

Report to Our Community 2025-2026

Bozeman

Public Schools



Bridger Charter
Academy



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MISSION

Bozeman Public Schools exists to ensure high-level learning for all students.

VISION

Bozeman Public Schools will empower all students to reach their full potential for achievement and thrive in their community. We will promote inclusive community involvement; support a passionate education team; and nurture a dynamic learning environment.

School Board Trustees

Kevin Black - Chair
 Lauren Dee - Vice Chair
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 Gary Lusin
 Melissa Moran
 Greg Neil
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 Sarah Wilson



Greetings — I welcome you to this year's Annual Report for Bozeman Public Schools with deep appreciation and a strong sense of optimism for the year ahead. Thank you to our students, families, educators, staff, and community partners whose commitment to high-quality public education continues to elevate our schools and strengthen our community. Your support and engagement make our shared successes possible.

We have much to celebrate! Our focus on academic excellence and the whole-child experience is reflected in the progress our students are making across all grade levels. Below you will find our Long Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) goals and the notable strides we are taking toward achieving them—from improving student learning outcomes, to enhancing staff support and development, to fostering inclusive and welcoming school environments. As always, the LRSP serves as our roadmap for continuous improvement, guiding our efforts to ensure that every student in Bozeman Public Schools thrives today and is prepared for success tomorrow.

Goal Area 1 - Academic Performance

- **Grade Level Reading Goal:** By 2029, 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.

Spring 2024 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency = 79%

- **Graduation Goal:** By 2029, 95% of BSD7 students in each graduation cohort will earn a high school diploma in four years or fewer.

2022-2023 Cohort Graduation Rate = 85.92%

Goal Area 2 - Operations and Capacity Building

- **Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) Goal:** By spring of 2028, all BSD7 schools, PK-12, will have fully implemented PLCs in place that will support the closing of the achievement gap, thus qualifying BSD7 as a Solution Tree Model PLC District.

2025-2026 Model PLC Schools = 4, Promising Practices Schools = 2
 Model Schools: Emily Dickinson, Hawthorne, Irving, Longfellow
 Promising Practices Schools: Meadowlark, Whittier

Goal Area 3 - Community Engagement and Partnerships

- **Early Literacy Goal:** 85% of all children entering kindergarten will have requisite literacy skills as measured by Acadience.

Fall 2025 Incoming Kindergarten Proficiency = 66%

Goal Area 4 - Student and Staff Well-being

- **Staff Well-Being Goal:** By 2028, BSD7 will increase staff well-being to 85% or above as measured by the Panorama survey.

Fall 2025 Panorama Survey Favorable Response Rate = 69%

- **Student Well-Being Goal:** By 2031, fewer than 15% of students will self-report depression symptoms as measured by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This represents an almost 60% decrease in self-reported depression symptoms at the high school level, and an almost 50% decrease at the middle school.

YRBS 2023 High School Self-Reported Depression Symptoms = 36.25%

YRBS 2023 Middle School Self-Reported Depression Symptoms = 28.95%

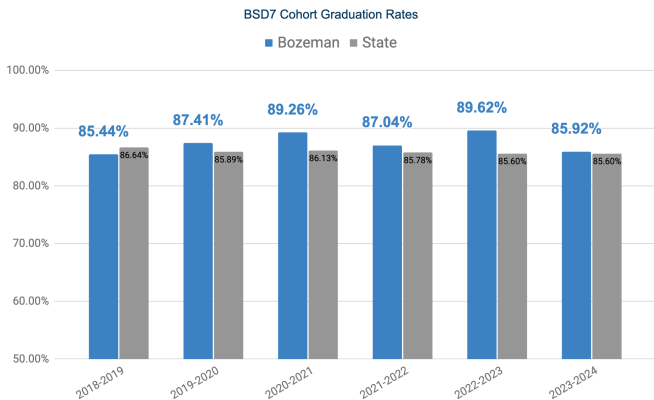
While we are proud of our progress, important work remains. Our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all students by addressing achievement gaps, expanding resources, and promoting equity while supporting every student's success. With our shared vision and efforts, Bozeman Public Schools will continue empowering every child to reach their potential. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Casey Bertram

