

# Report to Our Community 2022-2023 Bozeman

## Public Schools



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# All Means All!

**Greetings** - It is my privilege and honor to serve as Superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools. While the 2022-2023 school year feels like a return to some normalcy, it is not without challenges and opportunities.

As a District and community we are engaged in a process to remedy a K-12 General Fund Budget structural imbalance. The budget challenges are primarily associated with the opening of a 2nd comprehensive high school and flattening of enrollment projections.

BSD7's Long-Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) guides the work of the District. The District has established four specific and measurable goals to focus the work of our educational team.

## 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

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

1. **Early Literacy Goal:** By 2025, 85% of all children entering Kindergarten will have requisite literacy skills as measured by Acadience.
2. **Grade Level Reading Goal:** By 2025, 90% of all BSD7 3rd Grade Students will demonstrate grade-level reading skills by achieving a proficient score on the Acadience reading assessment at the end of the school year.
3. **PLC Goal:** By spring of 2025 all BSD7 schools PK-12 will have fully implemented PLC's in place that will support the closing of the achievement gap, thus qualifying BSD7 as a Solution Tree Model PLC District.
4. **Graduation Goal:** By 2025, 95% of BSD7 students in each graduation cohort will earn a regular high school diploma in four years or fewer.

Bozeman Public Schools' Board of Trustees adopted a Student Success policy that has an equity focus and boldly puts the District on the hook for the success of all students. Key commitments within Policy #3610 include:

- Providing all students with access to resources, opportunities, supports, and interventions to maximize the success of each student.
- Assuring that all BSD7 staff members, with deliberate effort, continue to examine and eliminate beliefs, policies, practices, and teaching that may perpetuate disparities in achievement.
- Raising the achievement of each student while eliminating any identified or perceived opportunity or achievement gaps.
- Filtering programs, initiatives, and budget supports to maximize student success.

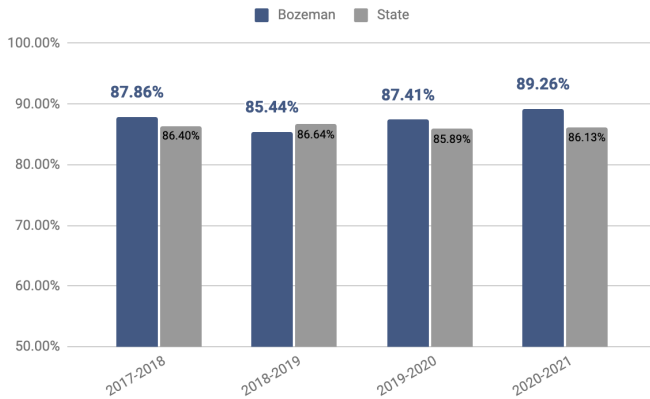
I appreciate the ongoing support and high expectations our community holds for Bozeman Public Schools. It is an honor to work towards meeting those expectations and ensuring every student in our system receives a high-quality education in an amazing public school.

