

Tracking education spending considering inflation and enrollment tells only part of the story. Through the decades, there have been many additions to U. S. and Montana K-12 school curricula and services provided, including, but not limited to, the following:

1930s

- Physical education - including organized athletics
- The Practical Arts/Domestic Science/Home economic, including sewing and cooking
- Vocational education, including industrial and agricultural education
- School transportation

1940s

- Business education, including typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping
- Art and music
- Speech and drama
- Kindergarten
- School lunch programs

1950s

- Expanded science and math education
- Safety education
- Driver's education
- Expanded music and art education
- Stronger foreign language requirements
- Sex education

1960s

- Advanced Placement programs
- Title I
- Consumer education (purchasing resources, rights and responsibilities)
- Career education (occupational options, entry level skill requirements)

1970s

- Drug and alcohol abuse education
- Parenting education
- Behavior management
- Character education
- Special education (mandated by federal government)
- Title IX
- School breakfast program

1980s

- Keyboarding and computer education
- Global education, Multicultural/Ethnic education
- English-as-a-second-language and bilingual education
- Teen pregnancy awareness
- Preschool programs for children at risk
- After-school programs for children of working parents
- Alternative education in all its forms
- Stranger/danger education
- Antismoking education
- Sexual abuse prevention education
- Expanded health and psychological services
- Child abuse monitoring (a legal requirement for all teachers)

1990s

- Conflict resolution and peer mediation
- HIV/AIDS education
- CPR training
- Death education
- America 2000 initiatives (Republican)
- Inclusion of students with disabilities in the regular classroom
- Expanded computer and internet education
- Distance learning
- Tech Prep and School to Work programs
- Assessment
- Post-secondary enrollment options
- Concurrent enrollment options
- Goals 2000 initiatives (Democrat)
- Expanded Gifted and Talented opportunities
- At risk and dropout prevention
- Extended school year/day for special needs students
- Homeless education (including causes and effects on children)
- Gang education and violence prevention
- Service learning
- Bus safety, bicycle safety, gun safety, and water safety education

In the last decade:

- Indian Education for All expansion
- No Child Left Behind (Republican)
- Full day kindergarten
- Credit recovery
- Opportunities for dual credit, dual enrollment
- Bully prevention
- Anti-harassment policies (gender, race, religion, or national origin)
- Expanded wrap-around programs
- Crisis response and management
- Body Mass Index evaluation (obesity monitoring)
- Personal financial literacy
- Media literacy
- Contextual learning skill development
- Health and wellness programs
- Race to the Top (Democrat)
- Virtual/Digital Academy
- Expansion of foreign language offerings (Chinese, others)

This list is not all inclusive of the many changes through the decades being introduced at various times throughout local school districts and states. Although essential to understanding the scope the K-12 services, the list does not include:

- The addition of multiple, specialized topics within each of the traditional subjects.
- The explosion of standardized testing and test prep activities,

- Reporting requirements imposed by the federal government, such as four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates, parental notification of optional supplemental services, comprehensive restructuring plans, and reports of Adequate Yearly Progress.