

Missoula County Public Schools  
STUDENTS 3120

Compulsory Attendance

Parents are responsible for seeing that their children of age seven (7) or older prior to the first day of school, attend school until the later of the following dates:

1. The child's sixteenth (16th) birthday;
2. The date of completion of the work of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade.

Parents shall enroll the student unless the student is:

1. Provided with supervised correspondence or home study;
2. Excused because of a determination by a district judge that attendance is not in the best interests of the child;
3. Enrolled in a non-public or home school;
4. Enrolled in a school of another district or state under the tuition provisions of this title;
5. Excused by the Board upon a determination that such attendance by a child who has attained the age of sixteen (16) is not in the best interests of the child and the school.

Missoula County Public Schools will continue tuition-free attendance of resident students not reaching 19 years of age by September 10. Students in MCPS are expected to attend and be enrolled as full time students. However, with the approval of the building principal and Superintendent or designee, students may be enrolled less than full-time if the student is enrolled for at least one clock hour per day (including passing periods). This applies to students currently enrolled in MCPS' schools as well as home school students and private school students. This provision applies to students in grades K-12. Part-time students must participate in the state wide student assessment which any student in the grades designated for assessment is required to take.

Any student who wishes to receive a diploma from a Missoula County Public School high school, must be enrolled as a full-time student during his/her senior year and meet the same credit requirements as other students in MCPS' schools.

A full-time senior student is defined as a student enrolled in a minimum of four (4) classes. Exceptions to this allow for university enrolled high school students, District-directed school-to-work and service learning experiences, as approved by the principal and Superintendent. Any student who has been expelled from another school district will not be allowed to attend or enroll in MCPS during the term of expulsion from the expelling school district.

Legal Reference:

- § 20-5-101, MCA      Admittance of child to school  
§ 20-5-103, MCA      Compulsory attendance and excuses  
§ 20-5-104, MCA      Attendance officer  
§ 20-5-108, MCA      Tribal agreement with district for Indian child compulsory attendance and other agreements

Policy History:

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