



# Wyoming Department of Education

## *PRESS RELEASE*

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### **State Board of Education confers accreditation to districts**

**Cheyenne** – The Wyoming Board of Education granted full accreditation status to 31 of 48 Wyoming school districts at its regular board meeting on June 17. Accreditation with follow-up status was granted for 12 of the remaining school districts and 5 school districts were granted accreditation with deficiencies.

The components of accreditation are monitored and evaluated by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA) in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Education. NCA is an accreditation division of AdvancED.

The areas reviewed in accreditation include Vision and Purpose, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Document and Using Results, Resources and Support Systems, Stakeholder Communications and Relationships, and Commitment to Continuous Improvement.

There are a total of five levels of accreditation. Those levels are full accreditation, accreditation with follow-up, accreditation with deficiencies, conditional accreditation and non-accreditation.

The following school districts received full accreditation:

- Albany 1
- Big Horn 1
- Big Horn 2
- Big Horn 3
- Converse 2
- Crook 1
- Fremont 1
- Fremont 6
- Fremont 14
- Fremont 21
- Fremont 24
- Goshen 1
- Hot Springs 1
- Johnson 1
- Laramie 1
- Laramie 2
- Lincoln 2
- Natrona 1
- Park 1
- Park 6
- Park 16
- Platte 1
- Platte 2
- Sheridan 1
- Sheridan 2
- Sheridan 3
- Uinta 1
- Uinta 4
- Washakie 1
- Weston 1
- Weston 7

The following school districts received accreditation with follow-up:

- Big Horn 4
- Carbon 2
- Fremont 2
- Fremont 38
- Lincoln 1
- Sublette 1
- Sublette 9
- Sweetwater 1
- Sweetwater 2
- Teton 1
- Uinta 6
- Washakie 2

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In addition, Campbell 1, Carbon 1, Converse 1, Fremont 25 and Niobrara 1 were granted accreditation with deficiencies.

“The accreditation process is in place to identify specific areas of focus and challenges that districts are facing and must resolve,” Sandra Barton, Board of Education Chairman said. “The board is working closely with the Wyoming Department of Education and the identified districts to make sure we take care of these issues.”

All Wyoming schools are required to focus on student performance and improve student achievement through their school improvement plans. Quality contacts are made annually with each school, and accreditation visits are conducted on site using a five-year cycle.

All schools must complete a two-year progress report following the on-site visits on each overall recommendation within their accreditation reports. It is a process which reflects true continuous school improvement as the WDE works with each school throughout the school year, and any necessary changes are made along the way.

“Many of the districts are already on the path to successfully reconciling any of the identified concerns or misassignments,” Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jim McBride said. “We will continue to work with the districts through our technical assistance teams and district coaches to assist in any way we can.”

All Wyoming school districts participate in the NCA accreditation process with the exception of Sheridan County School District 1. Sheridan 1 participates in the WDE accreditation process and was visited in 2007-2008.

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