



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
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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 a compulsory school enrollment exemption, accomodates your family's choice. Many resources are available to home educators. Most exciting is the Missoula home school cooperative, *eNDVR*, located at 1905 W. Sussex Ave. *eNDVR* offers a variety of classes on subjects as diverse as robotics, survival skills, public speaking, swing dancing, and poetry. For more information, visit <http://learningwithmeaning.com> or call Annie Graham, director, at 406-493-6886. Additionally, the Montana Coalition of Home Educators <http://www.mtche.org/> publishes an online newsletter which 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. You will also 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 tested by the district for appropriate placement. When admitting diploma seeking students, high schools expect a student to have earned credits from a fully accredited educational program. Non-diploma seeking students may enroll for classes, but diploma seeking students must meet all credit and course requirements. Also, home school students may wish to participate in Montana Digital Academy <http://www.montanadigitalacademy.org/> courses free of charge, but must enroll through their local high school. Please contact the high school counseling staff of your district of residence 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 Content and Common Core 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. If you have already chosen to opt out of participation in federally-funded programs, this form has not been included.

The mandantory information you need to provide to my office is (1) notice of intent to home school, (2) an attendance report submitted by September 1st for the previous school year, and (3) the Home School Notification of Opportunity to Participate in Federally Funded Programs. Each form is enclosed for your convenience and available digitally at <http://missoulacounty.us/superintendentschools>, or you may use other means to provide the requested information. Thank you, and have a great year.

Sincerely,

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