

MONTANA

Compulsory Attendance Ages: “7 years of age ... prior to the first day of school” until “the later of the following: (a) the child’s 16th birthday; or (b) the date of completion of the work of the 8th grade.” Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-102(1).

Required Days of Instruction: 720 hours per year for grades 1–3 and 1,080 hours per year for grades 4–12. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 20-5-109(2), 20-1-301(2).

Required Subjects: Same “basic instructional program” as public schools. Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-109. This includes: English language arts; mathematics; social studies; science; health; arts; and career education. *See* Mont. Admin. R. 10.55.901–.906.

Homeschool Statute: Montana Code Annotated section 20-5-102(2)(e).

“A home school is the instruction by a parent of his child, stepchild or ward in his residence.” Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-102(2)(e). “Subject to the provisions of § 20-5-109, a parent has the authority to instruct his child, stepchild, or ward in a home school and is solely responsible for: (1) The educational philosophy of the home school; (2) the selection of instructional materials, curriculum, and textbooks; (3) the time, place, and method of instruction; and (4) the valuation of the home school instruction.” Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-111.

According to section 20-5-109, a homeschool must:

1. Annually notify the county superintendent of intent to homeschool
2. Maintain attendance and immunization records which must be available for inspection by the county superintendent on request
3. Be in a building that complies with local health and safety regulations (for homes, not schools)
4. Provide the minimum hours of instruction (see “Required Days of Instruction” above)
5. Provide the same “basic instructional program” as public schools (see “Required Subjects” above). The board of public education has the authority to “define and specify the basic instructional program for pupils in public schools.” Mont. Code § 20-7-111
6. Neither the superintendent nor the school board has the authority to approve homeschools.

Teacher Qualifications: None.

Standardized Tests: None.