

Protecting and preserving

The center of the community

Universally available

Supervised and controlled by volunteer elected trustees

Innovating and adapting

Transparent through open meetings and public records

Community-engaged, governed and owned

Reconnecting and reinventing



KICK START - Early enrollment at ages 3-4 in the presence of exceptional circumstances

International baccalaureate



Dual credit

Advanced placement courses

Work-based and experiential learning, including youth apprenticeship opportunities

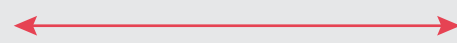
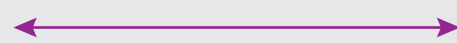
Specialty academies

Career certifications

Independent studies



That Benefit Students and Families



Year-round education

Part-time enrollment

IDEA for 19-21 year olds

Off site instruction, including the Digital Academy

District charter schools



Gap year opportunities for recent graduates

Proficiency-based and transformational learning

Second Chances (drop out retrieval and workforce development through district adult education programs)

Early education opportunities to children below the age of 5 in exceptional circumstances.

Opportunities in collaboration with parents for home school and private school students through part-time enrollment and extra-curricular activities.

Students access to proficiency-based education focused on mastery of content rather than seat time.

Options 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.

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.

Work-based experiential learning for students including "on-the-job" CTE time in satisfaction of the aggregate hours of instruction with industry partner supervision.

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.

ANB for special education services for students between 19-20.

The Montana Legislature has authorized and our school districts are providing:



INNOVATIONS THAT BENEFIT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Montana's public schools are locally governed and led by community members elected as public school board trustees who work in collaboration with the broader community to develop the full potential of each child. Transparency and trust in school district governance occurs through knowledge-based decisions that embrace and honor the collaboration of and input from parents and community members.

Montana law allows for wide flexibility and opportunities for innovation in education, while local control of school districts provides for communities to collectively find what opportunities they will pursue to meet the unique needs of their students. Schools deeply impact all facets of Montana's communities; thus community participation, support, and engagement are critical to the success of every student.

EXTENSIVE ALTERNATIVE CHOICES

Kick Start: If, in the discretion of the board of trustees, there are exceptional circumstances that merit waiving the 5 years or older age provision, a district may enroll, admit, educate, and generate ANB funding for children under the age of 5.

Year-Round Education: A year-round school schedule is allowable and available to any district. The obligation for meeting the aggregate hours of instruction can be satisfied at any time from July 1 through June 30 of each fiscal year.

Part-Time Enrollment: Districts may enroll, admit, educate, and generate ANB funding for a home school or private school student enrolled on a part time basis.

IDEA for 19-21 Year Olds: Districts are providing additional educational services to students who have not yet already graduated, are over 19 years old and eligible for adult services for individuals with developmental disabilities due to the significance of the student's disability. The student's IEP has to have identified transition goals that focus on preparation for living and working following high school graduation since age 16 or the student's disability has increased in significance after age 16.

Off Site Instruction, Including the Digital Academy: Districts may provide opportunities for students to engage in their education through any combination of onsite, off site, digital or hybrid instruction. This includes numerous course offerings through the Montana Digital Academy.

District Charter Schools: Any community may establish a district charter school to meet the needs of students and the community with flexibility already established in law and administrative rule.

EXTENSIVE ALTERNATIVE CHOICES continued

Gap Year Opportunities for Recent Graduates: Students who have already graduated but are not yet 19 years old by September 10 may remain enrolled in the district for additional educational opportunities.

Proficiency-Based, Personalized, and Transformational Learning: Proficiency-based education does not require seat time for students and works in coordination with 10.55.906 of the Board of Public Education's rules. Proficiency is determined by the school district using measures of assessments, this includes multiple measures of assessment. ANB is converted on a full-time equivalent basis, based on the content over which the student gains proficiency. The aggregate hours of instruction need not be tracked for a student who is proficient, at either the individual or at the system level. This type of learning can include work-based learning.

Second Chances (Dropout Retrieval and Workforce Development through District Adult Education Programs): District adult education programs provide "second chance" opportunities for students over 16 years of age through dropout retrieval and adult education opportunities.

EXCITING INNOVATIONS

Work-Based and Experiential Learning (Including youth apprenticeship opportunities), Career Certifications, Independent Studies: Any district may enroll a student in a work-based experiential learning/CTE setting and calculate "on the job" time in satisfaction of the aggregate hours of instruction with no teacher in the work setting. CTE instruction includes "competency-based applied learning through advanced opportunities, work-based learning partnerships, and other experiential learning opportunities that contribute to the academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, technical skills, and occupation-specific skills of the pupil." Additionally, students may have any course required for graduation waived based on individual student needs and performance levels, age, maturity, interest, and aspirations of the student, in consultation with the parents or guardians.

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Credit: Students have the opportunity to complete exceptionally rigorous courses through a variety of means including within their districts or online through the Montana Digital Academy or higher education institutions. These courses give students a head start in achieving an associates or bachelor's degree.

Specialty Academies: Any district may establish a specialty academy within a school or through an additional outside program or school. Specialty academies can focus on a variety of fields including health science, trades, engineering, performing arts, finance, hospitality and tourism, information technology, etc.