil may not be included in the enrollment count used in the calculation of the ANB unless the pupil resumes  
26 attendance prior to the day of the enrollment count.

27 (7) The enrollment of preschool pupils, as provided in 20-7-117, may not be included in the ANB  
28 calculations.

29 (8) The average number belonging of the regularly enrolled, ~~full-time~~ pupils for the public schools of a  
30 district must be based on the aggregate of all the regularly enrolled, ~~full-time~~ pupils attending the schools of the

1 district, except that:

2 (a) the ANB is calculated as a separate budget unit when:

3 (i) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles beyond the incorporated limits of a city or town  
4 located in the district and at least 20 miles from any other school of the district, the number of regularly enrolled;  
5 ~~full-time~~ pupils of the school must be calculated as a separate budget unit for ANB purposes and the district must  
6 receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the other schools of the district;

7 (ii) a school of the district is located more than 20 miles from any other school of the district and  
8 incorporated territory is not involved in the district, the number of regularly enrolled, ~~full-time~~ pupils of the school  
9 must be calculated separately for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement for the school  
10 calculated separately from the other schools of the district;

11 (iii) the superintendent of public instruction approves an application not to aggregate when conditions  
12 exist affecting transportation, such as poor roads, mountains, rivers, or other obstacles to travel, or when any  
13 other condition exists that would result in an unusual hardship to the pupils of the school if they were transported  
14 to another school, the number of regularly enrolled, ~~full-time~~ pupils of the school must be calculated separately  
15 for ANB purposes and the district must receive a basic entitlement for the school calculated separately from the  
16 other schools of the district; or

17 (iv) two or more districts consolidate or annex under the provisions of 20-6-422 or 20-6-423, the ANB and  
18 the basic entitlements of the component districts must be calculated separately for a period of 3 years following  
19 the consolidation or annexation. Each district shall retain a percentage of its basic entitlement for 3 additional  
20 years as follows:

21 (A) 75% of the basic entitlement for the fourth year;

22 (B) 50% of the basic entitlement for the fifth year; and

23 (C) 25% of the basic entitlement for the sixth year.

24 (b) when a junior high school has been approved and accredited as a junior high school, all of the  
25 regularly enrolled, ~~full-time~~ pupils of the junior high school must be considered as high school district pupils for  
26 ANB purposes;

27 (c) when a middle school has been approved and accredited, all pupils below the 7th grade must be  
28 considered elementary school pupils for ANB purposes and the 7th and 8th grade pupils must be considered high  
29 school pupils for ANB purposes; or

30 (d) when a school has been designated as nonaccredited by the board of public education because of

1 failure to meet the board of public education's assurance and performance standards, the regularly enrolled;  
2 ~~full-time~~ pupils attending the nonaccredited school are not eligible for average number belonging calculation  
3 purposes, nor will an average number belonging for the nonaccredited school be used in determining the BASE  
4 funding program for the district.

5 (9) The district shall provide the superintendent of public instruction with semiannual reports of school  
6 attendance, absence, and enrollment for regularly enrolled students, using a format determined by the  
7 superintendent.

8 (10) (a) Except as provided in subsections (10)(b) and (10)(c), enrollment in a basic education program  
9 provided by the district through any combination of onsite or offsite instruction may be included for ANB purposes  
10 only if the pupil is offered access to the complete range of educational services for the basic education program  
11 required by the accreditation standards adopted by the board of public education.

12 (b) Access to school programs and services for a student placed by the trustees in a private program  
13 for special education may be limited to the programs and services specified in an approved individual education  
14 plan supervised by the district.

15 (c) Access to school programs and services for a student who is incarcerated in a facility, other than a  
16 youth detention center, may be limited to the programs and services provided by the district at district expense  
17 under an agreement with the incarcerating facility.

18 (d) This subsection (10) may not be construed to require a school district to offer access to activities  
19 governed by an organization having jurisdiction over interscholastic activities, contests, and tournaments to a  
20 pupil who is not otherwise eligible under the rules of the organization.

21 (11) A district may include only, for ANB purposes, an enrolled pupil who is otherwise eligible under this  
22 title and who is:

23 (a) a resident of the district or a nonresident student admitted by trustees under a student attendance  
24 agreement and who is attending a school of the district;

25 (b) unable to attend school due to a medical reason certified by a medical doctor and receiving  
26 individualized educational services supervised by the district, at district expense, at a home or facility that does  
27 not offer an educational program;

28 (c) unable to attend school due to the student's incarceration in a facility, other than a youth detention  
29 center, and who is receiving individualized educational services supervised by the district, at district expense, at  
30 a home or facility that does not offer an educational program;

1 (d) receiving special education and related services, other than day treatment, under a placement by the  
2 trustees at a private nonsectarian school or private program if the pupil's services are provided at the district's  
3 expense under an approved individual education plan supervised by the district;

4 (e) participating in the running start program at district expense under 20-9-706;

5 (f) receiving educational services, provided by the district, using appropriately licensed district staff at  
6 a private residential program or private residential facility licensed by the department of public health and human  
7 services;

8 (g) enrolled in an educational program or course provided at district expense using electronic or offsite  
9 delivery methods, including but not limited to tutoring, distance learning programs, online programs, and  
10 technology delivered learning programs, while attending a school of the district or any other nonsectarian offsite  
11 instructional setting with the approval of the trustees of the district. The pupil shall:

12 (i) meet the residency requirements for that district as provided in 1-1-215;

13 (ii) live in the district and must be eligible for educational services under the Individuals With Disabilities  
14 Education Act or under 29 U.S.C. 794; or

15 (iii) attend school in the district under a mandatory attendance agreement as provided in 20-5-321.

16 (h) a resident of the district attending the Montana youth challenge program or a Montana job corps  
17 program under an interlocal agreement with the district under 20-9-707.

18 (12) A district shall, for ANB purposes, calculate the enrollment of an eligible Montana youth challenge  
19 program participant as half-time enrollment.

20 (13) (a) For an elementary or high school district that has been in existence for 3 years or more, the  
21 district's maximum general fund budget and BASE budget for the ensuing school fiscal year must be calculated  
22 using the current year ANB for all budget units or the 3-year average ANB for all budget units, whichever  
23 generates the greatest maximum general fund budget.

24 (b) For a K-12 district that has been in existence for 3 years or more, the district's maximum general fund  
25 budget and BASE budget for the ensuing school fiscal year must be calculated separately for the elementary and  
26 high school programs pursuant to subsection (13)(a) and then combined.

27 (14) The term "3-year ANB" means an average ANB over the most recent 3-year period, calculated by:

28 (a) adding the ANB for the budget unit for the ensuing school fiscal year to the ANB for each of the  
29 previous 2 school fiscal years; and

30 (b) dividing the sum calculated under subsection (14)(a) by three."

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2            NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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4            NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Applicability.** [This act] applies to school budgets for school years  
5 beginning on or after July 1, 2015.

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