



TO: Home Schoolers in Big Horn County

2015-2016

You are receiving these Home School Registration Materials because you were registered as a Home Schooler in Big Horn County last year; or, you have requested information for the current academic year. You will find the following enclosed:

-  Registration Form, which includes a Federal Programs Participation "check-off" — *Please read carefully and furnish all of the information requested.*
-  A copy of "Selected School Laws Related to Home Schooling" (*printed on the back of this introductory information page*)

Registration must be done for **each school year**. [20-5-109(5) MCA]. Registration is effective for the **current academic term ONLY**.) To register as Home Schoolers for the 2015-2016 academic year:

Please furnish the following 3 items at this time:

1. **Registration Form—completed, signed & dated**
2. **"Home School—Notification of Opportunity to Participate in Federally Funded Programs"—checked, signed & dated**
3. **A copy of your child's Immunization Record (*for 1st-time registrants*)**

AT THE END OF THE TERM, please provide us with documentation of at least the minimum aggregate hours of instruction. This can be a copy of whatever you use to keep track of instruction days, i.e., calendar, grade book pages, etc. If your child attended a public or private school during the term in which you are home schooling, be sure to include a copy of that school's attendance record for your child. (*If you home schooled last year, and have not yet sent us a copy of your 2014-2015 attendance document, please do so with the 2015-2016 registration — Thanks!*)

The **County Spelling Bee** will be held in early March, 2016. This program is sponsored by the Lee Newspapers of Montana. The winner of the County Bee will represent Big Horn County at the State Spell-Off and the State winner goes to Washington, D.C. for the National contest. ALL students in **Grades 5-8** are invited to participate **at their grade &/or school levels**. Each school will then send its best speller(s) to the County Bee. The number of spellers from each school at the County-level Bee is determined by enrollment. Home Schools in the county will be represented by 1 student. If you would be interested in organizing & conducting a Home Schoolers' Bee, let us know! We'll send out details by mid-January.



This office is not equipped to provide curricula,

We hope you have a satisfying year of growth & learning.



Selected School Laws of Montana Relating to Home Schooling

20-5-102. Compulsory enrollment and excuses. ((1) Except as provided in subsection (2), any parent, guardian, or other person who is responsible for the care of any child who is 7 years of age or older prior to the first day of school in any school fiscal year shall cause the child to be instructed in the program prescribed by the board of public education pursuant to 20-7-111 until the later of the following dates

- (a) the child's 16th birthday; or
 - (b) the date of completion of the work of the 8th grade.
- (2) A parent, guardian, or other person shall enroll the child in the school assigned by the trustees of the district within the first week of the school term or when the parent, guardian, or person establishes the residence in the district unless the child is:
- (a) enrolled in a school of another district or state under any of the tuition provisions of this title;
 - (b) provided with supervised correspondence study or supervised home study under the transportation provisions of this title;
 - (c) excused from compulsory school attendance upon a determination by a district judge that attendance is not in the best interest of the child;
 - (d) excused by the board of trustees upon a determination that attendance by a child who has attained the age of 16 is not in the best interest of the child and the school; or
 - (e) enrolled in a nonpublic or home school that complies with the provisions of 20-5-109. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(e), a home school is the instruction by a parent of the parent's child, stepchild, or ward in the parent's residence and a nonpublic school included a parochial, church, religious, or private school.

20-5-111. Responsibilities and rights of parent who provides home school. Subject to the provisions of 20-5-109, a parent has the authority to instruct the parent's child, stepchild, or ward in a home school and is solely responsible for:

- (1) the educational philosophy of the home school;
- (2) the selection of instructional materials, curriculum, and textbooks;
- (3) the time, place, and method of instruction; and
- (4) the evaluation of the home school instruction.

20-5-109. Nonpublic school requirements for compulsory enrollment exemption. To qualify its students for exemption from compulsory enrollment under 20-5-102, a nonpublic or home school:

- (1) shall maintain records on pupil attendance and disease immunization and make the records available to the county superintendent of schools on request;
- (2) shall provide at least the minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction in accordance with 20-1-301 and 20-1-302;
- (3) must be housed in a building that complies with applicable local health and safety regulations;
- (4) shall provide an organized course of study that includes instruction in the subjects required of public schools as a basic instructional program pursuant to 20-7-111; and
- (5) in the case of home schools, shall notify the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the home school is located in each school fiscal year of the student's attendance at the school.

20-5-110. School district assessment for placement of a child who enrolls from a nonaccredited, nonpublic school. The trustees of a school district shall:

- (1) adopt a district policy on assessment for placement of any child who enrolls in a school of the district and whose previous place of instruction was a nonpublic school that is not accredited;
- (2) include in the adopted policy the following provisions:
 - (a) the specific assessment for placement to be administered to any child subject to the provisions of subsection (1);
 - (b) a procedure for grade and program placement of the child based on results of the assessment for placement, including considerations for the age and identified abilities of the child, and
 - (c) a hearing process before the board of trustees of the district if the parent or guardian of a child is not in agreement with the placement of the child and requests a hearing before the board; and
- (3) administer the adopted policy required in subsection (1) in a uniform and fair manner.

20-1-301. School Fiscal Year. (1) The school fiscal year begins on July 1 and end on June 30. At least the minimum aggregate hours defined in subsection (2) must be conducted during each school fiscal year, except that 1,050 aggregate hours of pupil instruction for graduating seniors may be sufficient.

- (2) The minimum aggregate hours required by grade are:
- (a) 360 hours for half-time kindergarten or 720 hours for full time kindergarten program, as provided in 20-7-117;
 - (b) 720 hours for grades 1 through 3; and
 - (c) 1,080 hours for grades 4 through 12.
- (3) For any elementary or high school district that fails to provide for at least the minimum aggregate hours, as listed in subsection (1) and (2), the superintendent of public instruction shall reduce the direct state aid for the district for that school year by two times an hourly rate, as calculated by the office of public instruction, for the aggregate hours missed.