



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction
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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-129

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

DATE: September 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Community Involvement Letter

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

Last week, I sent close to 200 letters to various civic leaders, business leaders, organizations and community representatives. The letters detailed that we, the Wyoming Department of Education, have developed a new strategic plan that focuses on improving school attendance, improving graduation rates and reducing drop-outs, and reducing bullying.

The plan, if you are interested in reviewing it, is available on our website at www.k12.wy.us. The letters encourage the members of the local communities to consider what they can do to assist in achieving the goals of the strategic plan. That process of thought will likely lead to some people contacting your district or school to discuss how they can be more involved in their local schools.

I would encourage you to welcome and utilize these organizations and individuals as we strive to make an impact in these areas of focus. If you have any additional questions regarding the strategic plan or integrating community support into your school, please feel free to contact the Wyoming Department of Education.

JM:tcl

Attachment

August 28, 2009

As the 2009-2010 school year begins, I am writing this letter to request your support and assistance for what I believe are important issues facing young people and communities within Wyoming.

As part of my work with Wyoming legislators, the Wyoming Public Education Advisory Group and my department staff, we have crafted a Wyoming public education and department strategic plan. I have included the plan for your review. We will work on **improving school attendance, improving graduation rates and reducing drop-outs, and reducing bullying** in schools this school year.

I am specifically asking for your assistance to talk about these issues within your community and organization, and to determine specific steps that you and your organization can take to help us improve daily school attendance, keep students in school, and reduce bullying.

Currently, the average attendance rate for Wyoming is 94.1%, and we want to improve the statewide attendance rate to 96%. The Wyoming graduation rate is currently 79.3% and we want to increase it to 85%. Bullying is reported by asking students if they have been bullied in schools. Middle grade students have reported that 50% have been bullied and we want to reduce this to 45%. High school students have reported that 29.1% have been bullied and we want to reduce this to 24.1%. Data varies widely across Wyoming, but there is room for improvement in every region of the state.

I know that you have heard the adage, "it takes a community to raise our children." I sincerely believe this statement. We really need your help! If we work together we can help our children achieve at high levels, graduate, be good citizens and lead productive lives. Please join me in these efforts to help Wyoming students.

If you have any questions about how you and/or your organization can help, please contact our customer relations staff person, Kathryn Lind at klind@educ.state.wy.us or 307-777-3320.

Sincerely,

Jim McBride, Ed.D.