



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-036

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Business Managers

**FROM:** Cindy Hill

**DATE:** March 25, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Enrolled Act 98 – Recalibration, Block Grant Model

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### IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ

It has been drawn to our attention that Attachment A to the Recalibration of the Block Grant Model is inconsistent with the approved Model for Foundation allocations of school funding. The Model follows existing methodology for determining the amount of funding allowed for “computers and equipment” at a level \$291.90/ADM. However, the Attachment to HEA 0098 provides this funding component will be at a level of \$333.43/ADM. See page 28 of HEA 0098, paragraph (xxii). We have been advised by the Co-chairs of the Joint Education Committee, Senator Coe and Representative Teeters, that the Attachment is in error and will be corrected promptly in the 2012 Budget Session to become effective for school year 2011-2012. The Co-Chairs recommend we maintain the model at the prior funding level of \$291.90 until that correction is completed and enacted. A copy of their letter is attached.

The purpose of this memo is to alert you of this inconsistency so that you may plan accordingly for the upcoming school year, but also to explain the Department’s reasoning for adopting a course of action.

The WDE views its alternatives as being: (1) to continue with the existing model distributions with the remote chance of a late year upward modification after the next legislative session, or (2) to modify the model and make larger distributions early in the year and probably then correct the model to make smaller distributions in the later part of the year to effectively recapture overpayments. To make this decision we have considered information and advice from our School Finance Data Advisory Committee, the Co-Chairs, the Governor’s office, and Michael O’Donnell, who is the school finance attorney at the Attorney General’s office. Based upon this advice and our own review of the situation, we will follow alternative (1). We view this as the least disruptive course of action for all concerned. It anticipates future legislative action and should that action fail to come in existence, we can take the appropriate steps at that time to resolve the funding inconsistency.

We apologize for the uncertainty created and are confident you will all work with us until this uncertainty is ultimately resolved. Thank you for your cooperation.

CH:JM:rew

# Wyoming State Legislature

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**DATE:** March 17, 2011

**TO:** Governor Matt Mead  
State Superintendent Cindy Hill

**FROM:** Senator Hank Coe  
Representative Matt Teeters

**SUBJECT:** 2011 HB0127, "School finance recalibration."

Subsequent to enactment of 2011 House Enrolled Act (HEA) No. 98, being original House Bill 0127, school finance consultants to the Legislature reviewed education resource block grant model components contained in model spreadsheets and Attachment "A" to HEA 98 (copy attached). The review is undertaken to certify the model spreadsheets are operating in accordance with Attachment "A". Attachment "A" contains the model components as enacted by the Legislature, and model spreadsheets represent actual model formulae developed and certified by consultants.

As indicated in the attached copy of the consultant's review presented to State Superintendent Hill, a discrepancy was discovered between model spreadsheets and Attachment "A". Specifically, the dollar per ADM value attached to the "computers and equipment" component at page 28 of HEA 98, paragraph (xxii), is different from the value contained in model spreadsheets. The value contained in Attachment "A" is incorrect and does not reflect the intent of the Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration, as adopted by the Legislature. The Select Committee and the Legislature intended the component be forwarded at funding levels set by the 2006 Legislature, adjusted upward cumulatively by legislatively adopted external cost adjustments reflecting present funding levels. The model spreadsheets accurately reflect this intent with a per ADM value of "\$291.90" as indicated in the attached review.

As such, and as Cochairmen of the Joint Education Committee, it is our resolve that legislation will be introduced in the 2012 legislative session to correct the "computers and equipment" component value contained in Attachment "A" to reflect the "\$291.90" value per ADM for application in the 2011-2012 school year. During the interim, it is our recommendation that the State Superintendent administer the block grant model in accordance with the value contained in model spreadsheets commencing with school year 2011-2012.

Attachment.

CC: Senators Anderson and Nicholas  
Representative Buchanan and Berger  
Attorney General Greg Phillips  
Mike O'Donnell, State's Counsel