



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
438 W SPRUCE ST
MISSOULA MT 59802-4150

Phone: (406) 258-4860
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August 12, 2011

Dear Home School Parents:

You have made an important decision and a strong commitment to your child (children). Montana law (**M.C.A. §20-5-109**), allowing for compulsory school enrollment exemption, accomodates your family's choice. Many resources are available to home educators. Please find included in this packet a newsletter from the Montana Coalition of Home Educators. This newsletter contains valuable information about Montana Home School law, including requirements for notifying the county superintendent, record maintenance, attendance requirements, compliance with local health and safety regulations, and designing an organized course of study. Their web address is <http://www.mtche.org/>. Finally, you will find lists of Internet and curriculum resources, helpful publications, and testing information.

Your commitment to your child (children) includes an **“organized course of study”** required by law (**M.C.A. §20-5-109 [4]**). In case of future entrance (or re-entrance) into a public school, elementary home school students are usually tested by the district for appropriate placement. When admitting diploma seeking students, the high schools expect that a student has been following a fully accredited off-site educational program. While non-diploma seeking students may enroll for classes, diploma seeking students must meet all credit and course requirements. Additionally, home school students may wish to participate in Montana Digital Academy courses free of charge, <http://www.montanadigitalacademy.org/> but must enroll through their local high school. Please contact the high school counseling staff of your district to align your home school program or contact us for referral. You may also refer to the Montana Office of Public Instruction website <http://www.opi.mt.gov/> which has numerous resources including the Montana State Content Standards. An **organized course of study** is essential not only to enter public education, but to enter many colleges and universities or to join the military. Working together for the common good of each child is what we all want.

As a home school you are eligible to participate in federally-funded education programs. For your convenience a form is attached to be filled out and returned to our office. Please complete and return the form prior to the first Monday in October, the first pupil enrollment count day of the year, even if you do NOT wish to participate.

The mandantory information you need to provide to my office is (1) written notice of intent to home school, (2) an attendance report submitted by July 1 for the previous school year, and (3) the Home School Notification of Opportunity to Participate in Federally Funded Programs. Each form is attached for your convenience and is available digially at <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/supschools/>, or you may also use other written means to provide the requested information. Thank you, and have a great year.

Sincerely,

Erin Lipkind, Ed.D.
Missoula County Superintendent of Schools

MISSOULA
COUNTY



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