



Lake County

Lake County Courthouse
106 Fourth Avenue East
Polson, Montana 59860-2187
Phone (406) 883-7262
Fax (406) 883-7283

Joyce Decker Wegner, Superintendent of Schools

"The Future Lies In the Minds of Tomorrow"

Email: lacosupt@lakemt.gov

Dear Home Educator:

Montana State Law [MCA 20-5-109(5)] requires the parent or legal guardian choosing to home school, to sign up **annually** with their County Superintendent of Schools. It is my responsibility to verify you are home schooling and complying with Montana State Laws and United States regulations, such as No Child Left Behind mandates. When signing up with my Deputy Kate Ike <mailto:kate@lakemt.gov>, we provide you with an extensive packet of resource information, but you are responsible for your own curriculum.

Included in the packet, are [state laws pertinent to home schools](#) on compulsory enrollment, attendance officer, and truancy laws. Statutes define a home school as "*the instruction by a parent of his child, stepchild, or ward in his residence.*" The law states that a nonpublic home school shall: (1) Maintain records on pupil attendance and disease immunization; (2) Provide at least 180 days of pupil instruction Be housed in a building that complies with applicable health and safety regulations; (3) Provide an organized course of study; and (4) notify the county superintendent of schools **each school fiscal year** of the student's attendance at the home school. It is essential to complete each year=s notification within ten days of the start of public school in your district. If your child is not enrolled at the public school where you reside and there is no notification form in our office **by September 20th**, your child would be considered TRUANT, and the District-of-Residence will proceed appropriately. Please sign up at this office. A [pdf file for registration](#) is available online via the Lake County Superintendent of Schools. Please notify my office if you enroll back in public school. Districts have various policies and practices that control admittance and assessment for appropriate grade placement of non-accredited, non-public school children.

Opportunity to Participate in Federally Funded Programs by Nonpublic Schools

Federal law requires schools to offer participation in federally funded programs to every one in the district. The Lake County Superintendent of Schools provides the federal program descriptions, and provides the non-public schools the opportunity to participate in these programs through completion of the required form. The [federally funded programs descriptions and form](#) are included in the home school packet. Read pages 7-24, print, complete, and mail page seven, the Opportunity to Participate in Federally Funded Programs, to my office. **When registering for home school, both home school notification, and the Federally Funded Programs Form are required.** Copies are sent to the district of residence and also maintained in the home school file. A separate federal form must be completed for elementary and high school students, unless your district is a recognized K-12 District (only St. Ignatius in Lake County). If your district receives Title I, Part A funds and you choose to participate in any of the federal programs, your District-of-Residence is required "*to hold consultation in a meaningful and timely manner*" with you. Do not check off number 4 until you have received the consultation with the district. Please retain a copy of the form for your records.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if we can be of further service. We have [attendance forms](#) and more information, like the [Montana Coalition of Home Educators](#) (MCHE), which publishes the Montana Homeschool Reference Guide. [The Montana Office of Public Instruction](#)'s web site has numerous resources including [Montana Content Standards](#) and a [Get Answers](#) Tab to help you out.

Sincerely,

Joyce Decker Wegner
County Superintendent of Schools

August 17, 2005

Mail homeschool notification to: Lake County Supt. Of Schools, Lake County Courthouse, 106 Fourth Ave. E., Polson, Mt. 59860

YEARLY HOME SCHOOL NOTIFICATION REPORT

This form will be kept with the child=s permanent records and must be submitted in conjunction with the Federally Funded Programs form. An immunization form also must be completed if this is the first year as a home school or if changes have been made since last year.

Required to be completed:

Parent or Guardian (Print or Type)			Parent or Guardian (signature)		
Address			E-mail (optional)		
City	State	Zip	Phone	Date	
			For School Year:		

Requested to be completed:

STUDENT/S NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	GRADE	White	Black	Am. Indian	Asian	Hispanic

Optional Comments on Reasons for Home Schooling:

Transfer of Permanent Records Because of a Move Between Schools: If you are a new resident to Lake County, please complete a Request for Transfer of Permanent Records. Please request the student=s records be sent to my office. The permanent record includes your child's immunization records. If your child has been attending the Lake County public school in your district of residence, that school will maintain the student records. However, if you have moved within Lake County to another district, you will need to complete the release form asking that records be sent to your current district of residence. We can mail the completed request, but if you mail it to the new school district, please include an additional copy with your Home School Notification to this office.

We have mailed our former school a Request for Transfer of Permanent Records. Yes No

Student Record Release

Military: Please check if you do **not** wish us to provide your high school student=s name, address and telephone number to military recruiters upon their request.

Fifth through eighth grade students may participate in the **Lake County Spelling Bee**. Do you wish to be notified?
 Yes No