



Montana Board of Public Education
Performance Framework Rubric
Support for Transitions (Grades K–8 Only)

The examples below are provided to illustrate the types of practices schools may use to support students during key transitions. Schools may use different or additional strategies that meet the same intent.

Examples may include:

A. Transition Planning and Preparation

- Kindergarten readiness or “meet the teacher” events
- Short summer bridge sessions for incoming students
- Staggered start schedules for younger grades
- Welcome videos or virtual tours for new students

B. Family Communication and Engagement

- Family orientation meetings or virtual information sessions
- Grade-level handbooks outlining routines and expectations
- Family check-ins during the first month of school
- Translation or interpretation support for family communications

C. Academic Readiness and Placement

- Review of prior school records and assessment data
- Beginning-of-year diagnostic assessments
- Flexible grouping during the first weeks of instruction
- Short-term academic interventions based on early data

D. Social-Emotional and Behavioral Supports

- Explicit teaching of school routines and expectations
- Gradual release of independence for kindergarten students
- Peer buddy or mentoring programs
- Counseling check-ins or small group supports

E. Vertical Alignment and Staff Coordination

- Collaboration meetings between sending and receiving grade levels
- Shared documentation of student strengths and support needs
- Alignment of academic and behavioral expectations across grade bands
- Defined staff roles for coordinating transition supports

F. Monitoring and Follow-Up

- Attendance and behavior monitoring during the first 30-90 days
- Early academic progress reviews
- Adjustments to supports based on student data
- Reflection on transition outcomes as part of continuous improvement

Optional Evidence Schools May Provide

- Transition calendars or plans
- Family communication materials
- Assessment summaries
- Intervention schedules
- Staff protocols or meeting notes