



**Minutes  
Montana Board of Regents  
September 21-22, 2022**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

Meeting convened at 8:31 am

Regents Present: Brianne Rogers, Chair, Todd Buchanan, Joyce Dombrowski, Casey Lozar, Loren Bough online, Jeff Southworth, and Norris Blossom. Ex officio members include Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, and Office of Public Instruction Superintendent Elsie Arntzen. Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier, was excused.

Comments by Chair Rogers | *00:00:48*

Chair Rogers welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that it had been four years since the Board of Regents last met on this campus. She recognized that the new Yellowstone Science and Health building was just breaking ground at that time and congratulated all those involved for making the new building a reality. She then discussed HyFlex instruction and provided an agenda overview.

Welcome by Chancellor Hicswa | *00:04:18*

Chancellor Hicswa shared a promotional video for MSU Billings and discussed the unique niche MSU Billings has of 'helping students with grit succeed.' She highlighted several areas around retention, including enrollment, eliminating barriers that impede success, and moving students toward full-time. There was a five percent increase in retention from fall to spring, and fall to fall retention increased by four and a half percent. She shared highlights of student success and touched on Montana 10, Interstate Passport, and Second Chance Pell. In 2018, four accreditation recommendations were made, and by mid-cycle, MSU Billings had achieved three. Leadership retention still needed improvement, so they are focusing on professional development. Finally, she discussed the ribbon cutting of the Yellowstone Science & Health Building and shared a video featuring the health program.

Approval of Minutes | *00:27:51*

- July 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of the July 14, 2022 Board meeting minutes was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).



Commissioner's and System Report | 00:28:37

Commissioner Christian thanked Chancellor Hicswa for hosting today's meeting and expressed appreciation to the Regents for their time and efforts while serving on this board. He recognized President Yarlott from Little Big Horn College and President Little Bear, from Chief Dull Knife College, and spoke to the value of partnerships between the MUS and tribal colleges. Commissioner Christian then recognized Dr. Jennifer Lynn from MSU Billings. Finally, he touched on the Mental Health Summit currently taking place on campus.

- Apply Montana Update | 00:33:38

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, spoke to three areas of the Apply Montana program; application, analytics, and awareness. This is the third cycle of the application, and it has shown overall growth. Analytics are evolving, including sitewide, demographics, popular pages, and career preferences. Various tools are being used to increase awareness, such as digital, high school training, and the Trio, GEAR UP, and ETS programs. The next steps for the application are assessment tools for programs of study, focus on user experience, and exploring new data sets. Discussion followed.

- Federal Update | 00:55:20

Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, spoke about the federal government's student loan debt forgiveness program. Qualifying individuals can receive up to \$10,000 in forgiveness or \$20,000 as a Pell Grant recipient. Forgiveness is for federal loans; income limitations apply and must have been dispersed before June 30, 2022. It won't incur federal taxes, although state laws might tax the amount forgiven. There will likely be a legal challenge or congressional action. The program extended the pause on loan repayments to December 31, 2022.

The CHIPS and Science ACT was signed in August, setting up a program for regional technology hubs. The law provides that at least one of the regional technology hubs must be headquartered in a low-population state, which will include Montana.

Deputy Commissioner Thigpen also spoke briefly about proposed changes to federal Title IX rules. The comment period closed in September. The proposed rules will likely be adopted next year. Discussion followed.

- Accelerated Degree Update | 01:05:25

Dr. Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner of Academic, Research, & Student Affairs, spoke to this 'idea in progress' draft proposal about producing and providing more skilled graduates in some of the highest-demand sectors. Some individuals want a condensed timeline, but not the rest of the college experience, and this would provide that ability.



Angela DeWolf King, ARSA Executive Assistant and Operations Manager, spoke to three details. 1) This proposed faster timeline would reach an associate degree in 16 months and a bachelor's in 30. It requires schooling year around and lessens external costs. 2) Students, campuses, and industries must agree to commitments. 3) It would be industry-led. Discussion followed.

