



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2007 - 128

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals

FROM: Joe Simpson 
Wyoming Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: July 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Staff licensing issues

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathryn Valido, President of the Wyoming Education Association, Dr. Mark Higdon, Executive Director of the Wyoming School Boards Association, Dr. Connie Pollard, Director of the Professional Teaching Standards Board, and Dan Stephan, Executive Director of the Wyoming Association of School Administrators, and the Wyoming Association of School Administrators Executive Board for their assistance in helping to resolve the current staff licensing issues.

After meeting with these partners, I believe we have a win-win strategy regarding outstanding staff certification issues for this year.

There are 25 districts that currently have outstanding staff certification issues. For districts with staff certification issues that are not resolved, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will recommend to the Wyoming State Board of Education that these districts receive “accreditation with follow-up.”

This will allow districts to resolve licensing issues and to collect public funds that have been paid to staff that were not and are not appropriately licensed. Districts will not have to pay the collected funds to WDE. As part of the school foundation program auditing process, the Wyoming Department of Audit will now check on staff certifications and the recouping of public funds that are paid to unlicensed staff. The WDE will forward annually any licensing issues to the Wyoming Department of Audit.

Additionally, there was a commitment by all partners that information will be shared prior to school beginning regarding the importance of staff maintaining their credentials. The WASA Executive Board agreed to identify best practices within districts regarding staff notification and contract language regarding employee responsibilities to maintain appropriate certification.

School District Superintendents

Memo No. 2007 - 128

July 20, 2007

Page 2

I have been meeting monthly with Dr. Connie Pollard, Director of the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) for 10 months. During this time Dr. Pollard has made several improvements to the operations of PTSB.

A new web-site was developed and launched, a 30 day application processing was reaffirmed, and technology assistance and training has been provided by WDE. PTSB will now have the capabilities to run a variety of specialized reports regarding certification issues. As of July 1, 2007, any staff who receives an initial standard Wyoming certificate will also be highly qualified in those areas required by the state and federal government.

If you have questions about this memo please contact me at 1-307-777-7674. If you have questions about your districts licensing status, please contact Dianne Frazer at 1-307-3471. If you have questions about staff certification, please contact Dr. Connie Pollard at 1-307-7291.

JS:tl