



WYOMING

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Statewide System of Support and Task Force Highlight State Board Meeting

Pinedale- An update on the planning for a statewide system of support and draft recommendations from the statewide assessment task force highlighted the Wyoming State Board of Education meeting in Pinedale held September 23-25.

Joel Dvorak, a Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) consultant, is working with representatives of professional education groups as well as members of the higher education community to discuss creating a guiding coalition to help plan the system of support.

The board urged Dvorak to focus on immediate support to schools not meeting expectations on the indicators of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act, with board member Ron Micheli adding, "We've been rating schools with no support for too long."

Scott Marion, consultant for the Legislative Service Office and facilitator of the Statewide Assessment Task Force, presented the task force's draft recommendations to the state board. The Task Force is creating the parameters for a request for proposals for an alternative to PAWS, the statewide test administered to Wyoming students in grades 3-8.

Marion told the board that the Task Force is recommending a comprehensive assessment system for the state to be administered in grades 3-10. Students in grade 11 would be required to take either a college or career ready exam.

The Task Force is also recommending a reduction in the test load for students, capping the summative assessment time at no more than 1% of the school year, as well as suggesting online administration of an exam that can be compared with at least one other state.

The next board meeting will be held October 27-28, 2015 in Casper.

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