

## Board of Trustees Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 12:00 PM

This meeting will occur at the Lincoln Center (1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601) and via Microsoft Teams.

To participate remotely, please use this link on Microsoft Teams:

**[Join the meeting now](#)**

### AGENDA

#### I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

#### II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

#### III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues, or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.

#### IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Review of 10.8.25 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting Minutes

#### V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- A. Homeless
- B. EL
- C. IEFA
- D. Fall Data Report, including MAST

#### VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT



*The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.*

## **Board of Trustees Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

12:00pm

Lincoln Center & TEAMS

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### **MINUTES**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

*Trustees: Others:*

Jenny Murnane Butcher, Trustee  
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee

Rex Weltz, Superintendent  
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant  
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent  
6-12  
Todd Verrill, Facilities Director  
Justine Alberts, Assistant  
Superintendent PreK-5  
Kaitlyn Hess, Assessment and Federal  
Programs Director  
Gary Myers, Director of Educational  
Technology  
Lona Carter, Student Health Services  
& Special Education Director  
Keri Mizell, Human Resources  
Director  
Jane Shawn, HEA President  
Ashlie Buresh, TOSA  
Taylor Lassiter, Communications  
Specialist  
Courtney McAdams, Guest of the  
Public  
Kay Satre, Attending as a Guest of the  
Public

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn.

## **II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment.

## **III. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No changes were requested to the agenda.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The committee reviewed and accepted the minutes from the 9.10.25 Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

## **V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

### **A. Instruction Before Construction**

Ms. Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent PreK-5, discussed Instruction Before Construction along with Superintendent Rex Weltz, and Assistant Superintendent 6-12 Josh McKay. The presentation focused on designing new and renovated school buildings to support 21st-century learning. They emphasized proactively aligning instructional practices with flexible, collaborative, and technology-rich learning environments, incorporating natural light, safety, and student-centered spaces. Discussion included learning from existing newer buildings to identify what works and what could be improved, conducting site visits to other schools, and creating innovative labs and hands-on learning spaces at the high school level. The presentation highlighted the importance of flexible design to accommodate evolving instructional needs and to ensure long-term value for students and staff. Assistant Superintendent Alberts, Assistant Superintendent McKay, and Superintendent Weltz addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee regarding the information presented.

### **B. Action Plan**

The Teaching and Learning Committee was provided with an update on the district action plan following fall benchmarking. Most schools completed benchmarking, shared baseline reports with families, and used the data to develop action plans and set goals aligned to typical and stretch growth. Support from Ms. Ashlie Buresh and Title teams is helping educators identify targeted interventions in reading and math, including oral reading fluency labs, Tier 2 and 3 resources, and focused professional learning. Middle and high school teams are reviewing curriculum alignment, instructional strategies, and collaborative planning to ensure students meet growth targets. The discussion emphasized using data to identify students' needs, monitor instructional effectiveness, and build sustainable, school-specific strategies that support district-wide goals. Assistant Superintendent Alberts addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee regarding the information presented.

**C. GT Third Party Review**

The District will be bringing on Dr. Jonathan Plucker to conduct a third-party review of the District's Gifted and Talented PEAK program, including focus groups, and one-on-one Interviews. The review will assess program structures, evaluation practices, and the effectiveness and relevance of services to ensure they meet student needs, aligning with goal #8 of the district's action plan. Assistant Superintendent Alberts addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee regarding the information presented.

**D. In-District Boundary Change Review**

Assistant Superintendent McKay provided a presentation on the *In-District Boundary Change Review*. He emphasized the district's commitment to transparency and noted that the proposals, originally discussed in March and May, remain largely unchanged. The discussion highlighted that boundary adjustments primarily affect transportation, with flexible sibling and enrollment rules maintained to provide families choice. Assistant Superintendent McKay explained that the gradual implementation timeline allows for careful adjustment over several years, aligning with facility planning for new and remodeled schools, and ensuring balanced student populations across elementary, middle, and high schools. Assistant Superintendent McKay addressed questions from the committee regarding the *In-District Boundary Change Review*.

**VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

There were no further board or superintendent comments.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m. by Trustee Siobhan Hathhorn.



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2025



# FALL STUDENT DATA



# OUR VISION

Helena Public Schools foster dynamic educational experiences that prepare all students for life.

# OUR MISSION

Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner. This mission will be supported through the wise use of resources to meet students' needs, regardless of interests and talents. Students, families, educators and the community are committed to sharing the responsibility for creating a student-centered educational community that acknowledges learning as a life-long process.

02

## GUIDING PRINCIPALS

01.

Each student enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle.

02.

Each student learns in an intellectually challenging environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults

03.

Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community.

04.

Each student has access to personalized learning and to qualified, caring adults.

05.

Each graduate is prepared for success in college or further study and for employment in a global environment.



# HPS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

03

The Helena Public Schools Comprehensive Assessment System is designed to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education that meets rigorous academic standards. Our mission is to provide accurate, meaningful assessments that support student learning, inform instructional practices, and guide decision-making at every level of our school district.

## DISTRICT BENCHMARKS



**Acadience PELI**

Early Literacy



**Acadience**

Grades K-1  
Reading



**iReady**

1st-8th Grade  
Math  
2nd-8th Grade  
Reading



**MAP**

9th & 10th  
Grade  
Reading and  
Math



**PreACT**

10th Grade

## STATE ASSESSMENTS

**MAST**

Montana  
Aligned to  
Standards  
Through-Year

**New! MAST**

Grades 3-8  
Reading and  
Math



**SBAC**

Retired State  
Assessment for  
grades 3-8

**MAST**

Montana  
Aligned to  
Standards  
Through-Year

**Mt Science  
Assessment**

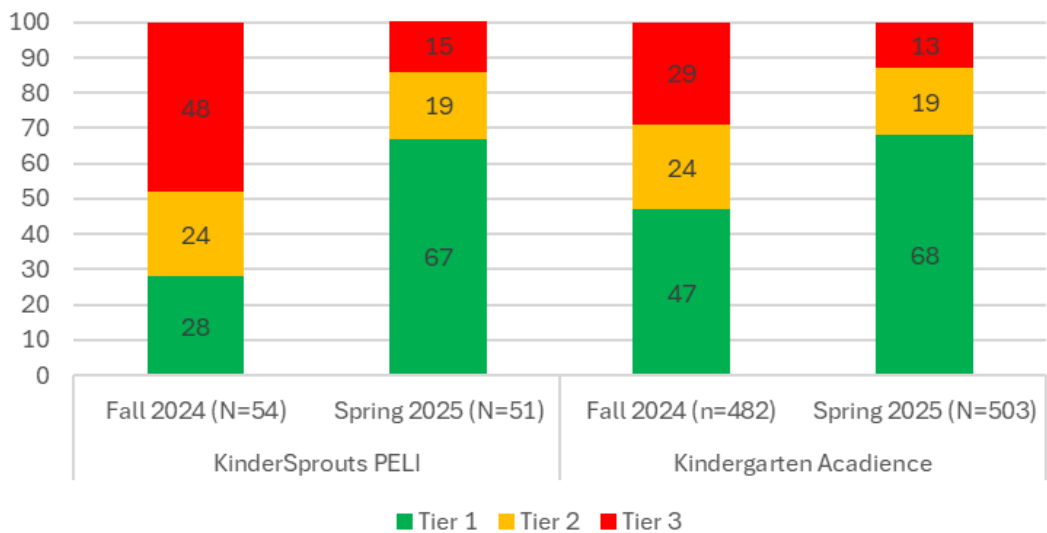
Grades 5 & 8



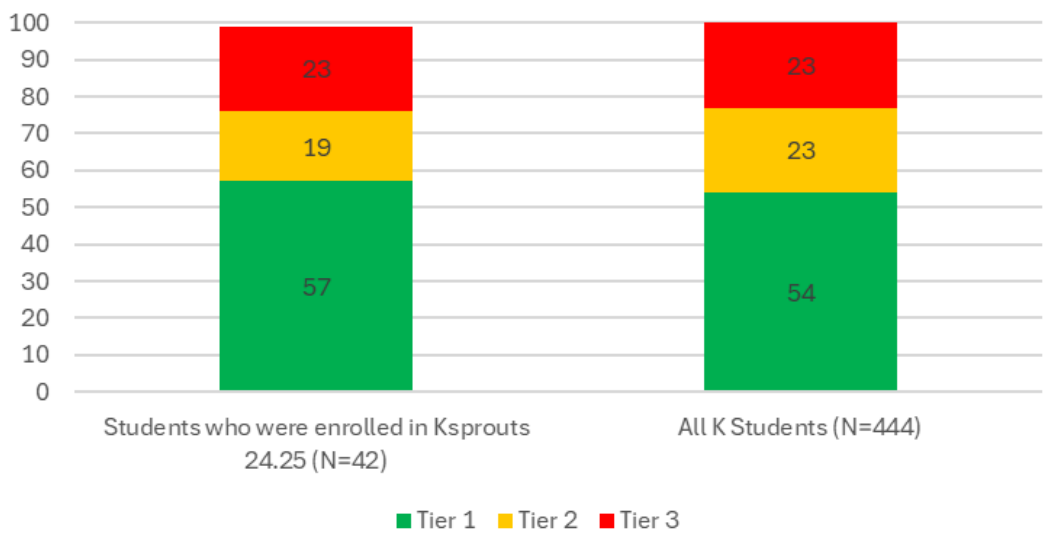
**ACT**

11th Grade

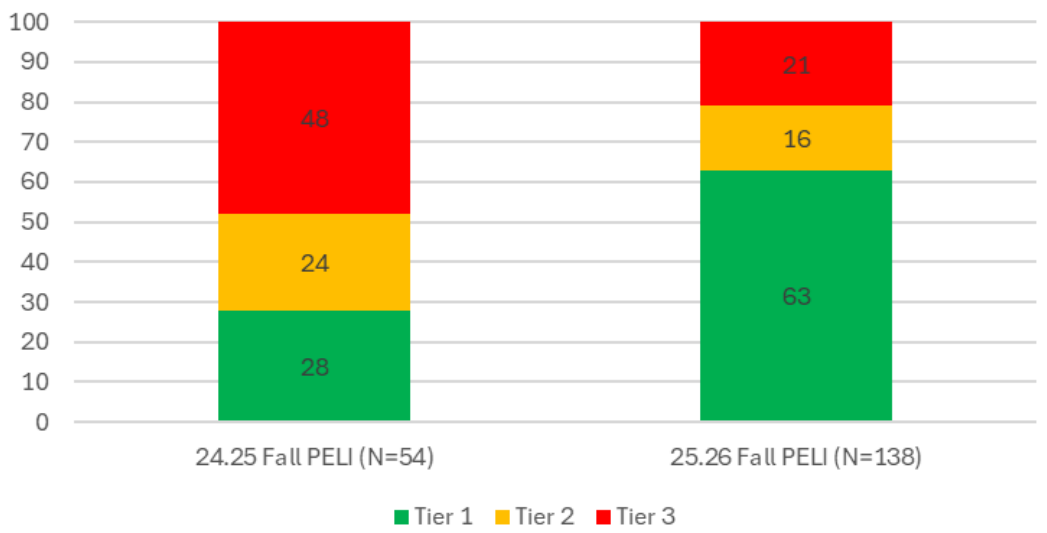
2024-2025 KSpouts and Kinder Growth



2025 Fall Acadience Reading



Fall KinderSprouts PELI Year over Year



Considerations:

- The 2024-2025 cohort had a lower cut score for qualification. In 2025-2026, we raised the threshold, enabling more students to qualify.
- Students in the 2024-2025 cohort were enrolled for 4 hours each day, whereas students in the 2025-2026 cohort are enrolled for 6.5 hours daily.