Casey Bertram, Superintendent

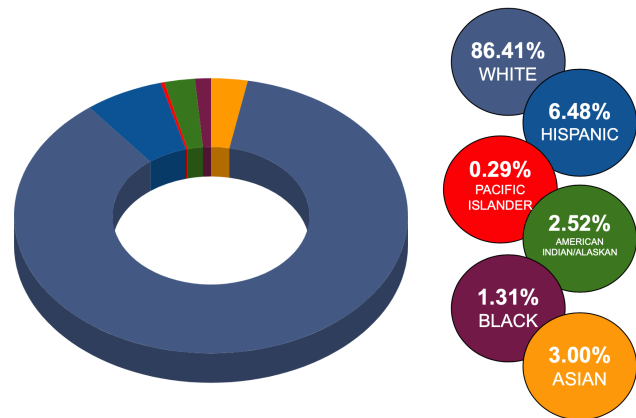


# ABOUT YOUR BOZEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

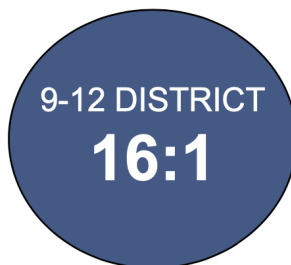
## GRADUATION RATES



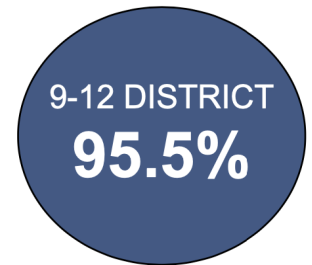
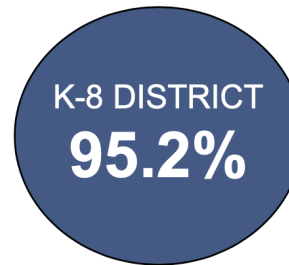
## TOTAL STUDENTS 2022-2023: 7,357



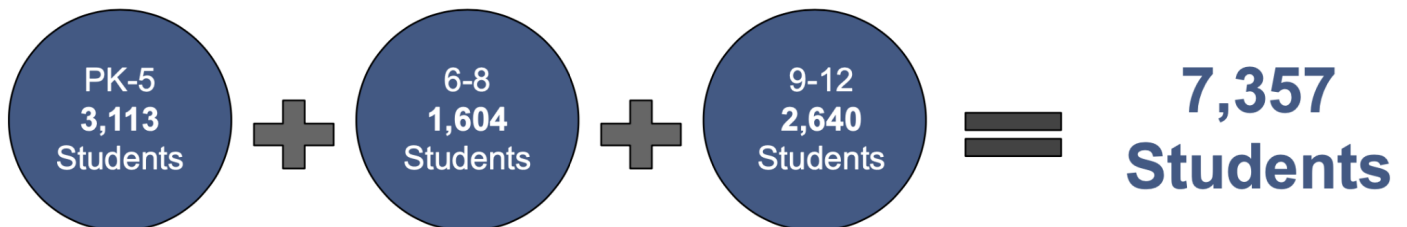
## STUDENT : TEACHER RATIOS



## ATTENDANCE RATES



OPI Reported Staffing Ratios Include All Certified Staff In The District (Counselors, School Psychologists, Intervention/SPED Staff, etc.)





# Innovation and Excellence

In recent years, the Montana Legislature has granted key new flexibility to public schools within our state. The Bozeman School District (BSD7) Board of Trustees has embraced the changing landscape. Our District has implemented many of these flexibilities and innovations into our progressive instructional and financial models.

## Transformational Learning

Transformational Learning emerged from HB351 during the 2019 legislative session. It is defined as, “a flexible system of pupil-centered learning that is designed to develop the full educational potential of each pupil that (i) is customized to address each pupil’s strengths, needs, and interests; (ii) includes continued focus on each pupil’s proficiency over content; and (iii) actively engages each pupil in determining what, how, when, and where each pupil learns.”

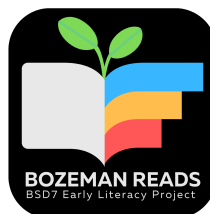


**Bridger Charter Academy**



The Bridger Charter Academy (BCA) grades 9-12 and the Bozeman Charter School (BoCS) grades 2-8 are the state’s flagship charter program/school for transformational learning. BCA originated in the mid-90s to serve students for whom the traditional seat-time model either proved ineffective or impractical. BoCS was born out of COVID and includes online core instruction, competency based learning, as well as in-person opportunities for whole child skill development and expeditionary learning opportunities within the community. Both programs provide educational opportunities based upon proficiency rather than aggregate hours.

## Early Education Opportunities



**BOZEMAN READS:** BSD7 is investing in our community’s youngest learners by providing training and outreach to parents, caregivers and teachers of preschool students through a program called *Bozeman Reads*. The program is funded via adult education funds as well as privately fundraised dollars via the Bozeman Schools

Foundation. 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. Initially launched in 2021, Bozeman Reads is expanding. The program will continue to offer preschool partnerships and family events, but has also added staff, launched 1:1 home visits, and intends to host a summer literacy camp.

