

# Report to Our Community 2021-2022 Bozeman

## Public Schools



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## PROVIDING EVERY STUDENT AN AMAZING PUBLIC SCHOOL

Greetings - It is my honor and privilege to serve as the superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools. This annual report is intended to provide the community with an update on the successes and challenges facing Bozeman Public Schools.

The past 20+ months in BSD7 have no doubt been impacted by COVID-19. From student and staff safety, to staffing and curriculum delivery, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on our educational system.

COVID-19 has also revealed that we have resilient students, staff, and families. We are pleased to have all of our buildings open five days a week during the 2021-2022 school year. Our staff is diligently working to close gaps in student learning caused by the disruptions from COVID-19.

The core purpose statement of Bozeman Public Schools reads, **"Bozeman Public Schools exist to provide an outstanding education that inspires and ensures high achievement so every student can succeed and make a difference in a rapidly changing world community."** That core purpose cements a laser-like focus for our district to meet the needs of all students; all means all.

### Core Purpose:

*Bozeman Public Schools exist to provide an outstanding education that inspires and ensures high achievement so every student can succeed and make a difference in a rapidly changing world community.*

### School Board Trustees:

Sandra Wilson - Chair  
Greg Neil - Vice Chair  
Lei-Anna Bertelsen  
Kevin Black  
Douglas Fischer  
Gary Lusin  
Tanya Reinhardt  
Lisa Weaver

Three, five-year goals help to focus the collective efforts of the District in achieving student success for all:

1. **Early Literacy Goal:** By 2025, 85% of all children entering Kindergarten will have requisite literacy skills.
2. **Grade Level Reading Goal:** By 2025, 90% of all BSD7 3rd Grade Students will demonstrate grade-level reading skills.
3. **PLC Goal:** By spring of 2025 all BSD7 schools PK-12 will have fully implemented Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) in place that will support the closing of the achievement gap. A PLC is a group of educators that meets regularly, shares expertise, and works collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students.

We appreciate the ongoing support and high expectations our community holds for Bozeman Public Schools. It is an honor to work towards meeting those expectations and ensuring every student in our system receives a high-quality education in an amazing public school.

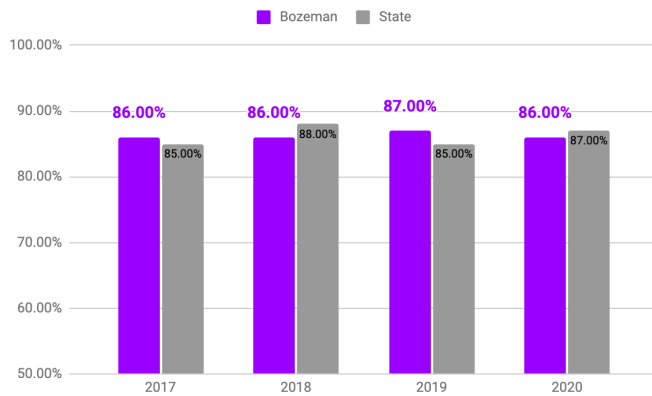
Respectfully,  
Casey Bertram, Interim Superintendent