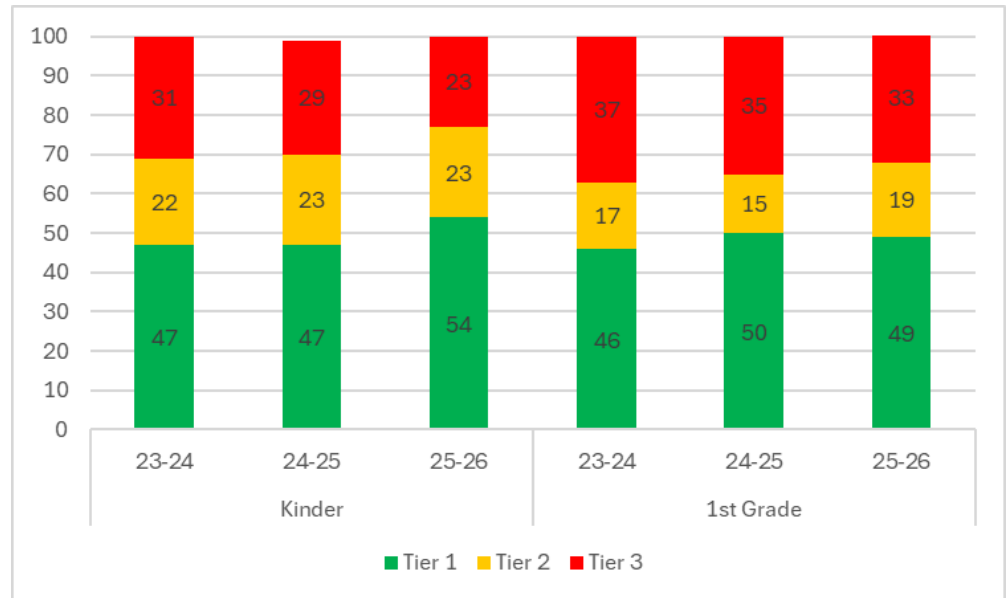


acadience

# FALL BENCHMARKS ACADIENCE

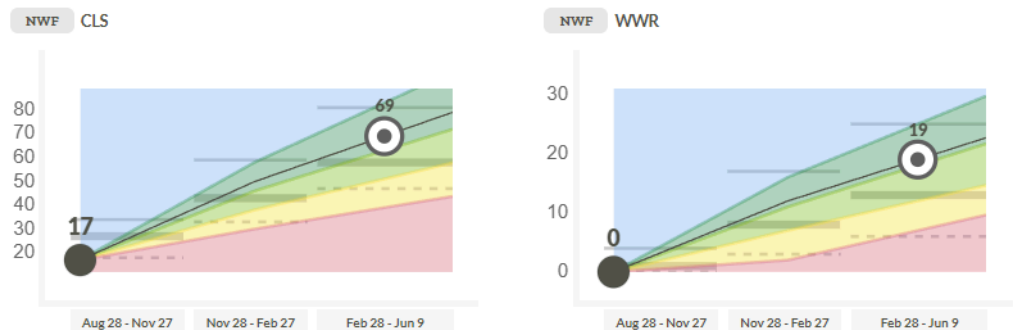
## HPS 2025-2026 Academic Goal

**Goal 1:** By spring 2026, 70% of Helena Public Schools' first-grade students will score proficient on the Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) subtest as evidenced by the Acadience assessment.



## PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS

District K-8 literacy TOSA has been working with K & 1 teams to set goals tied to progress monitoring within Acadience and Pathways of Progress. This tool charts student growth more clearly and gives teachers tangible progress metrics.