**RUNNING START:** In 2015, the District created a Running Start kindergarten program, a two-year kindergarten track specifically geared toward at-risk students. Running Start programs are hosted at Hyalite and Whittier Elementary Schools.

**SPED PreK:** Addressing the achievement gap remains a primary focus of the District. To address student needs the District provides a free public preschool to students with identified special needs as required by IDEA.

## Additional Areas of Innovation and Excellence

- **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:** Graduation requirements are specified in procedure 2410P, which also provides for early graduation, requirement waivers, part-time enrollment, alternative programs, experience-based learning, middle school coursework, dual enrollment, and dual credit courses. Additionally, the District’s Bridger Charter Academy (discussed above), HiSET Options Program, Senate Bill 18 Disrupted Education, and A2X (Alternative to Expulsion) provide options to students needing unique accommodations.
- **HOME SCHOOL and PRIVATE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION:** The District provides part-time enrollment opportunities as well as access to extracurricular activities for students who home school and/or attend a private school in the area.
- **YEAR AROUND LEARNING:** The District provides targeted needs based summer opportunities via special education extended school year, summer access to mental health supports, as well as credit recovery at the high school level.
- **OFFSITE INSTRUCTION:** Elementary students may access the Bozeman Charter School to receive core instruction delivered remotely. Additionally, students at the high school level have options for online coursework via MT Digital Academy as well as Edgenuity.
- **CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE):** Bozeman Public Schools offers pathways for graduating with distinction within the following areas: BioMedical Sciences, Business Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, or Industrial Career & Technical Education. CTE pathway development continues to grow in the District providing students access to work-based learning, experiential learning, dual-credit, and partnerships/apprenticeships.

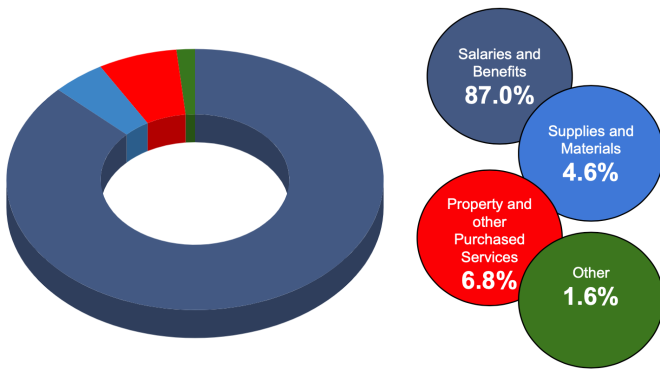


# 2022-2023 DISTRICT FINANCES

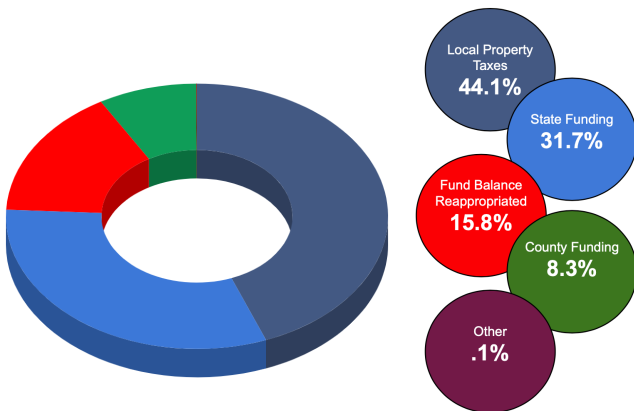
## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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 32 and seven 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.



