



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone 307-777-7673 Fax 307-777-6234 Website www.k12.wy.us

MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 067

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Principals
Curriculum Directors

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D.

DATE: May 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Web-based Resource Tools Transition

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) notified school district superintendents on October 19, 2007, in Memorandum Number 2007-174 of its intent to “explore a consortium approach to web-based products and services” for the 2008-09 school year. Furthermore, it stated “a different funding approach will need to be determined, such as a consortium with districts paying for services a district uses or a reduction in the products in WEdGate.”

The Wyoming Education Gateway (WEdGate) was under development in 1999 and introduced in 2000. Since then, WEdGate has been a rich source of web-based tools for curricular design, instruction, assessment and data analytics. However, with the ever-changing and constant increase in selection, availability and cost of these tools, the WDE will begin a “year of transition” for the 2008-09 school year.

The Wyoming Department of Education “Fusion” portal will become the sole aggregation entity for web-based tools. For the “year of transition” the WDE expects to transition, manage and maintain four products at the state’s expense, one in each of the four educational process areas:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| 1) Curriculum Design | Blackboard |
| 2) Instruction | netTrekker |
| 3) Assessment | Success |
| 4) Data Analytics | INFORM |

School District Superintendents
School District Principals
Curriculum Directors
May 2, 2008
Memo No. 2008-067
Page 2

These four were selected because they were either (1) a popular tool that is used widely across school districts or (2) they are used by both school districts and the WDE.

As suggested in October 2007, the WDE anticipates collaborating with school districts that are interested in forming consortia for the purposes of garnering economies of scale to purchase additional web-based tools. It is the intent of the Department to ensure that every district has the opportunity to determine individual product selection based on its unique needs and preferences.

The WDE will be asking school districts to indicate their interest in:

- 1) Joining a consortium to select and purchase additional web-based tools;
- 2) Serving on a steering committee with the WDE; and
- 3) Piloting the RFP development for products.

It is our intent to assist school districts during this transition year with the tools they currently have at their disposal as we move forward. If you should have questions, please contact Kay Post or Teri Wigert, at kpost@educ.state.wy.us or twiger@educ.state.wy.us. If you or your school district is interested in joining a consortium, serving on the steering committee or in piloting the RFP development, please contact Meredith Bickell or Scott Bullock at mbicke@educ.state.wy.us or sbullo@educ.state.wy.us.

JM:TW:tw