## ORAL READING FLUENCY TESTING

District K-8 literacy TOSA has been working with 2-8 teams to set goals tied to iReady fluency subtest when students are flagged for needing fluency support. This tool allows teams to measure the effectiveness of fluency interventions and make adjustments as needed to best meet student needs.

# FALL BENCHMARKS GRADES 1-5



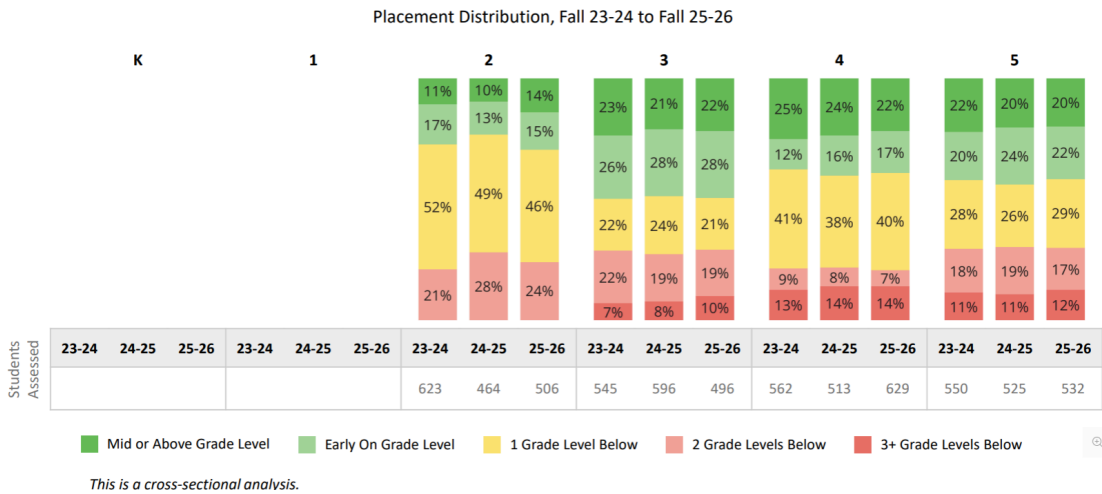
## HPS 2024-2025 Academic Goals

**Goal 2:** By spring 2026, an average of 72% of Helena Public Schools third-grade students will score on or above grade level, demonstrating proficiency of grade-level standards, as evidenced by the i-Ready Reading assessment.

**Goal 3:** By spring 2026, an average of 65% of Helena Public Schools' third-grade students will score on or above grade level, demonstrating proficiency in grade-level standards, as evidenced by the i-Ready Math assessment.

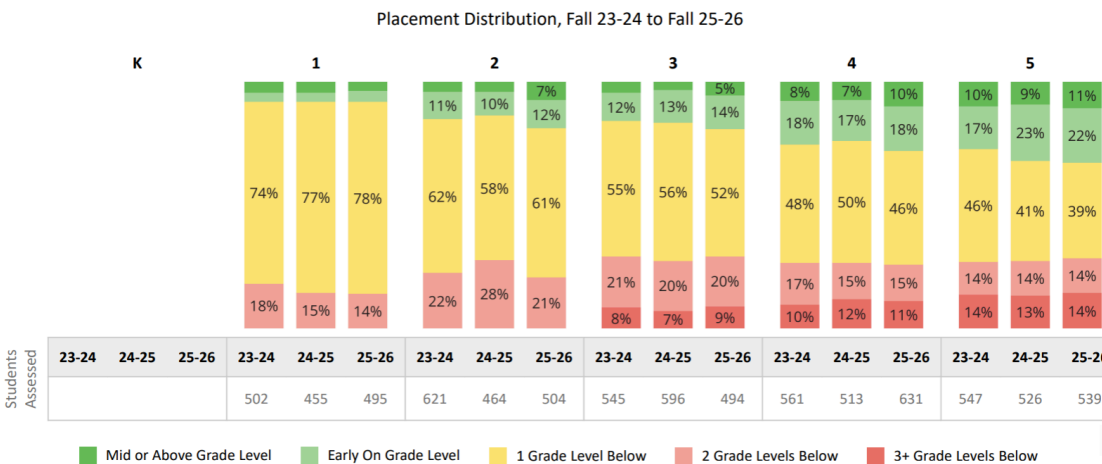
### How Have Relative Placements Changed From Fall to Fall?

