



## 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](http://www.k12.wy.us)

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### MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-064

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Principals and Special Education Directors

**FROM:** Susan Shipley, Education Consultant  
Edie Ring, Education Consultant  
Christine Revere, Education Consultant

**DATE:** April 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Application for Response to Intervention (RTI) Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) Integrated Training

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### TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Response to Intervention (RTI) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are two initiatives that use a tiered approach to ensure that the academic and behavioral needs of all students are addressed. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has integrated RTI and PBIS into a training model known as the Wyoming System of Instructional Support (WySIS) to create an efficient way for schools to implement a comprehensive system of prevention and intervention strategies.

The WDE is currently accepting applications from schools for the 2009-2010 WYSIS training. Training and technical assistance will be provided by national experts, WDE staff and coaches. The first year training consists of five days and will be provided in both Rock Springs and Casper, Wyoming. The training topics include the following:

- Development of a systems approach for academic and behavioral interventions
- Universal screening and progress monitoring
- Tier 1 academic and behavior supports
- Data analysis and decision making
- Collaboration across disciplines
- Coaching
- Fidelity of Implementation
- Family Involvement Strategies

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Detailed information regarding the training, district and school commitments and expectations are found in the attached application. Please to submit applications to the following:

Susan Shipley  
Wyoming Department of Education  
320 West Main  
Riverton, WY 82501

**The deadline for receipt of the application by WDE is May 22, 2009.**



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**Application for  
Wyoming System of Instructional Support (WySIS) Training  
“Integrating Response to Intervention with Positive Behavior Interventions and Support”  
2009-2010**

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is committed to supporting schools and districts who wish to implement a systems approach of instructional practices that result in improved student outcomes. Research has shown that if schools improve student achievement, behavior incidents decrease; and, when behavior problems decrease, student achievement improves (Hawkins, Catalano, Kosterman, Abbott, & Hill, 1999).

Response to Intervention (RTI) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are two initiatives that use a tiered approach to ensure that the academic and behavioral needs of all students are addressed. The Wyoming System of Instructional Support (WySIS) integrates the tiered logic of RTI and PBIS into one training model to create an efficient way for schools to implement a comprehensive system of prevention and intervention strategies.

The WySIS model for RTI and PBIS have these critical features in common:

- A systematic screening process to identify students who are at-risk academically or behaviorally
- High-quality scientific-/evidence-based instruction, interventions, strategies, supports and a positive learning environment
- A tiered approach to instruction and behavioral interventions
- A collaborative approach across disciplines
- A system for frequent monitoring of progress
- Data-based decisions to determine if student progress is sufficient or insufficient
- Internal audits or fidelity checks of implementation
- On-going job-embedded professional development that includes coaching and peer collaboration
- Family involvement strategies

#### Determining school/district readiness

- Commitment from district and school leadership to allocate the necessary resources (human, fiscal and time) for three to five years for full and sustainable implementation of RTI and PBIS
  - Fund travel expenses and substitute pay for trainings
- Commitment from school leadership to participate in RTI and PBIS professional development and technical assistance for a minimum of three years

- Commitment from at least 80% of the school staff to collaborate and share responsibility to improve student academic achievement and reduce behavioral incidents

#### Expectations for District Participation

- Establish a district leadership team to coordinate sustainable implementation efforts. The team should include:
  - District-wide administrators (Special Education, Title I or Curriculum Directors)
  - Principals
  - Instructional Facilitators, School Psychologists, etc.
- Develop an action plan during the first year of participation to “scale up” WySIS in all district schools
- Participate in team training

#### Expectations for School Participation

- Establish a WySIS school leadership team which might be a subgroup of existing school teams
  - An administrator is a required member
  - A non-administrative team member designated as the coach who will facilitate implementation at the school and district levels
  - The expertise of other team members should include data analysis and expertise in literacy and behavior. These members might include general education and special education teachers, school psychologists, counselors, instructional facilitators, etc.
- Develop and implement an action plan with specific goals, strategies and timelines that are aligned with the school’s NCA, School Improvement Plan or other strategic action plans for school improvement
- Implement a data management system that includes universal screening and progress monitoring for academics (minimally, reading) and behavior
  - **An annual subscription (\$250/yr.) to the School-wide Information System (SWIS), a behavior data tracking system, is required**
- Participate in team trainings, including assignments, over a three year period
- Collect and report student and school outcome measures
  - Complete evaluation measures and submit to the WySIS evaluator
  - Self-Assessment survey
  - Tier tracking data
  - Academic progress data
  - Behavior data
  - End of year survey

**Directions:** Please provide the following information and return with the completed application. The deadline for applications to be received by the WDE is May 22, 2009. **If you fax the application, please mail the original signature page.**

School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Implementation Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide the following information:**

- A copy of your school's current Wyoming NCA Action Plan and Data Analysis Summary, School Improvement Plan or other strategic action plan
- Identify goals the WySIS training will address
- Describe other initiatives (PLC, WHSSM, etc.) or school-wide professional development your district is implementing
- Have a minimum of 10 instructional staff (general education, special education, administrators, instructional facilitators, etc.) complete the online WySIS Self-Assessment Survey
- Briefly describe the following:
  - a. Core curriculum
    - i. Reading
    - ii. Math
    - iii. Behavior
  - b. Universal screener and progress monitoring tool
    - i. Reading/math
    - ii. Behavior
  - c. Data management system
    - i. Reading/math
    - ii. Behavior
  - d. List 1-3 interventions most frequently used in your school
    - i. Reading
    - ii. Math
    - iii. Behavior

**We have read the expectations for districts and schools for participation in WySIS training and can commit to the following:**

- Commitment from district and school leadership to allocate the necessary resources (human, fiscal and time) for three to five years for full and sustainable implementation of RTI and PBIS
- Commitment from at least 80% of the school staff to collaborate and share responsibility to improve student academic achievement and reduce behavioral incidents
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Superintendent of Schools

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District Leadership Team Representative

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School Principal

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Director of Special Education

**Contact Information:**

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