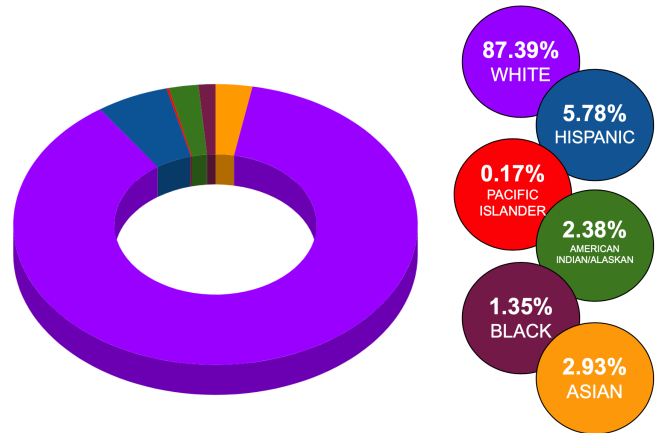


# ABOUT YOUR BOZEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## GRADUATION RATES



TOTAL STUDENTS 2021-2022: 7,308



## STUDENT : TEACHER RATIOS

K-8 DISTRICT  
**15:1**

9-12 DISTRICT  
**16:1**

PK-5  
**3,143**  
Students



6-8  
**1,651**  
Students



9-12  
**2,514**  
Students



**7,308**  
**Students**

## ATTENDANCE RATES

K-8 DISTRICT  
**95.2%**

9-12 DISTRICT  
**95.5%**



# CELEBRATIONS

# CHALLENGES

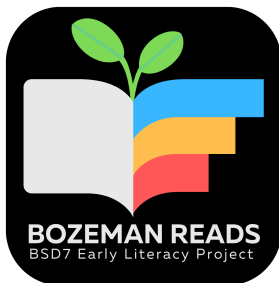
## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Student achievement is both a celebration and a challenge. As a school district we have much to celebrate on the student achievement front. Page seven highlights Bozeman Public Schools as the highest performing AA school district for elementary, middle school, and high school state assessment data in all subject areas measured by state assessments; English Language Arts, Math, and Science. We also recognize and have communicated transparently with our community that we have historical and current achievement gaps. We have subgroups of students (economically disadvantaged, English Learners, students with disabilities, etc.) who are disproportionately a part of the achievement gap. That signals a need for continued work and focus to ensure the success of all students within Bozeman Public Schools.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF BONDS/LEVIES

The community of Bozeman is invested in high-quality public education. They consistently show their support of Bozeman Public Schools program and facilities by passing operational mill levies, building reserve levies, technology levies, and building bond initiatives.

## BOZEMAN READS - EARLY LITERACY PROJECT



BSD7 knows that by the time children come to school, the foundation for reading success has been largely established. Bozeman Schools is investing in our community's youngest learners by providing training and outreach to parents, caregivers and teachers of preschool students through our new initiative, *Bozeman Reads*.

The project is grounded in the Science of Reading as it pertains to early childhood and child development, and it is rooted in the philosophy that parents are children's first teachers.

## COVID

It is hard to capture just how much the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Bozeman Public Schools. Balancing student and staff safety concerns with providing consistent access to educational services has been a constant challenge. COVID-19 has unfortunately divided our community on topics such as masks as a mitigation strategy, vaccinations, and instructional models. We also recognize and can see in our data that the impacts of COVID-19 on student achievement and mental health are significant. Public schools are a hub for a community and when the continuity of services and support is impacted the effects are significant and long-lasting. We appreciate the flexibility and resilience of our staff, students, and families as we continue to navigate the impacts of COVID-19. While COVID-19 spurred the launch of Montana's first public charter school, the BOCS, we have learned that for the vast majority of students and families in the District, consistent access to five days of in-person learning is the preferred model of instructional delivery.



## BOZEMAN ONLINE CHARTER SCHOOL (BOCS)



Bozeman Public Schools launched the 1st public charter school in Montana for the 2021-2022 school year. The BOCS is a flexible schooling option with both in-person and remote learning. The BOCS is for grades K-8th, and has both in-person and remote components in a competency

based model; as well as expeditionary and place-based learning in a "move at the pace of your learning" model of instruction. In-person instruction is located at the Willson building in downtown Bozeman.

## COST OF LIVING

The continued increases in housing costs within Gallatin County have had significant impacts on our ability as a school district to provide salaries and benefits commensurate with the cost of living. We are experiencing significant staffing shortages primarily with our hourly employees: paraprofessionals, substitutes, custodians, food service, and bus drivers. Recently, we are also seeing these challenges impact our pool of applicants for teaching and administrative positions. The community of Bozeman and Bozeman Public Schools continue to be desirable places to live and work; however, for many interested applicants the housing costs make the move to Bozeman unattainable. The District is exploring options for affordable housing and surveying employees to better understand the scope of the issue.