- Introductions | 01:39:44

Commissioner Christian started the introductions with acknowledging and congratulating President Little Bear on his recent retirement and welcomed Eva Flying as the next President of Chief Dull Knife College. President Bodnar introduced Leslie Webb, Vice Provost for Campus Life and Angela McLean as interim Bitterroot College Director. Chancellor Cook introduced Ron Muffick, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance, and Ken Lee, Dean of the School of Mines and Engineering. President Cruzado introduced Alison Harmon as interim Vice President of Research & Economic Development, Tricia Seifert as interim Dean of Education, Health & Human Development, Doralyn Rossmann as interim Dean of Library, Jeffrey Heys as interim Dean of Honors College, and Stephanie Santorico as an 2022-23 ACE fellow.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | 01:48:58

Superintendent Arntzen touched on a few highlights, including classes for indigenous languages, Teacher of the Year Catherine Matthews, and blue ribbon award winner Monforton Elementary School. Montana receives \$40 million to feed children through breakfast and lunch programs, which could be removed if the proposed changes to Title IX go through. She spoke of the federal partnership flexibility pilot for tests since math scores are poor. Superintendent Arntzen shared a 2022 facts document and discussed a focus on history.

Budget, Administration and Audit Committee | 02:04:36

**CONSENT** | 02:06:00

**Staff Items:**

- a. Staff Item, UM Missoula ITEM 202-1000-R0922
- b. Staff Item, MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2000-R0922
- c. Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-103-R0922 | Attachment #1

**Emeriti Faculty:**

- d. Bonjorni; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1003-R0922
- e. Bridges; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1004-R0922
- f. Gerdes; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1005-R0922
- g. Holben; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1006-R0922
- h. Parker; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1007-R0922



- i. Thompson; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1008-R0922
- j. Finn; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1009-R0922
- k. Carson; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2001-R0922
- l. Dunkel; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2002-R0922
- m. Herbeck; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2003-R0922
- n. Kephart; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2004-R0922
- o. Cone; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2005-R0922

**Facility Items:**

- p. Request for Authorization to Accept a 40 Acre Parcel of Real Property Gifted to the University of Montana Lubrecht Experimental Forest; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1001-R0922 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- q. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off-Campus Lease with Hamilton Public Schools; UM Missoula-Bitterroot College ITEM 202-1011-R0922 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- r. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from Benefis Health System for a New Construction Instructional Facility to House the New Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing in Great Falls, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2006-R0922 | Attachment #1
- s. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from SCL Health for a New Construction Instructional Facility to House the New Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing in Billings, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2007-R0922 | Attachment #1
- t. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from Billings Clinic for a New Construction Instructional Facility to House the New Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing in Billings, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2008-R0922 | Attachment #1
- u. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from Logan Health for a New Construction Instructional Facility to House the New Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing in Kalispell, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2013-R0922 | Attachment #1
- v. Request for Authorization to Design Pedestrian Access Improvements; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2011-R0922
- w. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct Paved Parking Improvements; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2012-R0922 | Attachment #1
- x. Request for Authorization to Grant Easement for Triangle Communications on the Hartmann Ranch; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station ITEM 202-2301-R0922 | Attachment #1
- y. Request for Authorization to Renew an Off-Campus Lease for Space on Behalf of MilTech; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2010-R0922





**Other Items:**

- z. Request for Authorization to Utilize Non-County Financial Institution; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-101-R0922

**ACTION | 02:06:28**

- a. Request for Approval of Montana University System Operating Budgets – FY 2023; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-102-R0922 | Attachment #1

Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, presented the all-funds budget to be approved by the Board of Regents as required by law. Deputy Commissioner Trevor provided a high level overview and Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, was available for the details. Discussion followed.

- b. Request for Authorization to Program, Plan, and Design a Building/Addition to the Wellness Center; UM Western ITEM 202-1601-R0922

Deputy Commissioner Trevor said this item was presented as information in May. Approving it at this point would provide for planning and design only, as when they are ready to build the facility, they will return to ask for funding for the build and the approval for the student fee increase. Discussion followed.

- c. Request for Authorization to Revise Commitment for a Ground Lease and Operating Agreement for a State Combined Laboratory Facility; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2009-R0922

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke about this renewal for the vet lab. The previous version reached the sunset date, but the critical difference for the renewal included a partnership with MSU to combine it with the wool and agriculture analytical labs. Discussion followed.

- d. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.12.1 – Tuition & Fee Approval; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-104-R0922 | Attachment #1

As explained by Deputy Commissioner Trevor, this item was pulled from the November 2021 action agenda to move toward agreement on the definition of student-driven fees. The policy now includes a definition and clarification. Discussion followed.

