



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

Jillian Balow

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dicky Shanor

Chief of Staff

Brent Bacon

Chief Academic Officer

Lisa Weigel

Chief Policy Officer

Dianne Bailey

Chief Operations Officer

Cheyenne Office

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor
2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-2060
Phone: (307) 777-7675
Fax: (307) 777-6234

Riverton Office

320 West Main
Riverton, WY 82501
Phone: (307) 857-9250
Fax: (307) 857-9256

On the Web

edu.wyoming.gov
wyomingmeasuresup.com

MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-038

TO: School District Superintendents
Technology Coordinators
Principals

FROM: Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 20, 2017

SUBJECT: Senate File 35 Virtual Education Update and Survey

SENATE FILE 35 VIRTUAL EDUCATION UPDATE AND SURVEY

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is excited to announce that Senate File 35 was signed into law on Thursday, March 9.

SF35 was based on recommendations from the 2015 Distance Education Task Force to help reduce barriers associated with offering and taking virtual education courses. The bill made significant changes to statute. This includes removing the Distance Learning Plan, and instead establishing a centralized statewide Learning Management System (LMS) that districts may utilize to document, track, report and deliver virtual education courses. The LMS will assist districts with being able to provide equal access to educational opportunities for all students, and will increase ease of access and continuity for students throughout their education. A statewide LMS will open up new opportunities for educators to work together across districts, and will allow easier access to additional Hathaway Success Curriculum courses, Advanced Placement courses, coding courses, credit recovery courses, and additional world language options. The LMS will be made available to all school districts in the state, though districts can still choose to establish or continue using their own individual LMSs.

The WDE is now seeking input to plan for the implementation of the LMS. Over the last few months, the WDE has been working with school district representatives, community colleges, and the University of Wyoming to investigate how a K-20 Statewide LMS can decrease costs and provide greater instructional benefits. Through this investigation, [Canvas](#) has been tentatively chosen as the statewide K-20 LMS.

Given the requirement in SF35 to have a statewide LMS, and the funding constraints for both the WDE and school districts, the WDE is in need of information about the anticipated usage of the LMS by school districts. It is critical for all districts to fill out [this survey](#) by March 31, 2017 to give the WDE a better idea how districts might participate in this system. Individuals in districts who are responsible for making decisions around selecting and purchasing an LMS are particularly encouraged to respond. The survey gives the WDE the information needed for a successful implementation by the 2018-19 school year.

For questions, contact Laurel Ballard at 307-777-8715 or laurel.ballard@wyo.gov.