



MONTANA

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, Montana offers Type A and B licenses for its teachers. Montana has seven classes of certificates. Class 2 Standard Certificates are the initial certificates in Montana. Standard certificates require a bachelor's degree and successful completion of an approved teacher education program.

Elementary Certification

At the elementary level, candidates must complete an approved elementary teacher program in order to gain certification. There are no specific credit hour requirements, but approximately 30 credits are usually earned in programs.

Secondary Certification

Completion of an approved secondary teacher education program requires candidates to complete professional preparation and also includes

- ❖ an approved major—30 credits; and
- ❖ an approved minor—20 credits; or
- ❖ an approved major—40 credits in a single field of specialization; and
- ❖ social studies and science are “broadfield” endorsements, which must constitute programs of at least 40 semester credits and have at least 3 teaching areas within that field which have at least 10 semester credits of preparation specific to that area.

Montana does not have reciprocity with other states.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

While teacher education program standards exist, there are no state-developed content or performance standards in Montana.

Standards for Students

Montana has six content standards in social studies.

- ❖ Content Standard 1: Students access, synthesize, and evaluate information to communicate and apply social studies knowledge to real world situations.
- ❖ Content Standard 2: Students analyze how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance to understand the operation of government and to demonstrate civic responsibility.
- ❖ Content Standard 3: Students apply geographic knowledge and skills (e.g., location, place, human/environment interactions, movement, and regions).
- ❖ Content Standard 4: Students demonstrate an understanding of the effects of time, continuity, and change on historical and future perspectives and relationships.
- ❖ Content Standard 5: Students make informed decisions based on an understanding of the economic principles of production, distribution, exchange, and consumption.
- ❖ Content Standard 6: Students demonstrate an understanding of the impact of human interaction and cultural diversity on societies.

In Montana's Standards for Social Studies, the state presents each standard separately and writes a rationale for its inclusion. Then benchmarks describe what students should know and be able to do by the end of 4th grade, the end of 8th grade, and upon graduation at the end of 12th grade. At the end of the document the state provides descriptions of student achievement at four levels. The state defines the requirements necessary for students to be considered advanced, proficient, nearing proficiency, and novice. A chart also exists that demonstrates the ways in which the social studies standards are integrated with other content standards at the three benchmark levels.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

No information has been located.

Exit Exam

No information has been located.

ASSESSMENT

Montana students are required to take both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests. In grades 4 and 8 students take the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, and students in 11th grade take the Iowa Tests of Educational Development. The subjects tested include reading, language arts, math, social studies, and science. Criterion-referenced testing will begin fully in spring 2004. Reading and math will first be tested and science will be implemented by 2008. There is no indication at this time that social studies will be included in the criterion-referenced tests.