

# Making **KIDS COUNT** in the 2019 Legislative Session

House District 78 Rep. Gordon Pierson Jr.



POPULATION	District	State
Total population	9,798	1,029,862
Children ages 0-4	310	61,218
Children ages 5-17	1,347	164,940
Median age	43	40



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	District	State
Median household income (2017\$)	\$41,230	\$50,801
Children in poverty (<100% FPL) <sup>§</sup>	33%	18%
Children ages 0-18 who have public health insurance	58%	38%
Tax return filers who would qualify for a state EITC <sup>1§§</sup>	841	76,267



SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION	District	State
Preschool-aged children NOT enrolled in school	73%	60%
Children enrolled in grades K-12	1,437	162,262
Graduation rate, all students <sup>2</sup>	N/A	86%
Graduation rate, disabled students <sup>2</sup>	N/A	77%



SAFETY	State
High school students texting/emailing while driving <sup>3</sup>	54%
High school students talking on a cell phone while driving <sup>3</sup>	57%
High school students driving after drinking alcohol <sup>3</sup>	8%
Traffic crash fatalities and incapacitating injuries <sup>4</sup>	917

**The best way to ensure that children get ahead is to make sure that they never fall behind.**

Sources: Data source is the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Earned Income Tax Credit; Brookings Institution.

<sup>2</sup> 2018, Montana Office of Public Instruction.

<sup>3</sup> 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, OPI; High school students who have engaged in behavior on at least one occasion during the past 30 days.

<sup>4</sup> 2017, Montana Department of Transportation.

<sup>§</sup> Below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level;

\$20,420 for a family of 3 in 2017.

<sup>§§</sup> Tax return filers who currently qualify for the federal EITC.

\*\* Rate withheld due to low count.



www.montanakidscount.org