



Wyoming Department of Education PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 16, 2013

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Wyoming Department of Education grants 16:1 waivers

CHEYENNE – Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Interim Director Jim Rose granted waivers to each of the 22 school districts that applied for waivers from the state-mandated 16:1 student-to-teacher ratio in grades K-3 for the 2012-13 school year.

“Capacity seems to be the overriding issue for almost every district,” said Rose. “They (districts) just don’t have the space to accommodate the additional faculty and classes. Some districts have hired additional staff, they are assigning staff, they are using space that wasn’t independent classroom space before. Every district is responding in their own way, but by-and-large this is a capacity-driven issue.”

According to Wyoming Statute 21-13-307 (a)(iv), passed by the Wyoming Legislature in 2011, school districts in Wyoming shall provide evidence to the Director of the WDE that their district has maintained an average student-to-teacher ratio of not greater than 16:1 in kindergarten through third grade. Title I and other federally funded teachers are not to be included in the 16:1 ratio. Federal funds are to be used to supplement, not supplant, a district’s obligation to provide a 16:1 ratio.

The Director of the Wyoming Department of Education can waive the 16:1 requirement for any district that demonstrates insufficient school facility capacity, positive school performance, positive student achievement or for other reasons related to the delivery of the education program to students.

According to state law, districts seeking a waiver from the 16:1 mandate are statutorily required to apply for the waiver no later than March 15. Rose said members of the WDE evaluated the waiver applications, verified the data provided to the WDE by districts and provided letters of approval by April 10.

School districts that do not either achieve the 16:1 student-to-teacher ratio or receive a waiver from the Director of the WDE are not eligible to share in distribution of funds from the school foundation account. In the two years since the 16:1 mandate was passed, all schools which have requested a waiver have received a waiver.

List of Schools requesting waiver from 16:1
mandate and reason for request

FIRST_NAME	LAST_NAME	DISTRICT	CITY	REASON
SHON	HOCKER	BIG HORN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	COWLEY	2: Positive school performance
DAN	COE	BIG HORN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2	LOVELL	1: Insufficient school capacity
BARRY	BRYANT	BIG HORN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #3	GREYBULL	1: Insufficient school capacity
RICHARD	STRAHORN	CAMPBELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	GILLETTE	1: Insufficient school capacity
NEIL	TERHUNE	CARBON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	RAWLINS	1: Insufficient school capacity
DAN	ESPELAND	CONVERSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	DOUGLAS	1: Insufficient school capacity
KIRK	HUGHES	CONVERSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2	GLENROCK	1: Insufficient school capacity
TAMMY	COX	FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #24	SHOSHONI	1: Insufficient school capacity
TERRY	SNYDER	FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #25	RIVERTON	1: Insufficient school capacity

ROD	KESSLER	JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	BUFFALO	1: Insufficient school capacity
MARK	STOCK	LARAMIE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	CHEYENNE	1: Insufficient school capacity
JON	ABRAMS	LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2	AFTON	1: Insufficient school capacity
JOEL	DVORAK	NATRONA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	CASPER	1: Insufficient school capacity
RICHARD	LUCHSINGER	NIOBRARA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	LUSK	4: Other reasons related to the delivery of the education program
KEVIN	MITCHELL	PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	POWELL	1: Insufficient school capacity
BRYAN	MONTEITH	PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6	CODY	1: Insufficient school capacity
CRAIG	DOUGHERTY	SHERIDAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2	SHERIDAN	1: Insufficient school capacity
PAUL	GRUBE	SWEETWATER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	ROCK SPRINGS	1: Insufficient school capacity

PAM	SHEA	TETON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	JACKSON	1: Insufficient school capacity
JAMES	BAILEY	UINTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	EVANSTON	1: Insufficient school capacity
KENT	STOKES	UINTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6	LYMAN	1: Insufficient school capacity
DAVID	NICHOLAS	WASHAKIE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	WORLAND	1: Insufficient school capacity



Student to Teacher Ratio, Grades KG - 3 School Year 2012-13

