



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2007 – 069

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals and Assistant Principals

FROM: Holly Garrard, Project Director, and Susan Shipley, Education
Consultant, State Personnel Development Grant, Special Program Unit 

DATE: April 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Implementation Sites

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – NOTE DEADLINE

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is accepting applications for schools interested in participating in the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Initiative. Applications are due to the WDE by May 15, 2007.

School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a research-based, systems approach that helps schools improve the education of all students by creating positive learning environments for all, addressing the individual needs of some, and collaboratively addressing the targeted needs of a few.

The WDE is committed to offering ongoing training and support to schools interested in implementing PBIS to assist them in improving school climates and student achievements. The WDE will support schools by providing in-depth training in the PBIS model beginning this fall and continuing throughout the school year. Training will focus on the following PBIS components: effective disciplinary practices, data-based decision making of instructional strategies, and the application of research-validated behavior management practices.

Interested schools should complete and return the enclosed application (last 2 pages) to: Susan Shipley, Wyoming Department of Education Special Programs Unit, 320 W. Main St., Riverton, WY 82501. For more information regarding the PBIS initiative contact Susan at 307-777-6231.

SH:by

Enclosures: District Application Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

Wyoming Department of Education
Special Programs Unit

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION IN
THE WYOMING PBIS INITIATIVE**

Directions:

To apply, please complete the application in its entirety. Applications are due to the WY PBIS Coordinator by May 15, 2007. If more than one school in the district is applying, each school must submit a separate application.

School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a systems approach that helps schools and districts improve the education of all students by creating positive learning environments for all, addressing individual needs of some, and collaboratively addressing the targeted needs of a few. The school-wide PBIS approach assists schools in creating established outcomes that relate to academic and social behavior; systems that support staff efforts; practices that support student success; a decision making process guided by data; and effective discipline practices/procedures.

The Wyoming Positive Behavior Interventions Support (PBIS) Leadership Initiative grew from the identified relationship between learning and behavior. A growing body of evidence regionally and throughout the state indicates a mounting trend of behavioral problems in our schools and communities which hinder and interfere with creating positive and safe learning environments. The Wyoming Department of Education Federal Programs and Special Education Units, in collaboration with the WY PBIS Leadership Team (consisting of teachers, counselors, school administrators, community based organizations, parents and mental health/family service agencies) are committed to offering ongoing training and support to schools interested in implementing PBIS to assist them in improving school climates and student achievements

Considerations and Expectations for Involvement

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will accept applications from schools to participate in the 3rd cohort of the WY PBIS initiative. At the onset, schools will be encouraged to review and consider local data, resources, and the commitments outlined in this application in making the decision to participate. Schools must then examine the data and look for trends regarding the following components:

- Number of students with learning disabilities
- Rate of expulsion/suspension
- Failure to meet AYP - in need of improvement status
- Number of office discipline referrals
- Drop-out rate
- Limited access to behavioral interventions
- The level of programming available or currently being implemented
- Negative behavior as defined by the community

Schools that note some or many of these trends are encouraged to apply to become a PBIS School as a method to improve outcomes related to student behavior and academic achievement.

Participation Commitments

The following commitments are expected of a school that chooses to participate:

1. Establish a school team and identify a person to perform coaching functions.
2. Participate in team trainings over a three year period of time.
3. Fund professional leave time, travel expenses, and substitute pay for team members to attend training.
4. Provide data to the Statewide Leadership Team for on-going evaluation and improvement.

Wyoming Department of Education Commitments

The WDE will assist districts and schools in implementing PBIS with the intent to successfully educate and prepare students for life's opportunities. The WDE will support those schools and districts by providing the trainer, training facilities, training materials, and expenses necessary to conduct the external evaluations.

Training

A contract consultant with expertise and experience in implementing School-wide PBIS will provide training for school teams. The consultant will develop the final training curriculum in coordination with the Wyoming PBIS State Leadership Training Team. Generally, training will focus on the following components:

- Developing systems to support and sustain the change needed to produce long-term positive outcomes.
- Effective disciplinary principles and practices.
- Data-based decision making and evaluation of instructional strategies and curriculum components.
- Application of research-validated instruction and behavior management practices.

Wyoming Department of Education
Special Programs Unit

**APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
WYOMING PBIS INITIATIVE**

Directions:

To apply, please complete the following information and answer all questions. Applications are due to the WY PBIS Coordinator by May 15, 2007. If more than one school in the district is applying, each school must submit a separate application.

School _____

Mailing Address _____

City and State _____

Phone Number _____

Fax Number _____

School District _____

Principal _____

Director of Special Education _____

Project Contact _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

(WDE will communicate all PBIS program correspondence with the school through the Project Contact).

Please respond to the following questions.

1. What is the primary reason your school is applying to the Wyoming PBIS initiative? Note considerations and expectations for involvement.

2. This PBIS initiative will include training and technical assistance over a 3 year period of time. How will your school invest in this project through the commitment of resources such as time, staff, fiscal, staff development, or other resources?
Address the level of staff commitment to participate.

3. What components of PBIS does your school already have in place, if any?
Describe the behavior management techniques, strategies, and/or programs the school utilizes at present.

Principal's Signature _____

Director of Special Education _____

General Education Faculty Representative _____

Special Education Faculty Representative _____

Superintendent _____

Please send the completed and signed application to:

Susan Shipley
WY PBIS Coordinator
Wyoming Department of Education
Special Programs Unit
320 W. Main St.
Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 777-6231
sshipl@educ.state.wy.us