**INFORMATION | 03:16:41**

- a. Budget, Administration, & Audit Committee Workplan and Calendar

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to work plan priority areas, including cybersecurity, facilities, enterprise risk management, legislative tracking, and 2025 biennial revenue.

- b. New BOR Policy - Remote Work Arrangements | Attachment #1



Kevin McRae, Deputy Commissioner of Human Resources, explained that remote work is not a new concept, but addressing it in Board of Regents policy is and is intended to help encourage recruitment and retention.

c. BOR Policy Revisions

- 940.32 – Tuition Waiver for Dependents

Deputy Commissioner McRae said that this policy has been in place for nearly twenty years and is referenced in collective bargaining. These updates and edits reduce the eligibility period from five years to four months, changes the number of dependents to two, and enhance the overall recruitment and retention package.

- 1300.1 – Security of Data and Information Technology Resources | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to seven items intended to build a security framework and better clarify the governance role of the Board of Regents and OCHE.

d. Enterprise Risk Management | Annual Report | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor presented the first annual report, which the Board made a priority a year ago.

e. UM Facilities Update

President Bodnar provided context about this multi-year project to refresh infrastructure, then Vice President Lasiter spoke about the progress. Dining and residential improvements make the most significant impact, and several projects have been completed, with several almost finished. Current projects are dining facilities, Knowles Hall, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Memorial Row, combined heating and power plant, indoor practice facility, and forestry building, while future projects are housing.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee | 03:53:40

**ACTION**

a. Honorary Doctorate, UM, ITEM 202-1010-R0922 | Attachment #1

President Bodnar presented the request to award a posthumous honorary doctorate to Emma Lommasson.

b. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking

Deputy Commissioner Tessman presented the process the request to plan proposals undergo before being brought for consideration. Representatives from each campus gave a brief presentation of their item.



Provost Mahdavi, UM, presented the request to plan proposal to terminate the Center for Ethics.

Provost Gammon, Montana Tech, presented the request to plan proposal to resume the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) for Business.

Provost MacLean, UM Western, presented the request to plan proposal for a Popular Culture Minor.

Dean Bauman, Helena College, presented the request to plan proposals for a certificate of Applied Science in IT Help Desk and an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Cloud DevOps.

Provost Moisey, MSU Northern, presented the request to plan proposal for an Applied Equine Management minor.

### INFORMATION | 04:12:48

#### Strategic Priority Items

##### a. Research Update

Joe Thiel, Director of Academic Policy and Research, summarized the Carnegie 'Very High Research' or 'R1' designation, what it represents, the Carnegie calculation, and the graduate degrees included in the calculation. He said the MUS had increased graduate degrees in several areas while others have declined.

Dr. Ashby Kinch from the University of Montana teamed with Dr. Craig Ogilvie from Montana State University to discuss graduate education and research. Dr. Kinch described the value of doctorate candidates as a campus teaching resource. He also addressed the cluster of fields served by alumni. Dr. Ogilvie discussed doctorate candidates' importance to research on campus and the startup companies served by alumni. Both presented student spotlights. Discussion followed.

##### b. eLearning Update

Director Thiel spoke to a broad overview since the pandemic of online and distance learning. The online education demand is expected to grow and is concentrated in a few larger institutions specializing in flexibility. Montana students are enrolling in out-of-state online programs, and more MUS students are taking online or blended courses, so efforts need to be put toward meeting that demand. Partnerships and physical locations are a strength, and the focus needs to be on flexibility, low-residency programs, unique graduate offerings, and hub and spoke program collaborations. The goals would be to invest in expectations, ensure quality, and use modern and unified tools and technology for easier collaboration. Discussion followed.

##### c. Montana 10 Update



Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement, presented a Montana 10 update that shows that the program is making a difference and moving toward the desired results. She spoke about expansion plans and adding national partnerships. There are five campuses involved, and there will be seven next year. There will be 1,000 students in future expansions, including both Pell and low-income non-Pell. Discussion followed.

#### Policy Items

##### d. Proposed Revisions to Board Policies

- 301.8 – Academic Probation
- 301.9 – Academic Suspension

Deputy Commissioner Tessman explained that these policies pertaining to probation and suspension were updated to move from punitive to support-oriented. Discussion followed.

#### Academic Review Items

Deputy Commissioner Tessman said he would give a summary of each academic review item since they are all somewhat connected and essential.