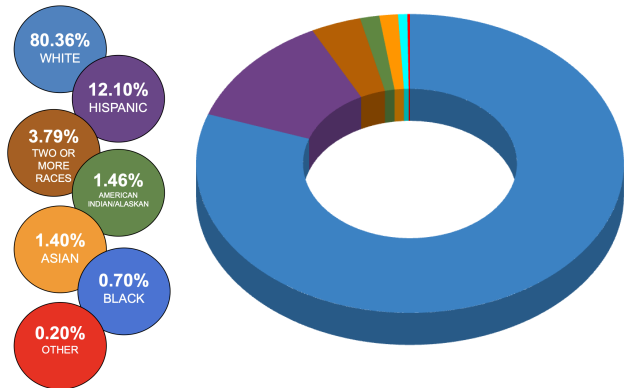
Casey Bertram, Superintendent

About Your Bozeman Public Schools

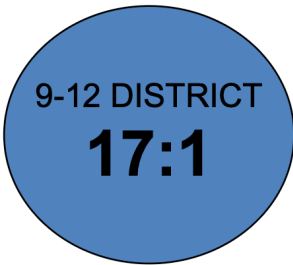
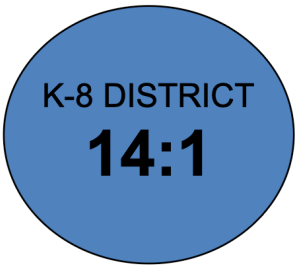
GRADUATION RATES



TOTAL STUDENTS 2025-2026 7,557

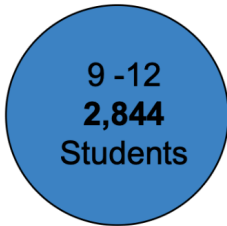
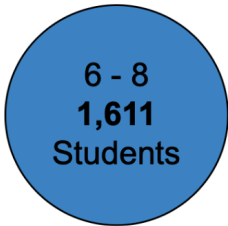
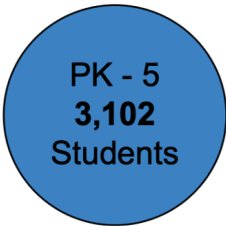
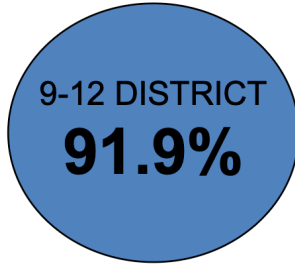
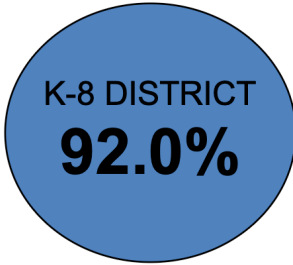


STUDENT : TEACHER RATIOS



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

ATTENDANCE RATES

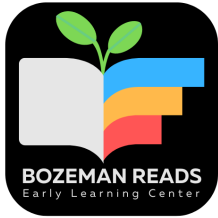


7,557

Students



Early Learning Matters



Bozeman Public Schools has an early literacy goal of **85% of all children entering kindergarten will have requisite literacy skills as measured by Acadience**. The Bozeman Reads Early Learning Center (BRELC) was opened in the fall of 2024 and served 72 four-year-old students via four general education classrooms during the 2024-2025 school year. The program was expanded to serve 90 students for the 2025-2026 school year.

The BRELC operates with a full-day model, Tuesday - Friday each week. While the program has an early literacy focus, the curriculum is focused on the whole child and provides rich literacy and mathematical experiences, while also building social, emotional, and behavioral competencies critical for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Key Questions: How is the Bozeman Reads Early Learning Center working to support the early literacy goal? How did students who attended the center during the 2024-2025 school year perform as they entered BSD7 kindergarten classrooms in fall 2025?

Fall 2024

0%

Proficient or Advanced
N=72

Enrollment in the BRELC was contingent upon lagging literacy skills in any literacy subtest area as measured by the Acadience Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI) assessment.

Spring 2025

66%

Proficient or Advanced
N=72

End of year assessment as measured by the Acadience Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI) assessment (composite score).

Fall 2025

71%

Proficient or Advanced
N=58

Beginning of year assessment as measured by the Acadience assessment (composite score). Data include kindergarten students who attended the BRELC for at least 80% of the year and entered BSD7 kindergarten classrooms in fall 2025.

Key Takeaways: The BRELC year-long, four-year-old program delivered powerful results - two-thirds of participating students reached proficiency within one school year. Even months later, after transitioning to kindergarten, more than 70% remained proficient in literacy.

The Evidence is Clear - Targeted Early Intervention Works!