Reading



### How Have Relative Placements Changed From Fall to Fall?

Mathematics



Fall benchmarks serve as a foundational assessment tool to gauge students' initial understanding at the beginning of the academic year. These criterion-referenced assessments evaluate students' comprehension of grade-level standards prior to their exposure to the associated content and curriculum for the year.



# FALL BENCHMARKS IREADY GRADES 6-8

07



## HPS 2024-2025 Academic Goals

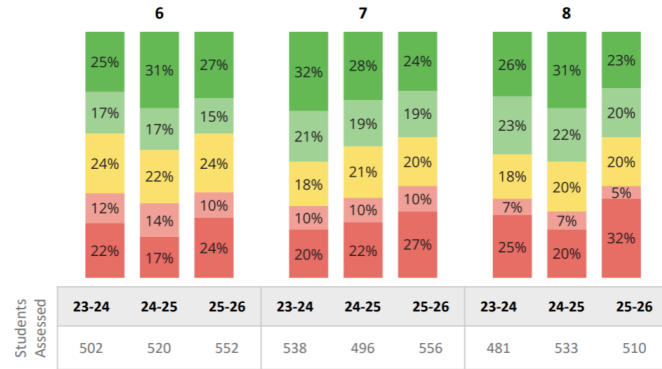
**Goal 4:** By spring 2025, an average of 65% of Helena Public Schools seventh-grade students will score on or above grade level, demonstrating proficiency of grade-level standards, as evidenced by the i-Ready Reading assessment.

**Goal 5:** By spring 2025, an average of 50% of Helena Public Schools seventh-grade students will score on or above grade level, demonstrating proficiency of grade-level standards, as evidenced by the i-Ready Math assessment.

### Reading

#### How Have Relative Placements Changed From Fall to Fall?

Placement Distribution, Fall 23-24 to Fall 25-26



Mid or Above Grade Level Early On Grade Level 1 Grade Level Below 2 Grade Levels Below 3+ Grade Levels Below

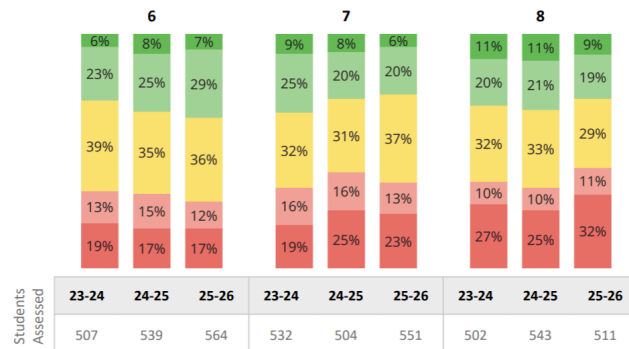
This is a cross-sectional analysis.



### Mathematics

#### How Have Relative Placements Changed From Fall to Fall?

Placement Distribution, Fall 23-24 to Fall 25-26



Mid or Above Grade Level Early On Grade Level 1 Grade Level Below 2 Grade Levels Below 3+ Grade Levels Below

This is a cross-sectional analysis.



# Overview of the Assessment

THE MONTANA ALIGNED TO STANDARDS THROUGH-YEAR (MAST) ASSESSMENT IS MONTANA'S STATEWIDE TEST IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) AND MATHEMATICS FOR GRADES 3–8.

MAST IS ADMINISTERED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR IN SHORTER SEGMENTS, CALLED TESTLETS, RATHER THAN A SINGLE, END-OF-YEAR TEST.

