

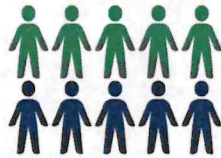




KALISPELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS #5

KalisPELL Public Schools engages students in personalized and diverse opportunities that empower individuals to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

ENROLLMENT
5,928



13 PARTNER DISTRICTS

K-8 students from these regions feed into the KPS system:

Creston
Cayuse Prairie
Deer Park
Evergreen
Fair-Mont Egan
Helena Flats
Kila

Marion
Olney/Bissell
Pleasant Valley
Smith Valley
Somers/Lakeside
West Valley

POPULATION PROFILE

1,879

ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS

1,027

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

3,022

HIGH
SCHOOLS

LEARNING PATHWAYS

Number of high school students enrolled:

Advanced
Placement (AP)

385

International
Baccalaureate (IB)

596

Student
Internships

278

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

6

ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS

1

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

3

HIGH
SCHOOLS

2

CHARTER
SCHOOLS

1

AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION
CENTER

PROGRAMMING

PreK-12 Education
Community Education
Adult Basic Education

CHARTER SCHOOLS

PACE ACADEMY

LOCATED IN FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Personalized Academic & Career Exploration is designed for students to acquire college credits while in high schools and to create more flexibility to explore work-based learning options.



RISING WOLF ACADEMY

LOCATED IN GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL



Designed to create a learning block that facilitates a more in-depth study of one class providing students with learning experiences with hands-on learning to ensure mastery before moving to the next course.

SERVING OUR STUDENTS



900

KPS
EMPLOYEES



433

CERTIFICATED
STAFF*

*This includes all teachers, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, special educators, and nurses.

www.sd5.k12.mt.us



"A Great Place to Learn, Live, and Work."

Data from the 2025-26 School Year

FUNDING DISPARITY EXPLAINED

Elementary vs. High School Districts in Montana

Kalispell Public Schools Case Study - August 2025

ELEMENTARY DISTRICT

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

2,906

KEY INSIGHT #1

Elementary has **116 fewer students** than High School

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

3,022

HOWEVER

TEACHER FTE
REQUIRED

113

TEACHER FTE
REQUIRED

101

KEY INSIGHT #2

Elementary **requires 12 more** teachers due to state-mandated smaller class sizes

RESULTING IN

TEACHER SALARY COSTS

\$7.99M

REVENUE PER STUDENT

\$8,004

TEACHER SALARY COSTS

\$7.14M

REVENUE PER STUDENT

\$9,452

KEY INSIGHT #3

Elementary **pays \$848,796 more** in teacher salaries while **receiving \$1,448 less** per student

TOTAL IMPACT

Elementary Teacher Salary Costs Higher by:

\$848,796

Elementary Revenue is Lower by:

\$4,208,120

(Difference in Revenue per Student • Elementary Enrollment)

TOTAL FUNDING DISPARITY:

\$5,056,916

Note: Both Elementary & High School District general fund budgets are funded at 97% of max.

TRADITIONAL EDUCATION	VS	PERSONALIZED, COMPETENCY-BASED LEARNING
Learning happens inside a traditional classroom, little to no accommodation of student interests or learning needs.	 SCHOOL CULTURE	Students have an equitable range of learning experiences at school, online and in the community. Schools foster a sense of belonging, embrace growth mindset and the importance of relationships for meaningful, relevant learning experiences.
Every classroom has one teacher who designs and delivers instructional curriculum with very little differentiation.	 INSTRUCTION	Educators work collaboratively with community partners and students to develop a unique learning plan for each student based on interests, learning needs and real-time data. Individual learning pathways accommodate student interests and learning needs.
Assessments at set times to evaluate and classify students. One opportunity to take the summative assessment at the end of the year.	 ASSESSMENT SYSTEM	A comprehensive assessment system is an essential part of the learning system. Formative assessments guide daily instruction. Students partner with their teachers to decide when and how to show what they've learned, and they have multiple chances to demonstrate mastery.
Students are expected to master grade level college- and career-ready standards.	 COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS	Students are expected to master competencies aligned to college- and career-ready standards with clear, transferable learning objectives.
Students advance at educator's pace regardless of mastery or needing additional time.	 LEARNING PACE	Students access customized supports both in-school and out-of-school to ensure they get what they need, when they need it.
Grades are norm-referenced, reflect course standards and are typically based on weighted quarters and a final exam.	 GRADING POLICIES	Grades reflect the degree of mastery of competencies. If students do not earn course credit, records indicate competencies that need to be re-learned instead of the entire course.