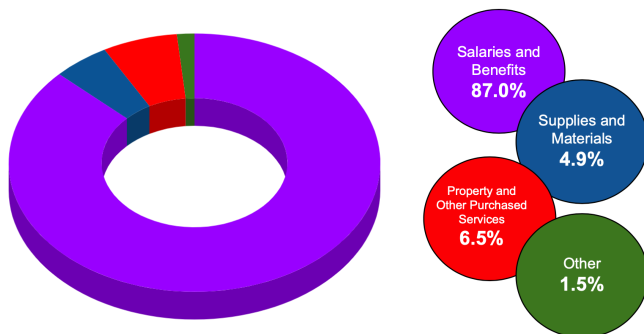


# 2021-2022 DISTRICT FINANCES

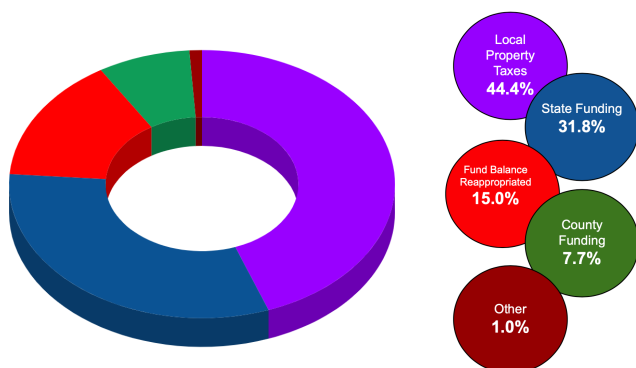
## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Fiscal responsibility and transparency are core values for Bozeman Public Schools. BSD7 is the only Montana School to receive the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and Association of School Business Officials International Meritorious Budget Award. The District has received the GFOA and ASBO awards for 31 and 6 consecutive years, respectively.

## BUDGETED EXPENDITURES



## BUDGETED REVENUE SOURCES



## DISTRICT BOND RATING

**Aa2**

BSD7's current bond rating from Moody's - the best of any K-12 public school district in Montana. The bond rating is an independent measure of financial soundness and risk, and the District's score keeps interest costs on debt as low as possible.





# CARING FOR FACILITIES

Bozeman Public Schools provides its educational delivery model across eight elementary buildings, two middle schools, and two high schools. In addition the District operates one support services facility, one administration building, and one bus maintenance and storage facility. In sum, that is over 1.4 million square feet of educational and support space. We are extremely grateful to our community for supporting the infrastructure needed to build and maintain our exceptional school facilities. District enrollment projections show that our current facilities will meet the needs of our growing community well into the future.

Some of the most highly utilized buildings in our community are our public schools. Our school facilities are utilized by local community groups after hours and on the weekends for sports and other activities. Each year the District spends considerable time and effort improving, maintaining, repairing, and updating school facilities. The current replacement value of District facilities is \$344 million. Through community support of building reserve levies we aim to invest approximately 3% of replacement costs annually (over \$10 million) on maintenance and repairs to produce a “managed care” level of facilities stewardship. The most recent and significant facilities projects were the opening of Gallatin High School in the fall of 2020, as well as the remodel and upgrades to Bozeman High School which opened during the fall/winter of the 2021-2022 school year. The community of Bozeman showed their support for those projects by passing over \$125 million in bond funding - Thank You!

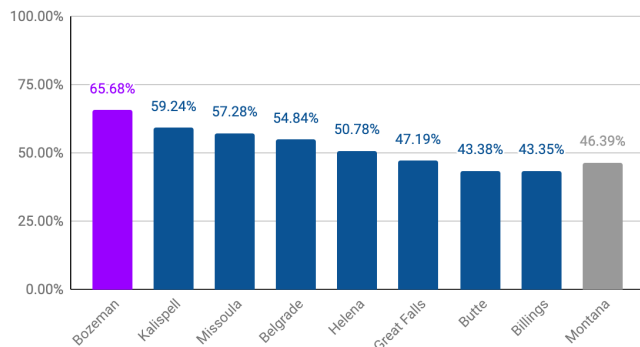
In addition to maintenance and repair projects we have focused on making our schools safe and secure for students and employees. Secure entry vestibule areas were recently added at all of our PK-12 schools to secure parent and visitor access to the buildings. We appreciate the facilities the community has entrusted to us and we are working hard to keep them maintained, accessible, and safe for our students.



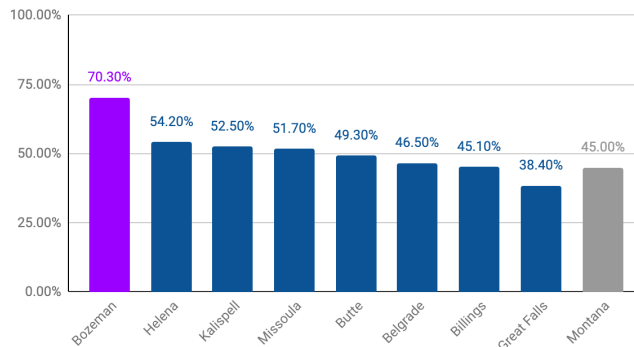
# AA District Data - Achievement and Demographics

## English Language Arts (ELA) - % Proficient or Advanced

AA District ELA SBAC 2020-2021 (Grades 3-8)

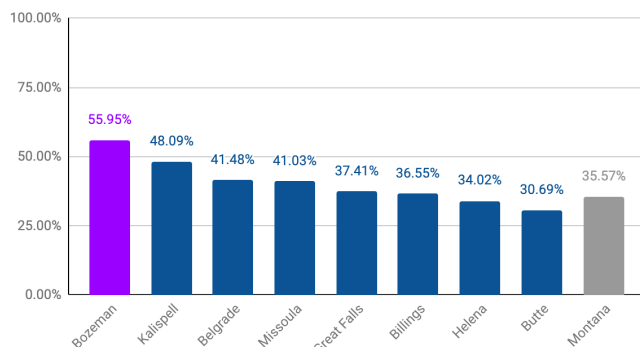


AA District ACT ELA 2020-2021 (Grade 11)

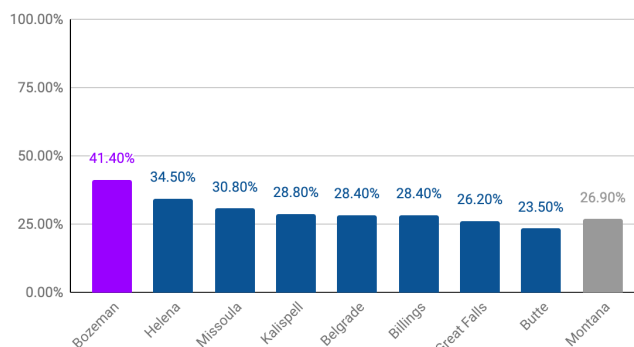


## Math - % Proficient or Advanced

AA District Math SBAC 2020-2021 (Grades 3-8)

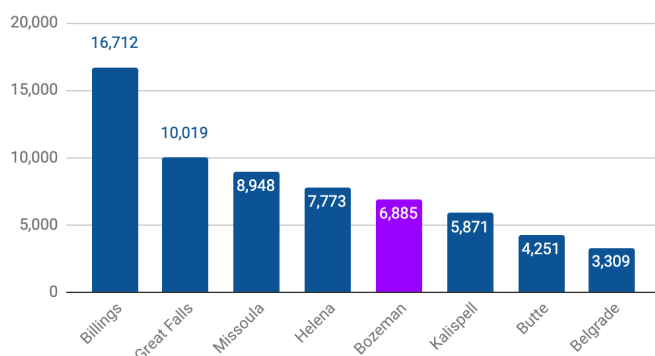


AA District ACT Math 2020-2021 (Grade 11)