TESTLETS MEASURE PROGRESS TOWARD GRADE-LEVEL STANDARDS IN READING, WRITING, AND MATH. THE RESULTS COMBINE INTO ONE SCALE SCORE AND ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

## ABOUT THE WRITING SCORES

- THE WRITING PERFORMANCE TASK IS NEW STATEWIDE THIS YEAR.
- STUDENTS READ MULTIPLE PASSAGES, ANALYZE THE INFORMATION, AND WRITE AN EXTENDED RESPONSE THAT DEMONSTRATES ORGANIZATION, EVIDENCE, AND EFFECTIVE LANGUAGE USE.
- THE TASK WAS ADMINISTERED MIDYEAR (JAN–FEB), BEFORE STUDENTS HAD FULLY MASTERED ALL GRADE-LEVEL WRITING SKILLS.
- LOWER WRITING SCORES ARE EXPECTED STATEWIDE AND REFLECT THE CHALLENGE OF A NEW FORMAT, NOT A LACK OF EFFORT OR LEARNING.
- HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STUDENTS SCORED ABOVE THE STATE AVERAGE OVERALL IN ELA.

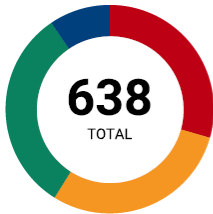




Helena

ELA, 3rd Through-Year Assessment

Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 311

- Novice  
188 Students (29%)
- Partially Proficient  
187 Students (29%)
- Proficient  
202 Students (32%)
- Advanced  
61 Students (10%)

Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	308
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Reading Comprehension Results	Average Scale Score
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Literary Text Reading Comprehension	48
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Informational Text Reading Comprehension	49
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09

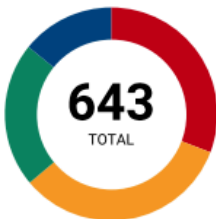
3<sup>RD</sup>  
GRADE

2024-2025  
MAST

Helena

Math, 3rd Through-Year Assessment

Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 307

- Novice  
199 Students (31%)
- Partially Proficient  
212 Students (33%)
- Proficient  
141 Students (22%)
- Advanced  
91 Students (14%)

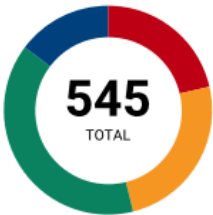
Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	307
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Helena

ELA, 4th Through-Year Assessment

Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 317

- Novice  
117 Students (21%)
- Partially Proficient  
134 Students (25%)
- Proficient  
214 Students (39%)
- Advanced  
80 Students (15%)

Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	312
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Reading Comprehension Results	Average Scale Score
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Literary Text Reading Comprehension	51
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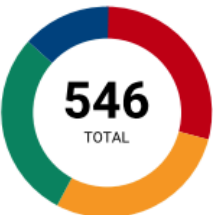
Informational Text Reading Comprehension	53
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4<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADE

Helena

Math, 4th Through-Year Assessment

Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 310

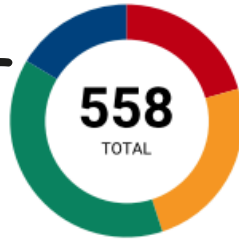
- Novice  
159 Students (29%)
- Partially Proficient  
156 Students (29%)
- Proficient  
157 Students (29%)
- Advanced  
74 Students (14%)

Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	308
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5TH  
GRADE2024-2025  
MAST6TH  
GRADEHelena  
ELA, 5th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 319

- Novice  
114 Students (20%)
- Partially Proficient  
137 Students (25%)
- Proficient  
215 Students (39%)
- Advanced  
92 Students (16%)

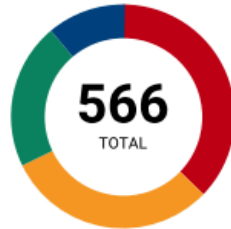
Organization	Average Scale Score
Montana	315

Reading Comprehension Results	Average Scale Score
Literary Text Reading Comprehension	52
Informational Text Reading Comprehension	53