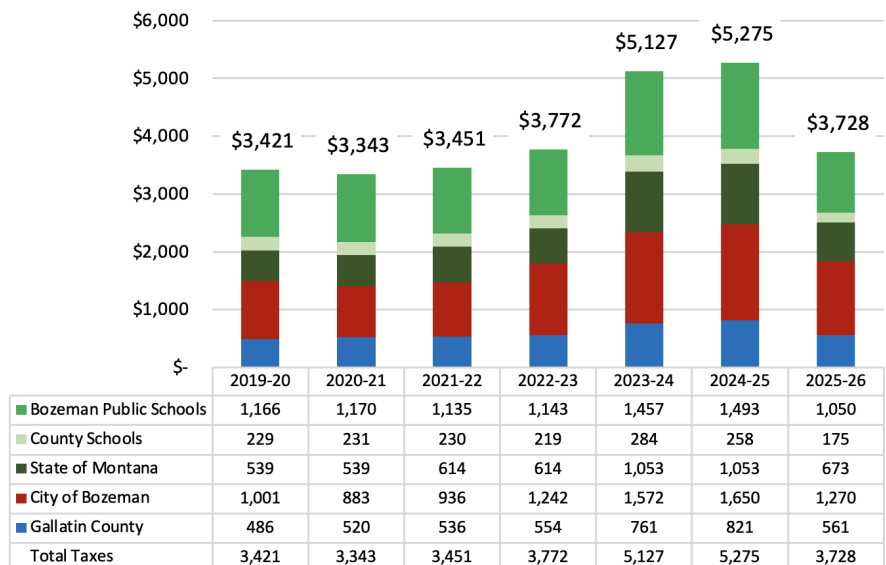
Property Tax Update

Recent legislative changes provided significant property tax relief to about 80% of Montana residential property owners. Much of the reduction was to school related taxes. Here's how property tax bills looked for a median-valued home located within the Bozeman City limits:

For this median-valued property:

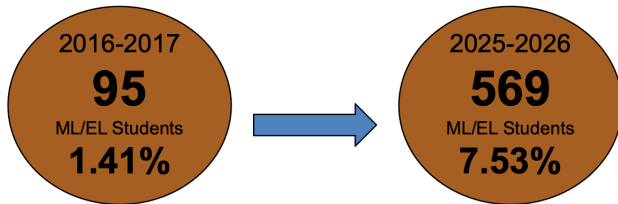
- Taxes decreased for all levying jurisdictions. Of those jurisdictions, the Bozeman School District taxes dropped by the highest dollar amount (\$443).
- The Bozeman School District is the only taxing jurisdiction whose taxes this year (\$1,050) are lower than they were when the graph began in 2019-20 (\$1,166).

Property Taxes on Median House
Within Bozeman City Limits



Multilingual English Learners (ML/EL)

Bozeman Public Schools has experienced a substantial and enriching increase in our multilingual English learner (ML/EL) population, growing from fewer than 200 students before the pandemic (less than 2% of enrollment) to 569 students today—7.53% of our district.

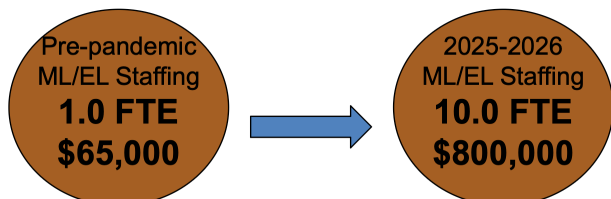


Over 90% of these learners are Spanish-speaking, bringing vibrant cultural and linguistic diversity that strengthens our schools and enriches the learning experience for all students.

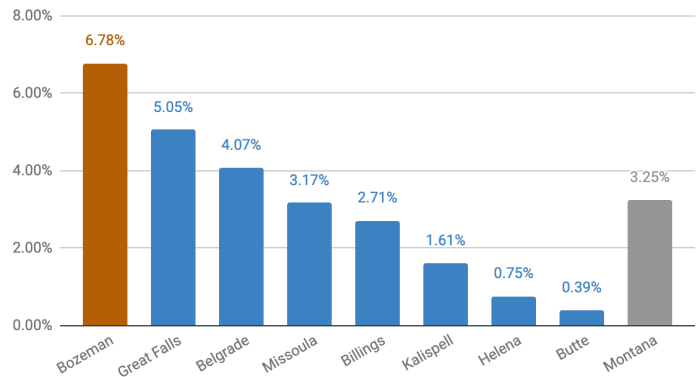


At the same time, this growth presents new challenges as we work to fulfill our mission of ensuring high levels of learning for every student. Many of our ML/EL learners arrive with limited literacy in their primary language and a higher prevalence of trauma-related experiences, requiring additional layers of support, staffing, and instructional expertise.

