



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 071

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
WISE Coordinators

FROM: Laurel Ballard, Supervisor for Accountability *LB*

DATE: May 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Duplicate Dropout Identification and Graduation Rate Data Access

Important - Time Sensitive Response Needed

Beginning this year, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is providing districts the opportunity to positively affect graduation rates utilized in Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) decisions by identifying students that were reported as dropouts on the 2006-07 student-level WDE 607 – WISE Dropout Statistics data collection and in prior school year aggregate dropout reports. The dropout collection evolved from an aggregate to a student-level collection effective as of the 2006-07 school year. This change will enable the WDE to automate the process of identifying students reported as dropouts multiple times and eliminate inappropriate inclusion of these students in multiple years' graduation rates. **This process, however, will only be fully effective after student-level data has been collected for six or seven years.**

In the interim, districts are offered the opportunity to identify students that were reported as a dropout on the 2006-07 WDE 607 student-level data collection and that were also reported as a 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade dropout in the same school on an aggregate dropout collection submitted prior to 2006-07. Where duplicate reporting in a single school has occurred, the AYP Graduation Rate will reflect only a single dropout. If a student drops out from one school, enrolls in a second school, and then drops out again from a second school, then both schools will count that student as a drop out. At the district level, every time a student is counted as a dropout at the school level, the student will be counted as a dropout at the district level.

This is an optional submission, but it will provide districts the opportunity to potentially increase graduation rates utilized in AYP decisions. PLEASE NOTE: These changes will impact the AYP Graduation Rate only. The publicly reported graduation rates for schools, districts, and the state must continue to be calculated in the same manner as before due to federal requirements.

How do I submit data on duplicate dropout reporting to the WDE?

The WDE 668 Duplicate Dropout Identification data collection will be posted on the WDE Forms Inventory (<https://wdesecure.k12.wy.us/stats/forms.inventory>) on Friday, May 9th. You will utilize the WDE 668 form to identify which students on the 2006-07 WDE 607 student-level collection were also reported as a dropout on your district's aggregate report in a school year prior to 2006-07. Student identification data (WISER ID, name, birth date) must be provided along with the school year, school ID, and demographic fields (gender, ethnicity, lunch status, ELL status, IEP status, and Migrant status). The school ID and demographic fields must match the status of the student when reported on the aggregate report. All data elements on the WDE 668 must be filled out in order for WDE to consider resolving duplicate dropout counts within AYP Graduation Rates.

When is the WDE 668 Duplicate Dropout Collection submission due?

The WDE 668 is due on June 6, 2008. This coincides with the due date of other data cleaning activities taking place in advance of the AYP determination process, and as such is a firm deadline – no exceptions. No changes to the WDE 668 will occur after June 6, 2008.

Will 2006-07 Graduation Rate Data be Provided for Reference?

On May 15, 2008, confidential district and school-level graduation rate data for 2006-07 will be posted online at edu.wyoming.gov (the WDE universal portal resource tool, Wyoming Education Fusion, which is just beginning to be rolled out). This is a secure website; a user name and password will be required to access the data (see the next section below for accessing the website).

This data is considered confidential because counts for all cohort exiter groups (graduates, completers, and cohort dropouts by grade) and the associated graduation rate will be provided, even where there are less than six exiters in the cohort.

How Do I Access this Confidential Graduation Rate Data?

To access the data, you will be required to enter in your district's State Report Manager (SRM) username and password. Your WISE Coordinator has this username and password. Please work directly with this person to gain access to your district's confidential graduation rate data via edu.wyoming.gov. To view the reports, select the link at the bottom of the page to login to Fusion, select the Data Reporting tab at the top of the page, and select the Confidential Graduation Rate Data link to view the list of available reports.

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Who Do I Contact for More Information?

If you have any questions about the AYP process and graduation rates, please contact Laurel Ballard at 307-777-7016 or lballa@educ.state.wy.us.

If you have any questions regarding the WDE668 data collection process, please contact Vince Meyer at 307-777-8751 or vmeyer@educ.state.wy.us.

If you have any questions about data access on Fusion, please contact Shadd Schutte at 307-777-3656 or sschut@educ.state.wy.us.

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