



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 064

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
High School Principals

**FROM:** Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

**DATE:** May 2, 2008

**SUBJECT:** National Governors Association Graduation Rate Compact

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### For Your Information

In June 2005, governors from all 50 states, including Governor Freudenthal, signed the National Governors Association's (NGA) Graduation Counts Compact, making an unprecedented commitment to use a common method for calculating each state's high school graduation rate. The governors undertook this commitment because they understand the importance of being able to report accurate and comparable data on how many students graduate on time.

What does this mean for Wyoming?

The impact of this change will be minimal for Wyoming. There is only a subtle difference between the NGA graduation rate calculation and the calculation Wyoming currently uses. This difference is linked to the need for Wyoming to collect student level graduation and dropout data to more accurately track and verify which students dropout, which transfer, and which are on-time graduates.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has taken this important first step by beginning to collect student level graduation and dropout data. Like the current Wyoming graduation rate calculation, the NGA calculation is based on a cohort of students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade and then tracking them (including transfers in and out) through their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year. As such, the collection of four years of student level data by the WDE will take place to enable Wyoming to begin reporting the NGA graduation rate starting with the class of 2011.

For more information about the National Governors Association Graduation Counts Compact visit <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0608GRADPROGRESS.PDF>

If you have any additional questions, please contact Shannon Cranmore at [scanm@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:scanm@educ.state.wy.us) or 307-777-6245

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