



Human Resources
Billings Public Schools
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HOW TO BECOME A TEACHER

The State of Montana requires K-12 public school teachers to have a Bachelor Degree with a major in teaching. The education degrees usually take 4 to 6 years of college classes in order to earn a degree in education. Elementary Teachers must have an Education bachelor degree with a major in Elementary. Sixth to eighth grade teachers must have an Education bachelor degree with a major in Elementary or a specific teaching major such as Math, Science, History,... High School teachers must have an Education bachelor degree with a major in the specific field they will be teaching such as Math, Science, History, Industrial Arts, Health Enhancement, Physical Education,... Special Education Teachers, Music Teachers and Art Teachers must earn a K-12 bachelor degree in that specific area. To become a teacher, a Bachelor Degree in Education can be earned at any major college and/or university that offers the Education Degree. Before an Education Degree and Montana Educator License can be earned, the prospective teacher must do Student Teaching in a school and be supervised by a teacher.

After completing the Education Bachelor Degree and Student Teaching, the prospective teacher must take the Praxis Test. After the prospective teacher passes the Praxis Test they need to apply for a Montana Educators License with Office of Public Instruction in Helena, Montana, at www.opi.mt.gov The prospective teacher will need to submit their transcripts and a fingerprint card to OPI. Office of Public Instruction (OPI) reviews the prospective teacher's transcripts with the degrees awarded and their background check. After OPI approves everything, OPI issues a Montana Educators License with the endorsements that match the Education bachelor degree majors/minors earned.

After teachers receive their Montana Educators License with the appropriate endorsements, they must take the Montana Educators License to the county courthouse to have it registered by the County Superintendents office in order for it to be official.

Once a teacher is licensed, every five years the teacher must renew their Montana Educators License by completing 60 renewal units or 6 quarter credits or 4 semester credit or a combination of credits and go to OPI's website www.opi.mt.gov to complete their license renewal.

Billings Public Schools teachers earn between \$38,806.00 to \$78,963.00 depending on college credits and years of experience.

Teachers with Billings Public Schools can earn salary advancement for every 15 quarter/10 semester/150 OPI Renewal Units or any combination of up to 105 quarter credits past their bachelors.

Teachers can earn master degrees and doctoral degrees at any time before or after being employed as a teacher.

