



Present Today. Prepared for Tomorrow.

A Montana Family Attendance Newsletter Series

Here is a ready-to-publish 12-month attendance newsletter series designed for Montana schools. Each article is approximately 200–300 words, written in a warm, encouraging tone that emphasizes partnership with families rather than compliance. This series recognizes Montana's rural communities, changing seasons, and diverse cultures while reinforcing the importance of regular school attendance.

AUGUST

Welcome Back! Building Strong Attendance Starts Today

Welcome to a new school year! Every year is filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and make lasting memories. One of the most important ways families can help children succeed is by making school attendance a priority from the very first day.

Children who attend school regularly build stronger reading and math skills, develop friendships, participate in classroom activities, and feel more connected to their school community. Even missing just a few days each month can make it more difficult to keep up with learning.

This month, try establishing consistent bedtime and morning routines, preparing backpacks and clothes the night before, and creating a transportation plan. If possible, schedule routine appointments outside of school hours.

Remember, we know that life happens. Weather, illness, family responsibilities, and unexpected events can all affect attendance. If your family is facing challenges, please contact the school. We are here to work together to help your child attend and succeed.

Family Challenge: Create a morning routine that helps everyone leave home with less stress.

SEPTEMBER

Attendance Is a Habit

Just like reading every day or brushing your teeth, coming to school regularly is a habit that grows stronger with consistency. By September, students are settling into classroom routines and beginning important learning that builds throughout the year.

Talk with your child about what they enjoy at school and celebrate their efforts, not just perfect attendance. Encourage them to share something they learned each day. Positive conversations help children see school as a welcoming place where they belong.

As Montana communities become busy with harvest activities, sporting events, and fall celebrations, planning ahead can help students participate in community traditions while continuing to attend school regularly.

Attendance Tip: Review your family's transportation plan and identify a neighbor or friend who can help if your usual plan changes.

OCTOBER

Be Ready for Montana Weather

Montana weather can change quickly. Cold mornings, frost, snow, and icy roads often arrive before we expect them. Preparing now can help make school mornings smoother throughout the winter.

Make sure coats, hats, gloves, boots, and warm clothing are easy to find. Consider leaving a few minutes earlier on mornings when road conditions may be difficult. If transportation becomes a challenge, contact the school—we may be able to connect you with helpful resources.

Good attendance during the fall helps students build a strong foundation before winter arrives.

Family Challenge: Create a "winter ready" basket near your door with hats, gloves, scarves, and boots.

NOVEMBER

Planning Ahead During the Holiday Season

The holiday season is an exciting time for families. Community events, travel, hunting season, and family gatherings are important traditions across Montana.

Whenever possible, schedule trips during school breaks and communicate with the school if your child must miss class. Teachers appreciate knowing ahead of time so they can help students stay connected with learning.

Healthy habits also become especially important during cold and flu season. Regular sleep, nutritious meals, handwashing, and staying active can help children stay healthy and ready for school.

Attendance Tip: Plan holiday travel around the school calendar whenever possible.

DECEMBER

Every Day Before Winter Break Matters

Although winter break is approaching, learning continues every day until vacation begins. Teachers introduce new concepts, review important skills, and prepare students for success after the break.

Maintaining routines during December helps children stay focused. Continue bedtime schedules, prepare winter clothing each evening, and allow extra travel time on snowy mornings.

Before leaving for winter break, celebrate your child's hard work and encourage them to return ready to learn in January.

Family Challenge: Ask your child to share one thing they learned each week before winter break.

JANUARY

A Fresh Start

The new year offers a wonderful opportunity to reset routines and establish healthy habits. A few days before school resumes, begin returning to regular bedtimes and morning schedules.

Take a moment to review your child's attendance from the first semester. Celebrate successes and discuss any challenges your family experienced. Small improvements throughout the second half of the school year can make a big difference.

If transportation, health concerns, or other barriers are affecting attendance, remember that your school wants to partner with you to find solutions.

Attendance Tip: A strong January helps set the tone for the rest of the school year.

FEBRUARY

Belonging Matters

Children are more likely to attend school when they feel welcomed, valued, and connected. Every school day provides opportunities to build friendships, participate in activities, and strengthen relationships with caring adults.

Ask your child what they enjoy most about school. Celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them when learning becomes challenging. Positive encouragement helps students develop confidence and resilience.

If your child seems reluctant to attend school, reach out to teachers or school staff. Working together early often prevents small concerns from becoming larger ones.

Family Challenge: Share one positive thing about school during dinner each week.

MARCH

Stay Engaged Through Spring

As the weather begins to change, calendars often become busier with spring activities, athletics, livestock events, and community celebrations. These experiences are valuable; with a little planning, students can participate while maintaining strong attendance.

Continue morning routines and communicate with the school if scheduling conflicts arise. Montana weather can still be unpredictable, so keep winter gear handy.

Every school day helps students prepare for the final months of learning.

Attendance Tip: Plan family activities around school vacations whenever possible.

APRIL

Finish Strong

Spring brings exciting learning opportunities and statewide assessments¹. These assessments help teachers understand student growth and identify ways to support continued learning through the end of the year.

Students perform their best when they attend school regularly, get enough sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive on time.

Encourage your child by focusing on effort rather than scores. Confidence grows when children know their families believe in them.

Family Challenge: Make bedtime a priority throughout April.

MAY

Every Day Matters

The final weeks of school are filled with projects, celebrations, field trips, performances, and important learning. Every day continues to matter.

Encourage your child to finish assignments, participate in classroom activities, and celebrate everything they have accomplished this year.

¹ Final MAST and DLM window for the school year, MT Science Assessment for grades 5 and 8, ACT, benchmark assessments

Thank you for partnering with our school throughout the year. Your support has helped create opportunities for your child to learn, grow, and thrive.

Attendance Tip: Keep routines in place until the very last day of school.

JUNE

Celebrate Success

Congratulations on completing another successful school year!

Take time to celebrate your child's growth—not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. Discuss favorite memories, new friendships, and accomplishments.

Summer is also an excellent time to schedule medical, dental, and vision appointments before school begins again in the fall.

Reading together, exploring Montana's parks and museums, visiting libraries, and spending time outdoors help children continue learning throughout the summer.

Family Challenge: Celebrate one achievement from the school year together as a family.

JULY

Preparing for Another Great Year

Summer is the perfect time to begin thinking about the upcoming school year. Gradually establish healthy sleep routines, read together several times each week, and talk positively about returning to school.

Review school supply lists, update emergency contacts, and make transportation plans before the first day arrives. Preparing early helps reduce stress for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming students back for another year of learning, discovery, and growth. Thank you for partnering with us to make attendance a priority and support your child's success.

Attendance Tip: Great school years begin long before the first day of class.