##### e. Academic Priorities and Planning & OCHE Executive Summary | Campus Priorities and Planning Statements| Forthcoming Academic Proposal Report

These are planning items for the coming year and help track requests through the process.

##### f. Academic Approval Memo

These are the level one and two academic approval items approved since the last report.

##### g. Accreditation Report

This is a list of each college and its status.

College Student Mental Health and Wellbeing in Montana: A Public Health Approach | Panel Discussion | 05:22:51

Director Miller spoke to the mental health summit running simultaneously with the Board of Regents meeting and introduced the panelist. The system-level discussion is very different from those at each campus, and the benefits of a system-level discussion include data and supporting policy changes.

Dr. Sasha Zhou, from Healthy Minds Network and Wayne State University, discussed the healthy minds network and the public health approach to mental health. She



mentioned some survey screening tools, discussed statistics – the good and bad news, and the faculty role.

Dr. Betsy Asserson, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at MSU, said that the data points shared by Dr. Zhou track with that seen on Montana campuses. Mental health affects retention rates, and partnerships are essential in providing support. Discussion followed.

Public Comment | 06:09:08

Tammy Harris, field consultant with Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE), spoke in support of the tuition waiver and remote work under proper circumstances.

Executive Session

The Board convened an executive session at 4:30 pm. Chair Rogers determined the matters of the discussion related to matters of individual privacy and the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Meeting Recessed at 5:20 pm

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**

The Board reconvened for an executive session at 8:25 am. Chair Rogers determined the matters of the discussion related to matters of individual privacy and the demands of individual privacy outweigh the merits of public disclosure.

Executive Session

Executive Session closed at 9:14 am

Board Reconvened at 9:35 am

Two Year and Community College Committee | 06:13:38

### INFORMATION

Deputy Commissioner Tessman provided context to the following items. The first two focus on college access, and the next two around building awareness.

a. Dual Enrollment Update

Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education, said 2021-2022 saw the highest number of dual enrollment students yet, and the Dual Enrollment (DE) coordinators deserve credit for their efforts. About one-third of all eligible high school students received college credit, and sixty percent enrolled in MUS schools within two years of their DE classes. She gave an overview of recent DE and



Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, with about one-third being CTE credits, and she also provided a student spotlight. Discussion followed.

b. Second Chance Pell

Ms. DeWolf King introduced the Second Chance Pell program discussion for six correctional facilities across Montana, which are now eligible for Pell. There can be up to ten participants fully paid by Pell funding and they may continue their education after incarceration. All active sites are direct partnerships between the facility and the campus. There are upcoming changes since second chance sunsets in 2023, and an expanded Pell program will replace it. Changes to the FAFSA will make the process easier.

Dean Sandra Bauman from Helena College explained the participation of her campus. The prison already had a program in place, but they worked with Helena College to adjust it so a certificate could be awarded. She spoke about the process, instruction model, support services they used, and the plan moving forward.

Marisa Britton-Bostwick, from the Montana Department of Corrections, spoke to the benefits of Pathways. The primary mission is to release successfully, while the goals are to reduce recidivism rates, provide equitable access to education, and reduce cost and crime. There were many more applications than available seats, so there is a real need, and benefits to the participants were seen through behavior and increased hope for the future. Discussion followed.

c. Workforce Training Highlights

Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke about a developing program centered around CTE and workforce training. Highlights of the program will be system-wide state impact and the MUS as Montana's workforce development engine, with an emphasis on quality, flexibility & innovation, and partnerships, among others. Discussion followed.

d. Montana's Future at Work

Dr. Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships, provided an update on Montana's Future at Work Program. Before highlighting the new program, Director McLean outlined the transition from iGraduate Montana to Montana's Future at Work and some of the successes of that program. She indicated that the iGraduate Montana program developed partnerships between schools and nonprofits. She highlighted Montana Broader Impacts with a video. Director McLean shared that iGraduate Montana was very successful, especially during the pandemic, but there was an interest in transitioning to a new model. The goal of continuing to support high school students into college and ensuring they are work-ready is how Montana's Future at Work program came about. The Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation contributed one million dollars for three goals, 1) train high school students in CTE fields in the community where they live, 2) grow an understanding of the need for more training, 3) promote and market the CTE field to stakeholders. Director McLean announced this year's grant recipients and closed with



an invite to the September CTE summit.

Public Comment | 07:35:39

None.