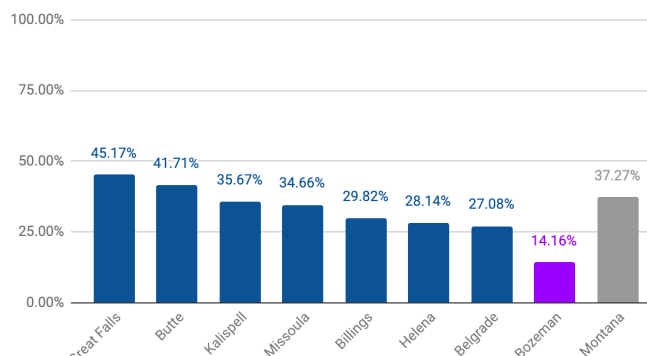
## Total Enrollment

AA District PK-12 Enrollment 2020-2021



## % Economically Disadvantaged

AA District - % Economically Disadvantaged 2020-2021





# STAY IN TOUCH WITH BOZEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

**LET's CONNECT** - Communication is a priority for BSD7 and our educational team. Below is a reminder of the options we have in place to keep our students, staff, families, and community updated on all things BSD7:

**Monthly Newsletter** - BSD7 publishes a monthly newsletter. To view the current or past newsletters, or to subscribe to the monthly newsletter follow this link:

<https://bit.ly/bsd7news>. Please feel free to share the subscription link with your friends and family across the country.

**Weekly Emails** - BSD7 publishes a weekly email that is pushed out to staff and parents/guardians. To access an archive of all weekly emails for the 2021-2022 school year follow this link: <https://bit.ly/bsd7weeklynews>

**Website** - Bozeman Public Schools and each school site has a website that can be accessed from our homepage: <https://www.bsd7.org/>

**Social Media** - Follow and like us on the social media platforms below!



Follow us on  
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BSD7Schools> @bsd7schools



Follow Us On  
twitter

<https://twitter.com/bsd7schools> @bsd7schools



Follow us on  
Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/bsd7schools> @bsd7schools

## CALL YOUR SCHOOL

**Emily Dickinson:** 406-522-6650 **Hawthorne:** 406-522-6700 **Hyalite:** 406-582-6800 **Irving:** 406-522-6600 **Longfellow:** 406-522-6150  
**Meadowlark:** 406-582-6860 **Morning Star:** 406-522-6500 **Whittier:** 406-522-6750 **CJMS:** 406-522-6318 **SMS:** 406-522-6470  
**BHS:** 406-522-6262 **GHS:** 406-522-4603 **Bozeman Online Charter School (BOCS):** 406-595-0109

## BOZEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING!

### FULL OR PART TIME - FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

We have openings dedicated to helping our students achieve their goals. Find all of our open positions at: <https://www.applitrack.com/bozeman/onlineapp/default.aspx>



The Bozeman School District is an Equal Opportunity district in education programs, activities, services, and employment. Bozeman School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, ethnicity, language barrier, religious belief, physical or mental handicap or disability, economic or social condition, actual or potential marital or parental status, gender, or sexual orientation. We comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC Section 1681), the 1975 Implementing Regulation, and any memoranda, directives, guidelines, or subsequent legislation that may be issued or enacted, 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI (401 FEP Manual 1), Title VII as amended (401 FEP Manual II), Title IX (401 FEP Manual 41), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (401 FEP Manual 83), Age Discrimination Act of 1967 and 1975 as amended, Equal Pay Act of 1963, Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Constitution of the State of Montana, The Montana Human Rights Act, The Montana Code of Governmental Fair Practices, and implementing federal and state rules and regulations. If you have a physical or mental disability that causes you to need assistance to access school facilities, programs, or services, please notify the school principal. This district endeavors to maintain an atmosphere free from discrimination and harassment. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should contact the appropriate administrator or the following district designee: Title IX / Americans with Disabilities Act / Section 504 / Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Patrick Strauss, Human Resource Director, [pat.strauss@bsd7.org](mailto:pat.strauss@bsd7.org), 406-522-6006.

