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WDE takes to the road to offer overview on Growth Indicator

CHEYENNE – With a new school ratings system in its pilot year, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is taking to the road to examine the importance of the Growth Indicator in the Wyoming School Performance Ratings Model.

WDE Assessment Division Director, Deb Lindsey and Data Governance Coordinator, Leslie Zimmerschied will be in Casper and Thermopolis for their first round of presentations with other events to be announced at a later date. The meetings are free of charge and open to all school district personnel.

The Casper presentation will be held on Nov. 12 from 1-4 p.m. at the Wyoming High School Activities Association Building at 731 East Second Street. On November 13 the duo will offer a presentation at the Hot Springs County Museum at 700 Broadway in Thermopolis from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

The meetings are free of charge and open to all school district personnel. [To Register for the event, click here.](#)

“Most teachers come to school working to ensure their instructional practices reach all children,” said Lindsey. “The truth is different teacher practices are more or less effective with certain groups of kids. With Growth data, teachers will be able to understand how well they are reaching different groups of students.”

There are essentially four indicators, which are measured and reported in the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act's (WAEA) School Performance Ratings Model. For grades 3-8 the indicators are: Achievement, Equity and Growth and a required Participation Rate. The data summarized in the new School Performance Reports places schools into one of four categories: Exceeding Standards, Meeting Standards, Partially Meeting Standards, and Not Meeting Standards.

The model defines Growth as the measurement of how much students improved on the state test in reading and math compared to other Wyoming students who started at the same level during the prior school year. The growth score is known as a Student Growth Percentile (SGP), which ranges from 1-99. If a student did better than 50 percent of his or her peers, the SGP is 50. Each school has one summary growth score, called the Median Growth Percentile (MGP). The MGP is found by taking each individual student SGP for math and reading for the entire school year and sorting them from highest to lowest and finding the score that has half of the individual SGP's above and half of the SGP's below. That number is the MGP for the school.

During the presentations on the Growth indicator, Lindsey said she and Zimmerschied would offer tips on how to read the reports, an explanation for how the Growth Indicators are achieved, and examples of the reports.

"My goal is to make the student growth information we have useful to teachers," said Zimmerschied. "I want to make sure teachers understand how to read the information, where to find it and how to make each piece of data actionable."

For more information on the School Performance Ratings, contact Tom Lacock at 307-777-5399 or tom.lacock@wyo.gov.