Committee Reports & Action | 07:36:35

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

### **CONSENT**

#### **Staff Items:**

- a. Staff Item, UM Missoula ITEM 202-1000-R0922
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- c. Labor Agreements; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-103-R0922 | Attachment #1

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- p. Request for Authorization to Accept a 40 Acre Parcel of Real Property Gifted to the University of Montana Lubrecht Experimental Forest; UM Missoula ITEM 202-1001-R0922 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- q. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off-Campus Lease with Hamilton Public Schools; UM Missoula-Bitterroot College ITEM 202-1011-R0922 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2



## MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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- r. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from Benefis Health System for a New Construction Instructional Facility to House the New Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing in Great Falls, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2006-R0922 | Attachment #1
- s. Request for Authorization to Accept Donated Land from SCL Health for a New Construction Instructional Facility to House the New Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing in Billings, MT; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2007-R0922 | Attachment #1
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- y. Request for Authorization to Renew an Off-Campus Lease for Space on Behalf of MilTech; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2010-R0922

### **Other Items:**

- z. Request for Authorization to Utilize Non-County Financial Institution; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-101-R0922

A motion for approval of consent items a.-z. was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

### **ACTION | 07:37:35**

- a. Request for Approval of Montana University System Operating Budgets – FY 2023; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-102-R0922 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 202-102-R0922, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request for Authorization to Program, Plan, and Design a Building/Addition to the Wellness Center; UM Western ITEM 202-1601-R0922





A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 202-1601-R0922, was made by Regent Blossom; motion passed (7-0).

- c. Request for Authorization to Revise Commitment for a Ground Lease and Operating Agreement for a State Combined Laboratory Facility; MSU Bozeman ITEM 202-2009-R0922

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 202-2009-R0922, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.12.1 – Tuition & Fee Approval; OCHE/MUS ITEM 202-104-R0922 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 202-104-R0922, was made by Regent Blossom; motion passed (7-0).

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

**ACTION | 07:40:33**

- a. Honorary Doctorate, UM, ITEM 202-1010-R0922 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 202-1010-R0922, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary and OCHE Analysis | Supporting Documentation | New Program Tracking

A motion for approval of action item b., Request to Plan Proposals was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

- Two-Year and Community College Committee

None.

**Appeal | 07:41:55**

Chair Rogers explained the process related to appeals.

- Appeal

The request to hear the appeal is denied and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 am.



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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Approved by the Board of Regents on

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Clayton T. Christian  
Commissioner of Higher Education  
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

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Brianne Rogers  
Chair, Board of Regents

# APPENDIX

## Casanovas, Jasmine

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**From:** Virostko, Cara  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 4:13 PM  
**To:** Casanovas, Jasmine  
**Subject:** Policy 940.32 – Tuition Waiver for Dependents

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take a moment to share how pleased I am to see that a revision to the [Tuition Waiver for Dependents](#) policy is scheduled to be considered at the November BOR meeting. As a parent of two high school students, I can speak to the looming financial burden that we see on the horizon. I can unabashedly say that my decision to apply to and remain at MSUB was directly influenced by the promise of a potential reduction in college expenses for my girls. The revisions being voted upon could be a significant financial boon to our family and would definitely increase the likelihood of my remaining committed to maintaining my employment at the university.

As a member of MSUB's staff senate, I know that I am not alone in feeling this way, so thank you for reviewing this policy. It is my strongest hope that its adoption as written will be successful this November.

Thank you,

**Cara Virostko**, Program Coordinator  
University Communications & Marketing  
Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success  
ASMSUB  
[cara.virostko@msubillings.edu](mailto:cara.virostko@msubillings.edu)  
406.657.2266 • 406.657.2365



**Land Board Fiscal Year 2021**

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	\$46,573,056 (approx.)
Mineral Royalties & Rights of Way	\$31,034,270 (approx.)

