

Whitefish Education  
Foundation



Our Children. Our Schools.  
Our Future

Muldown - Whitefish Middle School - Whitefish High and Independent School

# Whitefish Children: Below Average?



## Their futures depend on your support

Montana schools rank below the national average in per student spending. Meanwhile, our children are expected to compete against national standards just to maintain the funding we already have.

It's a vicious cycle: inadequate funding deprives our children of the resources they need to compete, ultimately leading to lower performance and the threat of further funding cuts. Help our children make the grade. Give generously to the Whitefish Education Foundation.

Is "below average" good enough for our kids?

# Times Change ~ Our Kids' Needs Don't

Whitefish's first "schoolhouse" was a pair of old Great Northern rail cars. In those days, students often didn't even have the luxury of pencils and paper, let alone decent school buildings. The thing that made the difference was community leaders and parents, and their commitment to quality education for the children of Whitefish.

Their spirit lives on today in the Whitefish Education Foundation (WEF), a group of community members dedicated to promoting excellence in our schools. WEF has funded math programs, advanced curriculum and placement training, and more for our students and teachers.

You can make a difference for Whitefish.



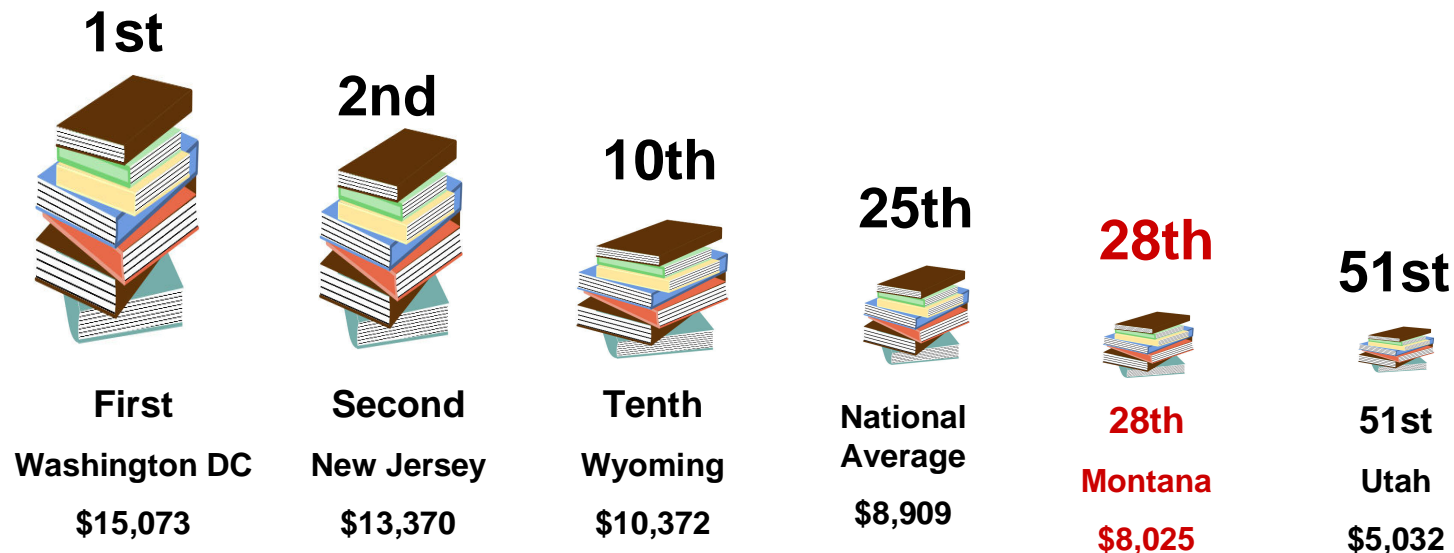
Photo courtesy Stumptown Historical Society

Whitefish's first  
schoolhouse, 1911

# Montana: 28<sup>th</sup> Nationwide

According to the National Education Association, Montana's spending per child ranks 28<sup>th</sup> nationally. More than half of all states spend more per child than we do.

*Source: National Education Association - Annual state educational expenditure per child.*



Donating to the Whitefish Education Foundation is the best way to improve your child's education.

Join other Montana communities:

- Helena
- Bozeman
- Philipsburg
- Cutbank
- Butte
- Billings
- Cascade

"We can't give our children world-class schools with below average funding."

--Mike Muldown

## Drastic Funding Cuts

On top of already inadequate funding, this year has seen drastic funding cuts for key programs.

- Applied Science and Research Classes (training & equipment) \$60,000
- Math Development and Training \$25,000
- Differentiated Instruction and Training \$60,000
- Advanced Assessment Training \$25,000
- District Assessment (MAP) and Computer Assisted Instruction \$25,000
- Advanced Placement Classes \$20,000
- Music and Art instruction \$25,000
- Special Ed mandate that had to be pulled from the general fund \$575,000

**Total**

**\$815,000**

# How will your time and money help?

Without past grants from WEF, we wouldn't have been able to afford:

- New 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math pilot program
- New technology allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders to collect and analyze science data and convert to mathematical calculations
- High-resolution document camera and projector for 5<sup>th</sup> grade math department

**Montana Tax Credit** - Contributions to WEF are tax deductible. New Montana tax credit allows donors to reduce their Montana income taxes. Contact us about our endowment fund and including WEF in your will, trust, or life insurance planning.

## Putting things in perspective

Annual Cost of:

- Wave Membership  
\$960
- Daily Latte  
\$1,186
- Big Mountain Ski Pass \$749
- Family Pet  
\$1,500
- Gas and Car Maintenance  
\$9,240

# Public funding isn't enough.

I want to help secure our children's futures. Please contact me (form available at [www.wfsdef.org](http://www.wfsdef.org)).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Children's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you? ☐ Parent ☐ Grandparent ☐ Alumni ☐ Community Member

## Yes, I'd like to donate to the Whitefish Education Foundation Scholars' Circle

\$1 to \$499	Green Honor Roll	\$10,000 + Valedictorian
\$500 to \$999	Gold Honor Roll	\$15,000 Salutatorian (pledge over 3 years)
\$1,000 to \$2,499	Principal's Honors	\$10,000 Merit Scholar (pledge over 2 years)
\$2,500 to \$4,999	High Honors	\$___ In Memory of
\$5,000 to \$9,999	Scholar	\$___ In Honor of

☐ Please contact me regarding: will or trust, cash gift, real estate, securities, life insurance

Enclosed is my check made out to WFSDEF. All donations are tax deductible.

Please charge my Visa/MC \$\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_ installments for a total donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to WFSDEF, PO Box 1417 Whitefish, MT 59937 ~ 406-862-5256 (or go to [www.wfsdef.org](http://www.wfsdef.org))



# Whitefish Education Foundation

Whitefish teachers, parents, businesses, and community members committed to providing world-class educational opportunities for our most precious resource.

PO Box 1417 ~ Whitefish, MT 59937 ~ 406-862-5256

[www.wfef.org](http://www.wfef.org)