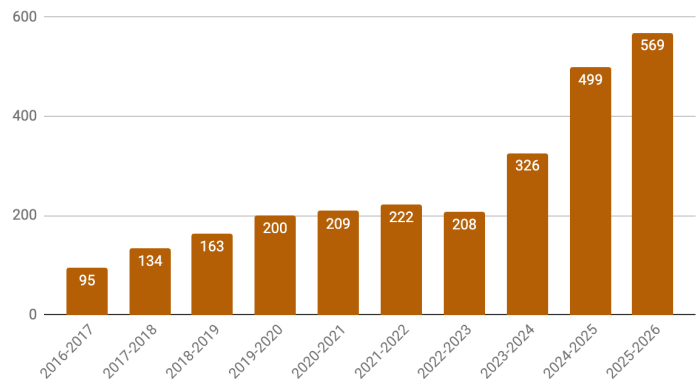
Bozeman Public Schools remains deeply committed to meeting these needs with compassion, evidence-based practices, and a belief that our increasingly diverse student body makes us a stronger and more connected community. The District has made significant investments in direct services staffing to support the needs of ML/EL learners. Despite only receiving a very small (\$39,000) state/federal grant, the District spends over \$800,000 a year in general fund dollars on ML/EL staffing and support.



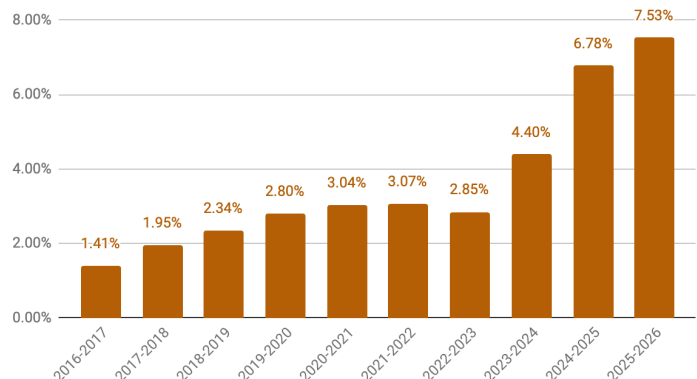
AA District - % English Learner 2024-2025



BSD7 ML/EL Student Population By Number



BSD7 ML/EL Student Population By Percentage

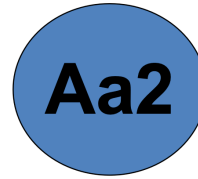


District Finances

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

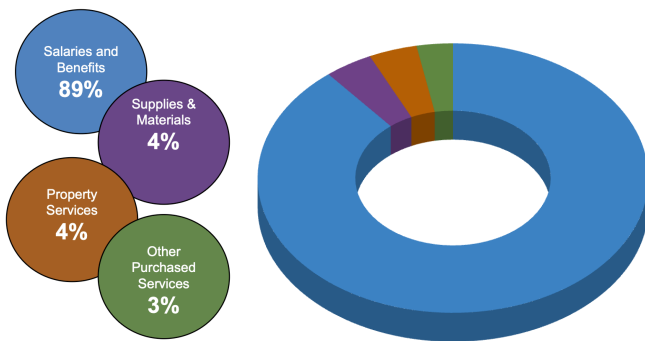
Fiscal responsibility and transparency are core values for Bozeman Public Schools. BSD7 is the only Montana school to receive the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International Meritorious Budget Award. The District has received the GFOA and ASBO awards for 35 and 10 consecutive years, respectively.

