



Dear Home Educator,

You have made an important decision and a strong commitment to your child (children). Montana Law (M.C.A. §20-5-109), allowing for compulsory school enrollment exemption, accommodates this family choice.

As a home school educator, you wear many hats, including: teacher, record keeper, curriculum director, technology coordinator, etc. However, many resources are available to you. Our Rosebud County Home School Packet includes a list of pertinent laws. Please read them carefully and contact my office if you have any questions.

The Montana Coalition of Home Educators is a state-wide organization that offers support to home school families. Their website at <http://www.mtche.org>, provides detailed information on home schools and their statutory rights. Locally, we have the Rosebud County Home Educators Association. You can contact Lydia Hesper at 406-740-0931 if you need assistance.

Your commitment to your child (children) includes an “organized course of study” required by law (M.C.A. §20-5-109 [4]). For entrance or reentrance into public school, the high schools in Rosebud County expect that a student has been following a fully accredited off-site educational program. In order to be sure, the off-site credits will be accepted, please refer to the Montana Office of Public Instruction website at www.opi.mt.gov. 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 any federal education programs that are offered by the school in the district in which you live. You can find a list of the federal programs on this website.

<http://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Academic-Success/Title-Other-Federal-Programs/Private-Schools>

Services are generally provided at the public-school district where one resides. The form “Notification of Opportunity to Participate in Federally Funded Programs” is to be completed when you register and updated each fall. Federal law requires that these programs be offered to everyone, so please sign and return it even if you do NOT wish to participate. There is a box to designate that. This form must be completed before October 1st each year in order to benefit from any program other than special education.

The mandatory information you need to provide my office is (1) a written notice of intent to home school and (2) the “Notification of Opportunity to Participate in Federally funded Program” Form.

Sincerely,

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