\* Source: Montana DNRC Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2021, Trust Lands Management Division



**About the Big Sky State**

- **Population:** 1,084,225 (2020 Census)
- **Size:** 147,040 square miles (fourth largest state), 556 miles wide: 320 miles long
- **Population density:** 7.4 per square mile
- **State racial make up:** White 84.5%, American Indian 6.2%, Hispanic 4.2%, Asian 0.8%, Black 0.5%, Pacific Islander 0.1% and other 1.3%(2020 Census)
- **American Indian Tribes:** Eight Federally Recognized Tribes and Seven Indian Reservations
- **School racial makeup:** White 77.75%, American Indian 10.92%, Hispanic 5.38%, Asian 0.73%, Black 0.77%, Pacific Islander 0.2%, and more than one race 4.25%
- **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:**

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



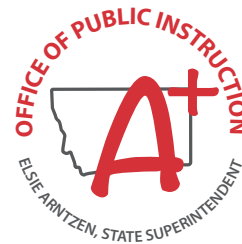
**Message from 2022 Montana Teacher of the Year**

Montana really is the greatest place to teach. We are blessed with amazing wildlife, scenery, and culture that we can easily bring into our classrooms. As Montana's Teacher of the Year, it has been extremely rewarding to promote the amazing educators across our state and to advocate for all of Montana's students. I know the past two years have been difficult, but one thing that has stayed strong is our public schools.

**Bill Stockton**  
Arlee, MT

**Message from the Superintendent**

The spirit of Montana is unique and so are our schools. Our public school enrollment and our graduation rates are stable. I am proud of the work my office has done in serving all of our Montana teachers, students, and families. There is still more work to do as we focus on student learning and the basics of math, science, and reading. Together we can help our students achieve educational excellence **by putting our Montana students first!**



*Elsie Arntzen*

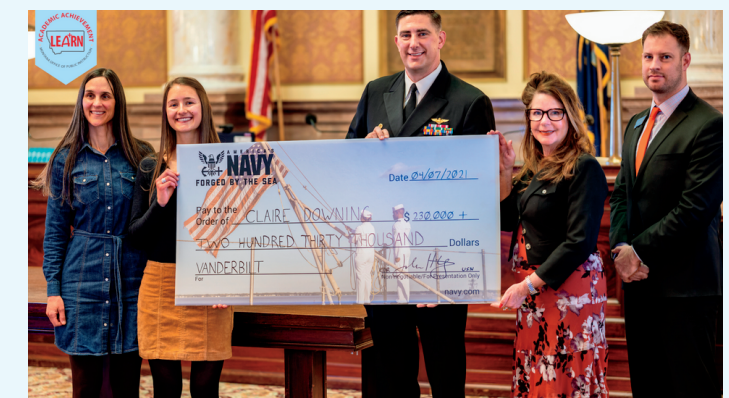
**Elsie Arntzen**

Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction

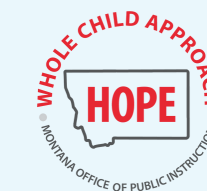
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**Facts About Montana Education 2022**



**Putting Montana Students First**





# Facts About Montana Education 2022

## High School Graduates

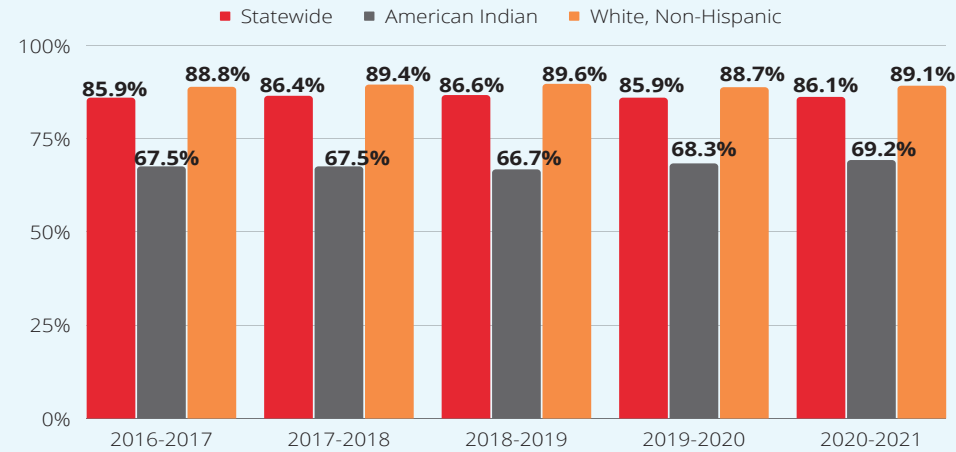
High School Graduates 2021  
2021 HiSET recipients (ages 16 to 19)

