

Giving Montana Kids a Great Start

Jon believes that making investments in the next generation is the smartest move we can make. As a proud grandpa and former teacher, Jon is fighting for Montana kids every day.

Investing in Early Education

Best Beginnings Child Care Program



Jon recently secured an unprecedented **\$2.37 billion in funding for Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG)**. An 80% increase over last year, this is the largest single year increase in the program's history. In Montana, CCDBG funds go towards Best Beginnings Scholarships, which help families pay for preschool and day care.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Jon secured **\$9.8 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start** in this year's funding bill, a \$600 million increase over last year. Head Start provides educational, nutritional, and social services to both children (ages 0-5) and families in an effort to help the next generation hit the ground running in kindergarten and beyond. There are more than 100 different Head Start, Early Head Start, and American Indian Head Start Centers across Montana.



Preschool Development Grants



Jon also secured **\$250 million for Preschool Development Grants (PDG)** to enhance state preschool program infrastructure and quality. In 2017, Montana received \$10 million in PDG funding to

provide high-quality preschool services throughout the state. So far, this grant has funded full-day preschool programs for more than 1,200 four-year-olds across Montana.

“The children of Montana are the future. We owe our kids every opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.”

Fighting for Students

Keeping Students Healthy



Schools have become a primary source of health care for many students, but only four Montana counties meet the recommended nurse-to-student ratio and half of all Montana counties don't have school nurses at all. So, Jon introduced the **NURSE Act** to help Montana's rural and underserved public schools hire nurses. Jon also fought to reauthorize the **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**, which provides free or low-cost health insurance to thousands of Montana students through the Healthy Montana Kids Program.

Giving Kids the Tools to Succeed



Every student has unique needs, experiences and capabilities that should never prevent them from getting a quality public education. That's why Jon secured an **additional \$24 million in Individuals with Disabilities Act grants** for preschoolers and infants in this year's annual funding bill. These grants help ensure children with special needs get the support they need to learn.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA
JON TESTER