DISTRICT BOND RATING

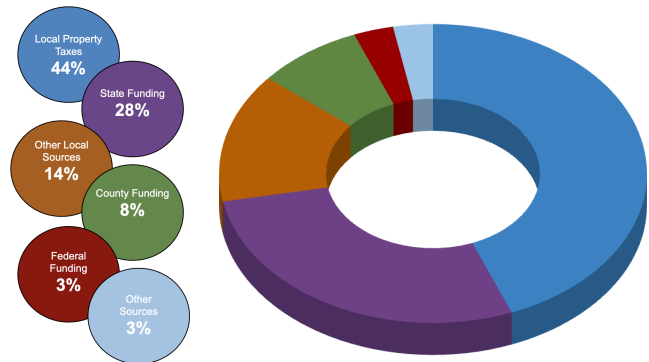


BSD7's current bond rating from Moody's is the best of any K-12 public school district in Montana. The bond rating is an independent measure of financial soundness and risk, and the District's score keeps interest costs on debt as low as possible.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETED EXPENDITURES 2025-2026



REVENUE SOURCES 2024-2025 (Actual)



DISTRICT DOLLARS WITH LACY & MIKE

To say the Montana Public School Funding Formula is complex is an extreme understatement. In an effort to help build community knowledge and understanding of BSD7's budget and financial picture, and provide transparency and accountability, the professionals in the business office in the District launched a blog in the fall of 2023. Ninety-seven issues later, this now bi-weekly blog that is featured in the Superintendent's communication to parents and guardians has become a must-read for many in the Bozeman community. Lacy and Mike provide detailed information that is understandable, and also provide a good bit of humor along the way. Use the QR code below to access the blogs for 2025-2026.

District Dollars \$\$

With Lacy and Mike

Lacy Clark
Director
Business Services

Mike Waterman
Executive Director
Business and Operations

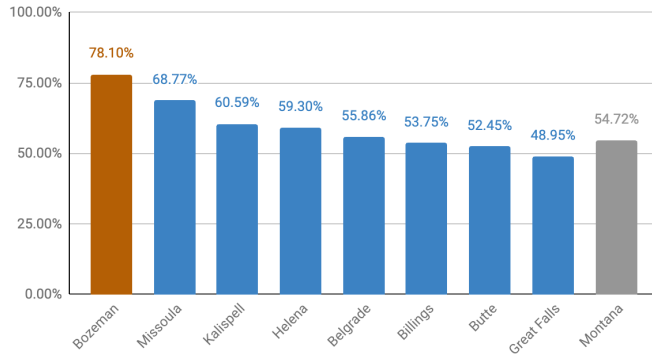
If you are an avid reader of the *District Dollars With Lacy and Mike* blog you know that the authors often provide opportunities to earn prizes by answering comprehension questions about the content. Lacy and Mike want to provide that same opportunity to readers of this annual report....use the QR code below for details:



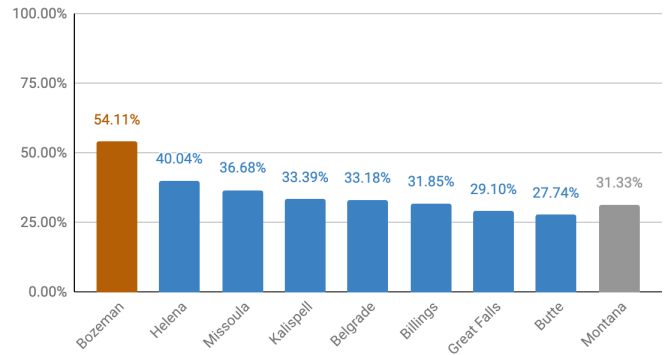
AA District Data - Achievement and Demographics

High School ACT (Grade 11) - English Language Arts (ELA) and Math - % Proficient or Advanced

AA District ACT ELA 2024-2025 (Grade 11)

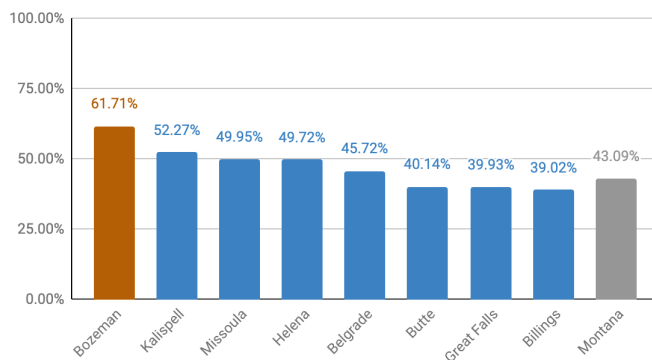


AA District ACT Math 2024-2025 (Grade 11)