# 2023 Legislative Priorities



The 68th Montana Legislature will convene in January, 2023. BSD7 Trustees recognize the significant responsibility that comes with the constitutional authority granted to local elected school boards (local control). The core values of the Bozeman Public School District (High Student Achievement; Committed, Quality Staff; Community and Family Engagement; Climate; Fiscal Responsibility; and Decision Making) filter Trustee decisions to support high levels of learning for all students. The Bozeman Public Schools Board of Trustees has established the following legislative priorities in support of public education in Montana:

## Funding For Montana Public Schools

Maintaining high quality staff and programs will require continued support and prioritization of public dollars for public education in the legislature. The following are school funding priorities:

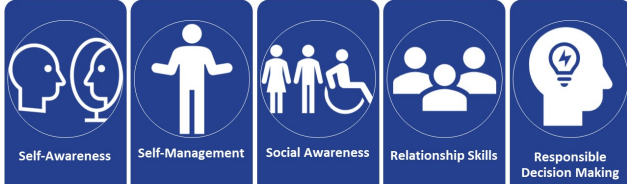
- Establish funding structures that support the actual costs of recruiting and retaining staff and providing required services
- Mitigate property taxes through:
  - Guaranteed Tax Base increases
  - Providing alternative funding sources to property taxes
  - Equitable administration of Tax Increment Finance Districts

## Recruitment and Retention of High Quality Staff

Exponential increases in the cost of living in Bozeman and the surrounding area has put a significant strain on the District's ability to recruit and retain high quality educators and support staff. Bozeman Public Schools is approaching these challenges with a multifaceted approach that includes the following, however, our efforts do not keep pace with inflation and rising housing costs:

- Focused efforts to raise salaries/benefits
- Focused efforts on measuring and building positive school cultures
- Exploring expansion of child care options for employees
- Exploring workforce housing options and partnerships

## Mental Health and Whole Child Skill Development



Schools and communities across Montana need high quality professional therapeutic support to deal with the rising mental health and wellness needs of our youth. The 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) showed that Bozeman students are experiencing increasing rates of depressive symptoms and suicidal thoughts - trends similar to that of schools across Montana and the Nation. Increased flexibility and funding for school-based mental health programming is needed.

Developing whole child skills is essential to student success inside and outside of the classroom. The Montana Office of Public Instruction <https://opi.mt.gov> points to research showing the following benefits of whole child skill development:

- Increase in student academic performance
- Decrease in behavioral health concerns
- Increase in teacher retention
- Increase in school attendance and graduation
- Increase in workforce and college readiness
- High return on investment and sustained positive impacts

## Early Childhood Education



Reading proficiency by third grade is a universally accepted metric signaling student success. However, not all students have the same foundation coming into kindergarten. The stakes are particularly high for students in an identified achievement gap (Special Education, Poverty, English Learners) and these students often find themselves behind before they begin.

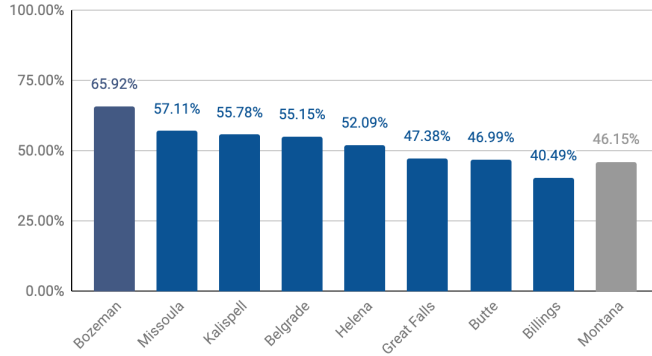
Recent research by the Learning Policy Institute confirms that students who attend high-quality preschool programs reap benefits that can last through school and their lives. <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org>

While Bozeman Public Schools is making an impact on our youngest learners via the launch of Bozeman Reads, funding is a significant hurdle to scaling the programming to all parents of preschool aged children in the community.

