



**WYOMING**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-033

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Bridges Program Coordinators  
Business Managers

**FROM:** Lisa Weigel, Chief Policy Officer

**DATE:** March 20, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Wyoming Bridges Program Changes

## CHANGES TO BRIDGES SUMMER SCHOOL AND EXTENDED-DAY PROGRAMS

[House Enrolled Act No. 125](#) repeals W.S. 21-13-334, which is the enabling legislation for the Bridges summer and extended-day program. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has provided the following FAQ in order to help districts navigate these changes.

### **Is there still funding for summer school and extended-day programs?**

Yes. The summer school and extended-day funding still exist. These funds are now part of the school funding block grant. The WDE will no longer award Bridges grants beginning this spring. Instead, it will be up to the districts to decide how these funds will be used. The formula for extended-day and summer school services for at-risk students is included in Attachment A, and is set at 0.15 FTE teacher positions for every 30 at-risk students, with a minimum of 0.5 FTE teacher positions for each district. Districts are encouraged to fund programs for at-risk students, at least at the minimum level.

### **Can districts still use Bridges funds from the last grant award?**

Yes. Districts currently have remaining funds from the Bridges awards they received in June 2016. Awarded funds need to be expended according to the Bridges rules. The current grant award period ends June 30, 2017, and any funds used from these awards must be encumbered by that date in order to be reimbursed. The funds can be used for the current school year's extended-day activities, as well as summer school activities that take place in June 2017. A memo will be sent in April announcing

the availability of the WDE527 report for extended day and in June announcing the availability of the WDE537 report for summer school. These reports must be completed in order to order to be reimbursed.

**Will districts continue to report expenditures for summer school and extended-day programs?**

Yes. Expenditure data will continue to be collected on the WDE601 WISE Annual District Report. Districts will report FY 2016-17 grant expenditures in the Special Revenue fund (20) using the fund code 'SMR SCHL'. The WDE will provide guidance on reporting FY 2017-18 summer school and extended-day expenditures at a later date.

**Should districts prepare and submit a Bridges application?**

No. There are no grants to award, therefore there will be no requirement to complete a Bridges application (WDE539) this year. Planning for summer school and extended-day services will be an internal process in each district.

**Will district or school staff continue to be required to attend a 7-hour training in order to teach summer school?**

No, the Bridges Summit professional development conference will no longer be required or offered in the foreseeable future. If desired, districts may request training or technical assistance from the WDE.

**Do districts need to continue administering the MAP test for the Bridges program?**

No, MAP testing is no longer required for the Bridges program. At their own discretion, districts may continue to utilize MAP testing to assess the effectiveness of their summer school program. ***Please note:*** MAP testing may still be required under other programs; HEA125 only repealed the MAP requirement for the Bridges program.

The WDE will be working on completing the Bridges program this spring and summer and will support districts to assist them with this process.

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*For questions about the Bridges program, contact Dianne Frazer, Bridges Coordinator, at 307-777-8676 or [dianne.frazer@wyo.gov](mailto:dianne.frazer@wyo.gov). For questions about Bridges funding, contact Jed Cicarelli, School Foundation Supervisor, at 307-777-5808 or [jed.cicarelli@wyo.gov](mailto:jed.cicarelli@wyo.gov).*