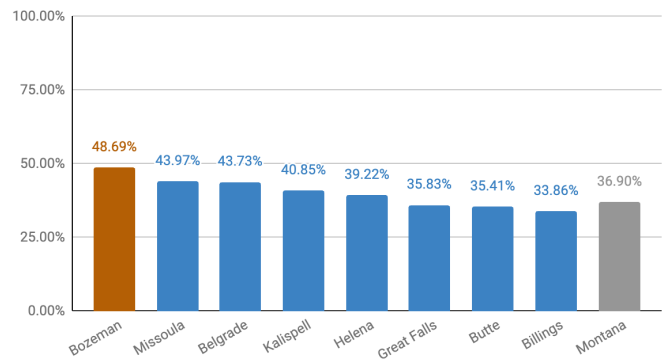


Grades 3-8 MAST English Language Arts (ELA) and Math - % Proficient or Advanced

AA District MAST ELA 2024-2025 (Grades 3-8)

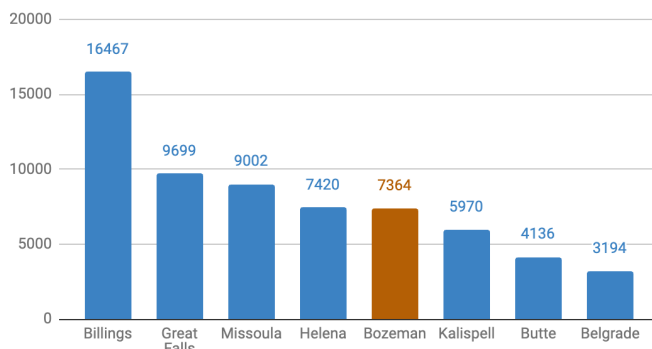


AA District MAST Math 2024-2025 (Grades 3-8)



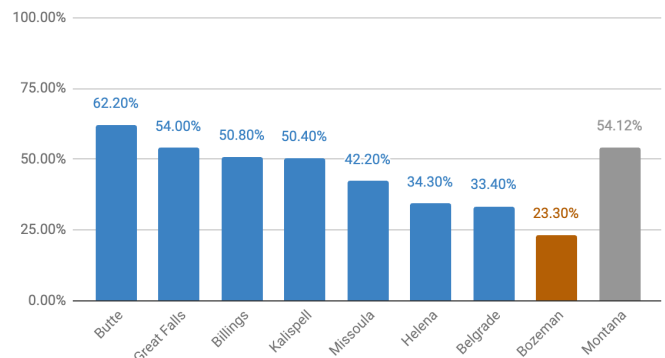
Student Enrollment

AA District - District Enrollment Total 2024-2025



% Economically Disadvantaged

AA District - % Economically Disadvantaged 2024-2025



Montana
PK-12 Enrollment
2024-2025
144,517

AA District Enrollment
2024-2025 = **63,252**
or
43.77%
of MT PK-12 Enrollment

Data source: MT OPI GEMS Data Warehouse, <https://gems.opi.mt.gov>

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:

Community Newsletter - BSD7 publishes a community newsletter on a periodic basis. To view the current or past newsletters, or to subscribe to the Community newsletter, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/bsd7news>. Please feel free to share the subscription link with your friends and family across the country.

Bi-Weekly Emails - BSD7 publishes a bi-weekly email that is pushed out to staff and parents/guardians. To access an archive of all weekly emails, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/4j5CvT5>

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

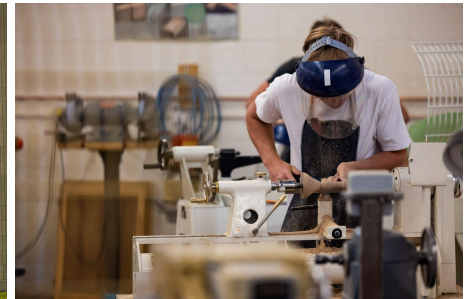
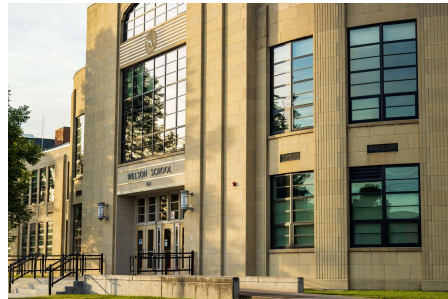
Whittier:
406-522-6750

CJMS:
406-522-6318

SMS:
406-522-6470

BHS/BCA:
406-522-6262

GHS:
406-522-4603



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, 406-522-6659.