

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA – Academic Requirements

10.55.901 BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM: ELEMENTARY

(1) An elementary school shall have an education program aligned to the program area standards that enables students to meet the content standards and content-specific grade-level learning progressions.

History: [20-2-114](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [20-2-121](#), [20-3-106](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; [AMD](#), 1998 MAR p. 2707, Eff. 10/9/98; [AMD](#), 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; [AMD](#), 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13.

10.55.902 BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM: MIDDLE GRADES

(1) A school with middle grades must have an education program aligned to the program area standards that enables all students to meet the content standards and content-specific grade-level learning progressions.

(2) The Board of Public Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, may approve a 7 and 8 grade program that must follow either the middle school philosophy and components described in (3) or the departmentalized philosophy and components described in (4).

(3) The Board of Public Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, may approve a middle school program that:

(a) addresses the unique nature of middle-grade children by focusing on their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. To put such philosophy into practice, a middle school must have flexibility to:

- (i) approach instruction, scheduling, and teaching in a variety of ways;
- (ii) undertake interdisciplinary work; and

(iii) plan blocks of coursework deriving from the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical needs of middle school students.

(b) incorporates critical and creative thinking, career awareness, lifelong learning, and safety;

(c) incorporates instruction in reading literacy and writing literacy into all required and elective program areas as required in the Montana Common Core Standards, ARM Title 10, chapter 53;

(d) includes, at a minimum, the following program areas, required of all students yearly:

- (i) English language arts;
- (ii) mathematics;
- (iii) physical and life sciences;
- (iv) social studies; and
- (v) health enhancement.

(e) at a minimum maintains the following required program areas:

(i) visual arts including, but not limited to art history, art criticism, aesthetic perception, and production;

(ii) music including, but not limited to general, instrumental, and vocal (emphasizing comprehensive music elements, music history, criticism, aesthetic perception, and musical production);

(iii) career and technical education courses or pathways such as agriculture, business education, family and consumer sciences, health occupations and industrial technology education; and

(iv) world languages.

(f) offers as electives to all students exploratory courses such as creative writing, dance, drama, financial education, photography, and leadership.

(4) A junior high (grades 7-9) or 7-8 school must offer an educational program, aligned to the program area standards, that enables all students to meet the content standards and content-specific grade-level progressions.

(a) Instruction in reading literacy and writing literacy shall be incorporated into all required and elective program areas as required in the Montana Common Core Standards, ARM Title 10, chapter 53.

(b) All students shall complete the following program areas each year:

(i) English language arts--1 unit;

(ii) social studies--1 unit;

(iii) mathematics--1 unit;

(iv) science--1 unit; and

(v) health enhancement--1/2 unit.

(c) All students must be allowed to elect from the following program area offerings:

(i) visual arts--1/2 unit;

(ii) music--1/2 unit;

(iii) career and technical education--1/2 unit; and

(iv) world languages and cultures--1/2 unit.

(d) A unit is defined as the equivalent of at least 8100 minutes for one school year.

(e) Time to pass between classes may be counted toward the standard school day but shall not be counted toward class time.

History: [20-2-114](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [20-2-121](#), [20-3-106](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; [AMD](#), 1998 MAR p. 2707, Eff. 10/9/98; [AMD](#), 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; [AMD](#), 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13.

10.55.904 BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS: HIGH SCHOOL

(1) The basic education program, aligned to the program area standards, for grades 9 through 12 shall be at least 20 units of coursework that enable all students to meet the content standards and content-specific grade-level learning progressions.

(2) Instruction in reading literacy and writing literacy shall be incorporated into all required and elective program areas as required in the Montana Common Core Standards, ARM Title 10, chapter 53.

(3) Minimum offerings shall include at least the following:

(a) 4 units of English language arts;

(b) 3 units of mathematics;

(c) 3 units of science;

(d) 3 units of social studies;

(e) 2 units of career and technical education;

(f) 2 units of arts;

(g) 1 unit of health enhancement;

(h) 2 units of world languages; and

(i) 2 units of electives.

History: [20-2-114](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [20-2-121](#), [20-3-106](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; [AMD](#), 1998 MAR p. 2707, Eff. 10/9/98; [AMD](#), 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; [AMD](#), 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13.

10.55.905 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(1) As a minimum, a school district's requirements for graduation shall include a total of 20 units of study that enable all students to meet the content standards and content-specific grade-level learning progressions.

(2) In order to meet the content and performance standards, the following 13 units shall be part of the 20 units required for all students to graduate:

- (a) 4 units of English language arts;
- (b) 2 units of mathematics;
- (c) 2 units of social studies;
- (d) 2 units of science;
- (e) 1 unit of health enhancement, with 1/2 unit each year for two years;
- (f) 1 unit of arts; and
- (g) 1 unit of career and technical education.

(3) Units of credit earned in any Montana high school accredited by the Board of Public Education shall be accepted by all Montana high schools.

(4) In accordance with the policies of the local board of trustees, students may be graduated from high school with less than four years enrollment.

History: [20-2-114](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [20-2-121](#), [20-3-106](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; [AMD](#), 1998 MAR p. 2707, Eff. 10/9/98; [AMD](#), 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; [AMD](#), 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13.