### 2020-2021

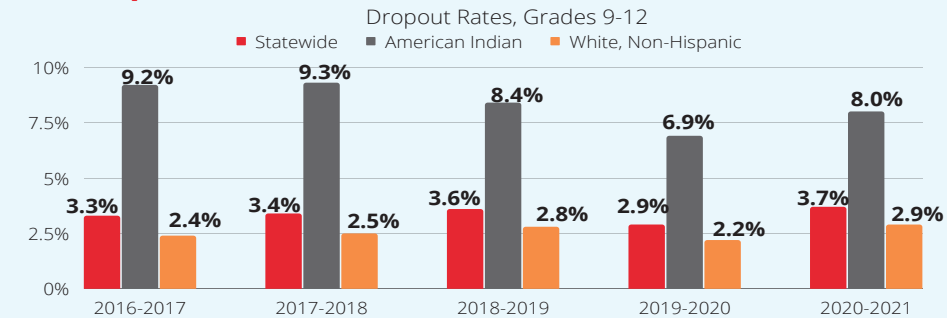
9,271  
711

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



## Dropout Rates for Grades 9-12, 2016-17 to 2020-2021



## Licensed K-12 Staff and Paraprofessionals

### 2020-2021

Teachers- Classroom, Title I, Special Ed. 10,977  
Other Educator Staff 146  
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents 168  
Principals and Assistant Principals 548  
Other Administrative Staff 96  
Education Specialists (Library, Guidance Counselors) 959  
Licensed Professional (Noneducator) 373  
Paraprofessionals 3,322

Total Licensed and Paraprofessional Staff **16,588**

## Student/Teacher Ratio

	2019	2020	2021
Montana average	14.1	14.0	13.4
National average	15.9	15.9	16.3

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

Please note: the 2021-2022 graduation, dropout, and licensed staff data will be released at the beginning of 2023.

## Montana Public School Enrollment

Elementary	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	%Change
Prekindergarten	1,146	946	744	-18.18%
Kindergarten	12,398	11,649	12,825	10.10%
Grades 1-6	69,449	65,988	67,247	1.91%
Grades 7-8	23,551	23,483	23,744	1.11%
<b>Total Elementary</b>	<b>106,544</b>	<b>102,066</b>	<b>104,590</b>	<b>2.44%</b>
High School	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	%Change
Grades 9-12	42,590	43,516	44,544	2.36%
<b>Total High School</b>	<b>42,590</b>	<b>43,516</b>	<b>44,544</b>	<b>2.36%</b>
State-Funded Schools	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	%Change
Elementary (PK-8)	12	19	20	5.26%
High School (9-12)	35	31	44	41.94%
<b>Total State-Funded Schools</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>28.00%</b>
Total Public School Enrollment	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	%Change
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>149,181</b>	<b>145,632</b>	<b>149,198</b>	<b>2.45%</b>

## School Size and Enrollment

### 2021-2022

School Size	#of Schools	% of Schools	Enrollment	% Enrollment
500 plus	59	7.14%	50,129	33.60%
250 to 499	157	19.01%	54,732	36.68%
100 to 249	170	20.58%	28,685	19.23%
50 to 99	129	15.62%	8,949	6.00%
less than 50	311	37.65%	6,703	4.49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>149,198</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Poverty Indicators

Poverty Indicators	MT	National	Rank
Age 5-17 in Families in Poverty*	13.4%	14.9%	25th
Percent Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch**	39.0%	52.3%	11th

\*US Census Bureau 2020

\*\*National Center for Education Statistics 2019

## Public School Districts

### 2021-2022

K-12 districts 64  
Elementary districts \*235  
High school districts \*98  
State-Funded Districts 2  
Nonoperating Districts 3

**Total Districts 402**

\*94 of these districts are "combined elementary-high school districts" which means the elementary and high school districts of a community are combined into a single school system for district administration purposes.

Please note: all data is current as of August 2, 2022

## School Data

Elementary Schools	435
Middle, 7&8, Junior High Schools	218
High Schools	173
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>826</b>

## Nonpublic School Enrollment

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	% of Change Enrollment
Private	7,845	7,600	8,634	13.61%
Homeschool	5,815	9,868	7,368	-25.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,660</b>	<b>17,468</b>	<b>16,002</b>	<b>-8.39%</b>

## Federal COVID Relief Dollars



Montana received Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) funds in May 2020. These funds are allocated to our public and non-public schools. For allocation and expenditure information, please visit <https://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information/ESSER>.

