Community Schools

Students and families at the center of all we do

- Community-engaged, governed and owned
- Universally available
- Innovating and adapting
- The center of the community
- Supervised and controlled by volunteer elected trustees
- Transparent through open meetings and public records
- Reconnecting and reinventing

Embrace Innovations

- Dual credit
- Advanced placement courses
- International baccalaureate
- Specialty academies
- Career certifications
- Independent studies
- Work-based and experiential learning, including youth apprenticeship opportunities

Provide Alternative Choices

- KICK START - Early enrollment at ages 3-4 in the presence of exceptional circumstances
- Year-round education
- Gap year opportunities for recent graduates
- IDEA for 19-21 year olds
- Proficiency-based and transformational learning
- Off site instruction, including the Digital Academy
- District charter schools
- Second Chances (drop out retrieval and workforce development through district adult education programs)

That Benefit Students and Families
The Montana Legislature has authorized and our school districts are providing:

- Early education opportunities to children below the age of 5 in exceptional circumstances.
- Students access to proficiency-based education focused on mastery of content rather than seat time.
- Opportunities for offsite instruction, full-time, part-time, and even day to day to ensure continued learning no matter the circumstances.
- Year-round learning opportunities, overcoming learning gaps that can occur during summer months.
- Options for credit toward graduation requirements for work-based and other experiential learning partnerships with private businesses in each community, expanding opportunities for students and contributing to ensure Montana’s future success.
- Advanced opportunities for students through individualized pathways for career and postsecondary opportunities including career and technical education to accelerate and self-direct student learning.
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- Work-based experiential learning for students including “on-the-job” CTE time in satisfaction of the aggregate hours of instruction with industry partner supervision.
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- Students who have already graduated but are not yet 19 years old by September 10 with the opportunity to remain enrolled in the district, thus providing additional educational opportunities.
- “Second chance” opportunities for students over 16 years of age through dropout prevention, adult education, and adult enrichment opportunities.
- Opportunities in collaboration with parents for home school and private school students through part-time enrollment and extra curricular activities.
- ANB for special education services for students between 19-20.

Montana School Boards Association