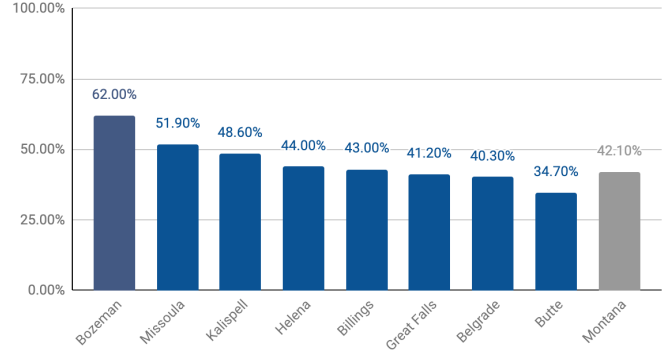
# AA District Data - Achievement and Demographics

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

AA District ELA SBAC 2021-2022 (Grades 3-8)

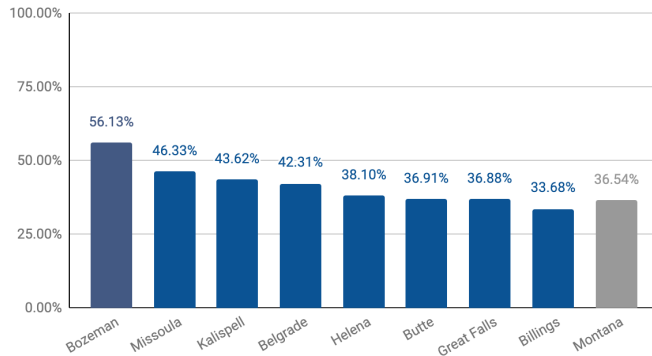


AA District ACT ELA 2021-2022 (Grade 11)

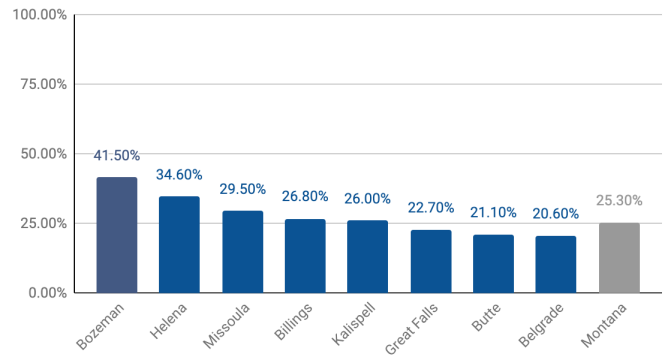


## Math - % Proficient or Advanced

AA District Math SBAC 2021-2022 (Grades 3-8)

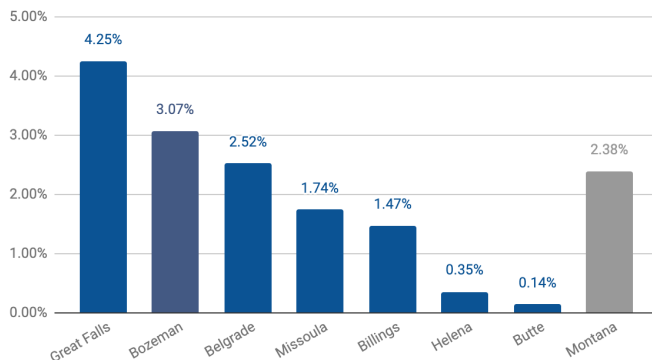


AA District ACT Math 2021-2022 (Grade 11)



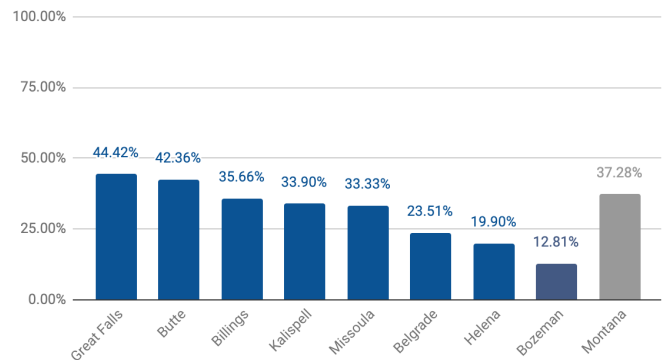
## % Multilingual / English Learners

AA District - % English Learner 2021-2022



## % Economically Disadvantaged

AA District - % Economically Disadvantaged 2021-2022





# 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 follow this link: <https://bit.ly/3TsJurc>

**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!



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



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



<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 Charter School (BoCS): 406-522-6600

## 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.