



Foster Care Dashboard



Summary

The Foster Care Data Dashboard is found under Student Data on the GEMS Data Warehouse. The Foster Care Dashboard provides data on the foster student population in Montana, particularly on the public school enrollment counts and placement. There are two definitions of the student foster population utilized in this dashboard: 1) total foster count, which refers to the 24-hour substitute care for children outside of their parents or guardians, including living with a relative or in a group home, compared to 2) total foster count by district which is the unique districts' count throughout the school year allowing for schools to see the count for their location.

Central Navigation and Knowledge

	Page Contents	Page Navigation
Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -three data highlighted in boxes at the top display the selected year, the total state foster student count, and the total foster youth count -interactive map of Montana organizes counts by school district location -bar graph displaying historic trends in enrollment count each year since 2017 of foster youth count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -slider menu options: filter by school year, county/district/school, year range -hovering over the map will populate a Tool Tip with district name and count -three sub-buttons provide map selection filters: (1) the first sub-button displays the map elementary districts (2) the second for high school districts and (3) the third for K-12 districts
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -two tables, one for foster youth and one for homeless youth, that provides the total number of school enrollments by school year -bar graph displaying the foster youth count for the selected school year broken down by grade level. Each grade is further broken down to display by placement time including by foster care, by group home or by kinship care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -slider menu options: filter by year, county/district/school, gender -all three of the visualizations are interactive and connected, so selecting an element on one will automatically filter the other two to that item

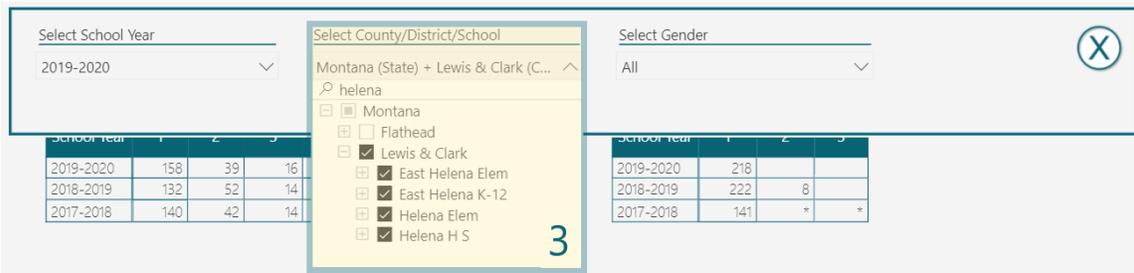
Where to Start

Below you will find two guided walk-throughs for accessing specific data to answer a question. These tutorials are provided based on frequently requested data or commonly asked questions on how to view the student counts by placement type for a particular school system.

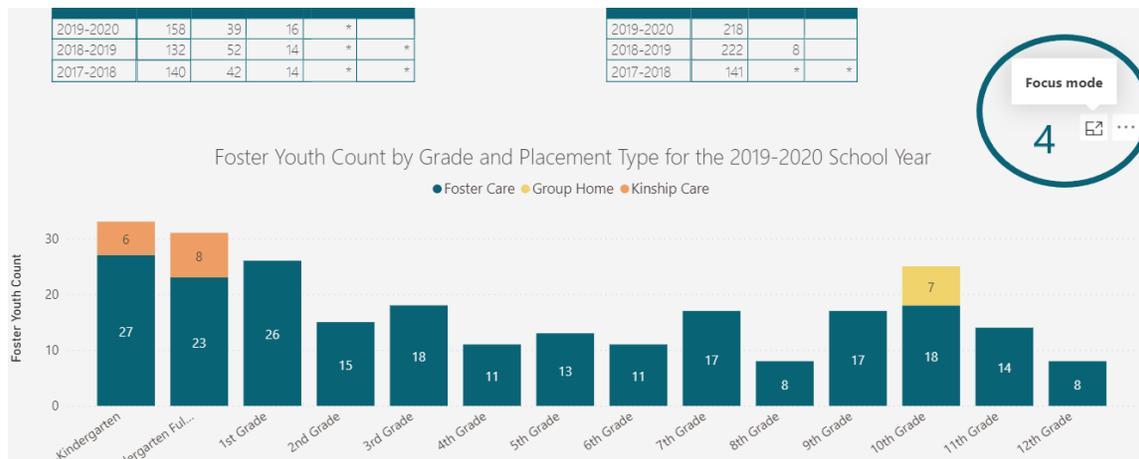
Step 1: Be Begin by clicking on the Overview button (1) which will bring you to the bar graph for foster youth count by grade and placement type.



Step 2: Use the menu slicer (2) to select the district(s) or school(s) of interest (3). This example has selected all schools in Helena school district.



Step 3: Hover over the bar graph so two icons appear in the upper right-hand corner. Select the 'focus mode' icon (4), and the graph will enlarge making it easier to read. This graph breaks out counts by grade level, so determining total counts may require some combining.



For example, high school students (grades 9-12) in Helena school district have 7 students in a group home environment and 57 in foster care. If such combining is needed rather than disaggregation by grade level, the user may find exporting the bar graph as a table simpler to read- hover over the graph, select ellipsis icon,  then select 'show as table.'

Tips and Tricks

- The Map page is interactive. Hovering over a data point on the map will populate with additional information called a Tool Tip. Selecting the data point will filter the page by that location. You can zoom in (+) and out (-) either by scrolling or using the icons in the top right corner.
- Depending on the number of districts selected, the tables can be dense to read. Selecting *focus mode* will enlarge the table for easier analyzing. To select focus mode, hover over the table. In the top right corner, two icons will appear. Select the first icon.
- "*" indicates that the count of students is 5 or less and has been masked.
- When districts on the map are white, no data has been reported for that location.