Kalispell Public Schools

Starting Teacher Monthly Income 2017 - 2026

	2016-17	2025-26	Annual Rate of Change
Starting teacher pay (monthly)	\$2,744	\$3,976	+4.2%
Take-home @ 71.7% (includes employee-only insurance deduction)	\$1,967	\$2,851	—
Median 2-BR rent, Flathead County (HUD)	<u>\$792</u>	<u>\$1,508</u>	+7.4%
Disposable income after rent	\$1,175	\$1,343	+1.5%
Net change (nominal)		+\$167	
2016-17 disposable, adjusted for inflation	<u>\$1,581</u>	\$1,343	-1.8%
Net change (real purchasing power)		-\$238	-15%

RENT AS % OF TAKE-HOME

2016-17

40%

2025-26

53%

HUD's severe-burden line is 50%.

These figures are conservative. HUD rent data lags the market by 2-3 years; the FY2026 schedule (effective Oct 2025) raised the Flathead 2-BR benchmark another 21%, to \$1,691.

Kalispell Public Schools

What two years of above-cap inflation cost over a decade

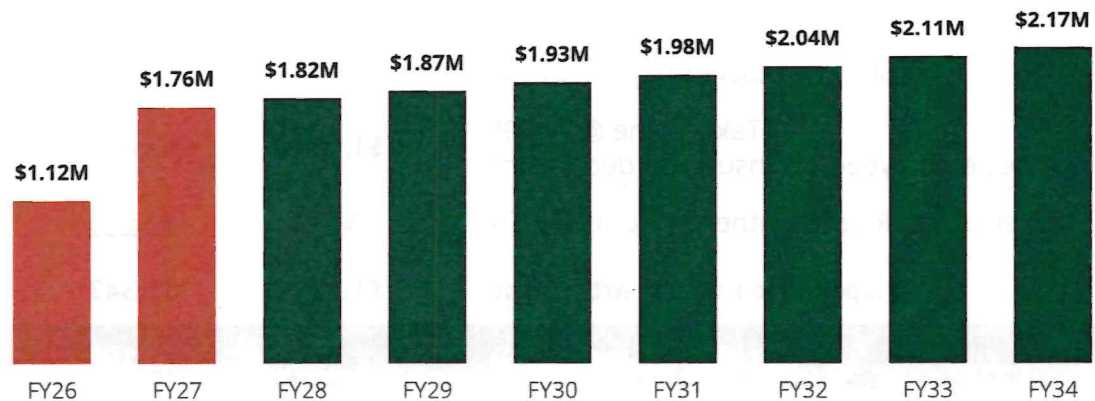
What this chart shows:

The bars represent the exact dollar difference between what KPS would receive if funded at actual inflation versus what we actually receive under the state's 3% statutory cap.

The Scenario:

- **FY26 & FY27 (The Catalyst):** Actual inflation (based on CPI-U West data) hits 5.67% and 4.36%. KPS only receives the capped 3% increase. This creates the initial funding gap
- **FY28-FY34 (The Compounding Effect):** We assume actual inflation drops to exactly 3% and the state fully funds that 3%. Even though inflation and state funding match perfectly in these later years, the original gap from FY26/FY27 continues to compound on itself.
- **Constants:** Enrollment and quality educator counts are held flat to isolate the inflation impact.

ANNUAL BASE-AID SHORTFALL vs. ACTUAL INFLATION



Red bars: inflation exceeds the 3% cap.

Green bars: inflation funding received is equal to real inflation

The Takeaway: Because state funding builds on the previous year's base, just two years of under-the-cap funding creates a permanent structural hole. Even if inflation behaves perfectly from FY28 onward, KPS still faces a \$2.17M annual shortfall by FY34.

