



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Tom Lacock

(307) 777-5399

tom.lacock@wyo.gov

edu.wyoming.gov

WDE seeks public comment on AMO waiver request

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has opened a two-week public comment period for its waiver request to the US Department of Education to maintain for one year, the current levels of Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as No Child Left Behind.

Comments may be submitted on or before July 22, 2013, via email to Dr. David Holbrook at: david.holbrook@wyo.gov or 307-777-6260. Public comments may also be sent in writing to Holbrook at 2300 Capitol Ave., Hathaway Building, Second Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002-2060.

This is a change from the original public comment period, which ran to July 31, 2013.

“We are putting forth a two week public comment period due to the need to turn around this waiver quickly and make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations in a timely manner,” Holbrook said.

The WDE is requesting a waiver of the ESEA as amended, section 1111(b)(2)(H), to freeze AMO targets at the 2011-2012 level to be used for AYP determinations during the 2012-2013 school year.

AMOs are a measurement used to determine compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). States must develop AMOs that will determine if a school, district, or the state as a whole is making adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward the goal of having all students proficient in English language arts and mathematics by 2013-14. In its waiver request, the WDE is asking the US Department of Education to measure Wyoming schools for the 2012-13 school year by the 2011-12 AMOs.

Schools that have not achieved AYP for two or more consecutive years enter “improvement,” status and can lose the ability to spend some of their federal money as the district sees fit. By law, schools in improvement must notify the parents of their district at least two weeks prior to the start of the school year to let them know of other school of choice options.