



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2010-092

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Joe Simpson
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: April 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Accreditation Information

FACTORS USED IN DETERMINING ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Wyoming State Board of Education (SBE) determines the accreditation status of every Wyoming school district. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) brings recommendations to the Wyoming State Board of Education based on the following factors:

- 1) Staff Certification** (known as misassignments). Staff certification is a review of teachers, coaches, administration and licensed personnel. The issue with staff certification is that non-certified personnel cannot be paid with public funds. WDE has had the current system in place for 4 years. If a district has misassignment issues, the following accreditation recommendations are used:
 - a) Issues 1 of 4 years: Warning – Full Accreditation
 - b) Issues 2 of 4 years: Accreditation with Follow-up
 - c) Issues 3 of 4 years: Accreditation with Deficiencies
 - d) Issues 4 of 4 years: Accreditation with Deficiencies

- 2) NCA Accreditation Process.** WDE visits the districts that have schools that are having NCA accreditation visits. This is a 5-year cycle. WDE reviews on site the WDE 604 Assurances document. Any problems with an assurance can be used in determining a district's accreditation recommendation to the SBE. Also, any schools that receive a score of "2" in any NCA Standard, WDE is recommending that the district have Accreditation with Follow-up status.

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- 3) Body of Evidence (BOE).** Last year BOE was not used in the accreditation recommendations. Districts were given until 2010 to work on their BOE systems. This year BOE will be a factor in accreditation recommendations.
- 4) Systems issues.** Districts that have major systems issues with their operations such as budget and fiscal procedures, federal programs, sustainability of continuous improvement, etc., will be brought to the SBE for accreditation recommendations.

All Wyoming school districts will be reviewed on the above factors. WDE will make accreditation determinations by May 20, 2010, and districts will be notified of their recommended status. Any school districts that would like to attend the SBE on June 15-16, 2010, in Riverton, are welcome to do so. When we notify districts as to their accreditation recommendation, we will have a SBE agenda and will let you know the exact day and time of this action item.

If you have questions concerning the WDE accreditation recommendation process, please contact Joe Simpson at 307-777-7674, email deputysupt@educ.state.wy.us or Kay Post at 307-777-3498, email kpost@educ.state.wy.us.