## Helena

Math, 5th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 304

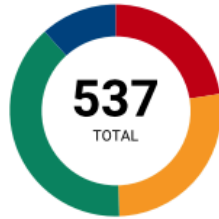
- Novice  
210 Students (37%)
- Partially Proficient  
173 Students (31%)
- Proficient  
119 Students (21%)
- Advanced  
64 Students (11%)

Organization	Average Scale Score
Montana	306

## Helena

ELA, 6th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 315

- Novice  
121 Students (23%)
- Partially Proficient  
145 Students (27%)
- Proficient  
209 Students (39%)
- Advanced  
62 Students (12%)

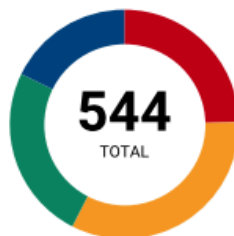
Organization	Average Scale Score
Montana	309

Reading Comprehension Results	Average Scale Score
Literary Text Reading Comprehension	50
Informational Text Reading Comprehension	51

## Helena

Math, 6th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



Average Scale Score: 312

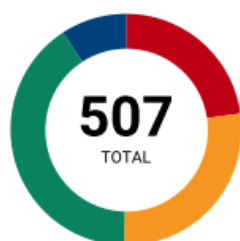
- Novice  
134 Students (25%)
- Partially Proficient  
179 Students (33%)
- Proficient  
134 Students (25%)
- Advanced  
97 Students (18%)

Organization	Average Scale Score
Montana	307

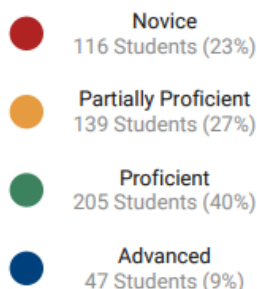
# Helena

ELA, 7th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



**Average Scale Score: 316**



Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	312
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Reading Comprehension Results	Average Scale Score
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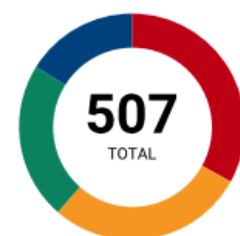
Literary Text Reading Comprehension	50
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Informational Text Reading Comprehension	51
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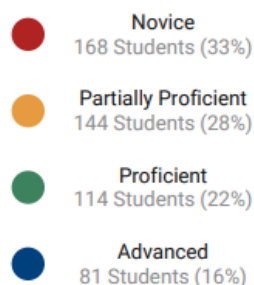
# Helena

Math, 7th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



**Average Scale Score: 311**



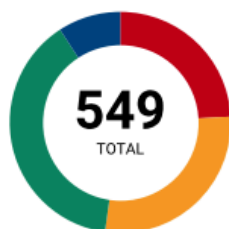
Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	309
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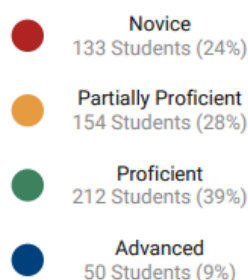
# Helena

ELA, 8th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



**Average Scale Score: 315**



Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	311
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Reading Comprehension Results	Average Scale Score
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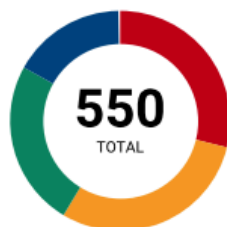
Literary Text Reading Comprehension	50
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Informational Text Reading Comprehension	51
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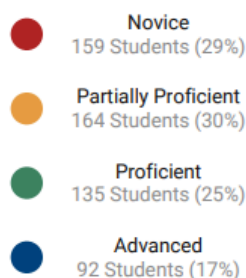
# Helena

Math, 8th Through-Year Assessment

## Achievement Summary



**Average Scale Score: 313**



Organization	Average Scale Score
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Montana	309
---------	-----

11

7<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADE

2024-2025  
MAST

8<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADE