

# Native Education State Profiles

## Montana



### Report Summary

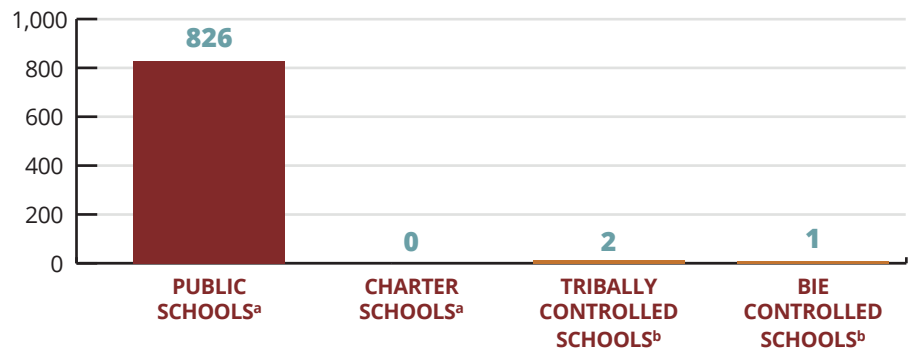
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides tribes and states an important opportunity to advance tribal sovereignty and create positive and inclusive learning environments for Native students. Schools and Native communities must collaborate to ensure students are college, career, and community ready. As the only national organization advocating for improved educational opportunities for Native students, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) supports and builds partnerships between Native and allied stakeholders that provide opportunities for Native students to thrive in the classroom and beyond. This state profile is available to NIEA membership, tribal leadership, educators, and allies to provide important information and highlight available resources that may be of assistance in advocacy work.

### State Leadership

<b>Greg Gianforte</b> <i>Governor</i>	Appoints members of the State Board of Education.
<b>Elsie Arntzen</b> <i>Superintendent of Public Instruction</i>	The Superintendent of Public Instruction is elected.
<b>Zach Hawkins</b> <i>Indian Education Division, Director</i>	The Director of Indian Education is appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
<b>Joe Arrowtop</b> <i>Montana Indian Education Association, Director</i>	MIEA is the primary state organization for advocacy on Native education issues.

### District Snapshot

Number of School Districts: 400<sup>a</sup>



### Where Do Native Students Attend School?<sup>c</sup>



**PUBLIC**  
15,850 students

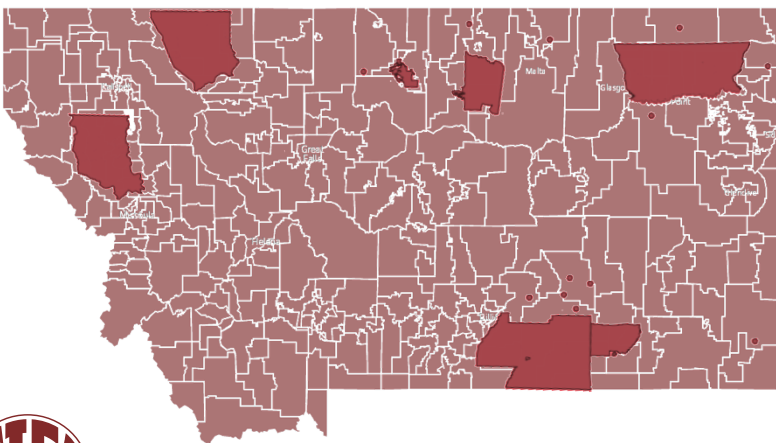


**CHARTER**  
0 students



**BIE FUNDED**  
244 students

### Montana School Districts



American Indian reservations and communities

	Student Enrollment <sup>c</sup>	Student Enrollment <sup>c</sup>
<b>Native</b>	16,201	11.1%
<b>Total</b>	145,808	100%

### Federally Recognized Tribes

- Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation
- Blackfeet Nation
- Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
- Crow Tribe of Indians
- Fort Belknap Indian Community (Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes)
- Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe



# Montana Native Education Legislation

1972	1984	1984	1999	2005	2016
The Montana constitution includes a commitment to Native culture and heritage in public schools in the state education system.	State courts rule that schools must fund programs that educate Native students in accordance with the state's constitution.	The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education is created to advise the Office of Public Instruction on Native education.	The state legislature establishes the Indian Education Division through legislation known as Indian Education For All.	State legislators provide funding for programs included under the state's Indian Education for All legislation.	Montana begins to create a state plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act as required by federal law.

## Equal Opportunities

National Statistics (%)					
	AI/AN	Black	Hispanic	White	Asian
Attend Rural Schools <sup>c</sup>	24	3	2	9	1
Students with Disabilities <sup>d</sup>	15	15	13	12	7
Children in Poverty <sup>e</sup>	31	32	26	11	11
Full-Time Teachers <sup>f</sup>	0.5	7	9	79	2
High School Graduation Rate <sup>g</sup>	74	80	82	89	93

Montana Statistics (%)					
	AI/AN	Black	Hispanic	White	Asian
Attend Rural Schools <sup>c</sup>	76	21	25	30	19
Students with Disabilities <sup>d</sup>	15	14	11	10	8
Children in Poverty <sup>e</sup>	37	6	19	12	23
Full-Time Teachers <sup>f</sup>	*	*	2	92	*
High School Graduation Rate <sup>g</sup>	67	78	83	90	>95

## Engage

### Language Immersion Programs

**The Piegan Institute:  
Cuts Wood Academy**

*Browning, MT*

[www.pieganinstitute.org/  
cutswoodacademy.html](http://www.pieganinstitute.org/cutswoodacademy.html)

**Nkwusm  
Salish School**

*Arlee, MT*

[salishworld.com/](http://salishworld.com/)

**White Clay Language  
Immersion School**

*Fort Belknap, MT*

[www.facebook.com/  
whiteclay.immersionschool/](http://www.facebook.com/whiteclay.immersionschool/)

### ESSA Working Groups

Find out more about how Montana is fulfilling ESSA requirements through its work on accountability, assessment, teacher quality, and school improvement.

**Website:** [opi.mt.gov/ESSA/Index.html](http://opi.mt.gov/ESSA/Index.html)

**Contact:** [ESSAinput@mt.gov](mailto:ESSAinput@mt.gov)

## Montana Student Profile

### Young Children<sup>h</sup>

**35%**

of the American Indian and Alaska Native population is under that age of 18.

**9%**

American Indians and Alaska Natives in Montana are under the age of 5.

### Higher Education

**7**

Tribal Colleges serve just over 2,126 students in Montana.<sup>i</sup>

**15%**

of American Indians\*\* in Montana have a Bachelors degree or higher.<sup>j</sup>

### Connectivity<sup>j</sup>

**16%**

of American Indians\*\* in Montana do not have access to a personal computer.

**27%**

of American Indians\*\* in Montana do not have a broadband Internet subscription.

### Percent Reading Proficiency among...<sup>k</sup>

	4th Grade Students	8th Grade Students
Montana Native	13	15
Montana	36	34
United States	35	34

## Sources

- a. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey", 2020-21 v.1a; "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2020-21 v.1a.
- b. BIE 2022, <https://www.bie.edu/schools/directory>.
- c. NCES, CCD, "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey", 2020-21 v.1a.
- d. US Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), Tables B14007B, C, D, E, H, and I; US Department of Education, EDData Warehouse: "IDEA Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Collection," 2020-21. From file specifications 002 and 089.
- e. US Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Tables B17001B, C, D, E, H, and I.
- f. NCES, National Teacher and Principal Survey, "Public School Teacher Data File," 2017-18.
- g. NCES, EDData file 150, Data Group 695, and EDData file 151, Data Group 696, 2013-14 through 2018-19.
- h. US Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table B01001C.
- i. NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2019, Table 312.50.
- j. US Census Bureau, 2019 ACS, Table S0201.
- k. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2019 Reading Assessment.

\* Indicates too few respondents for statistical significance.

\*\*Indicates the measure includes multiracial AI/ANs.

