



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-041

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
Principals

FROM: Lisa Weigel, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: March 27, 2017

SUBJECT: Education Legislation Information

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON EDUCATION LEGISLATION

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is beginning to focus on implementing statutory changes across various programs from the 2017 legislative session. The WDE is working diligently to provide guidance and transition plans for the 2017-18 school year. Below are the most frequently asked questions about this year's legislation. The WDE will continue to provide updates as it works with various stakeholder groups on implementation.

School Finance

[House Enrolled Act 0125](#) (House Bill 0236) resulted in an additional reduction to the School Foundation Program of approximately \$34 million for fiscal year (FY) 2017-18. These reductions will be implemented through the elimination of the FY 2017-18 External Cost Adjustment, a reduction of 10% to Instructional Facilitator (IF) funding and the adoption of consultant recommended non-personnel funding levels. The School Finance Section is working to implement the technical adjustments necessary to ensure the model operates in accordance with the new law. These adjustments will require additional review and certification from the State's school finance consultants.

The WDE will be working with various stakeholder groups on other changes that will impact FY 2018-19 funding. These changes include average daily membership (ADM) calculation requirements, court ordered placements, restrictions on funding for student transportation, and

developing a methodology for computing ADM for students enrolled in virtual education programs.

Instructional Facilitators and Summer School/Extended-Day Grants

Effective July 1, 2017, categorical grant funding for IF and Summer School/Extended-Day programs will be incorporated into the block grant funding model. The grant application process for both IFs and Bridges will be eliminated for FY 2017-18. Expenditure data for both programs will continue to be collected on the WDE601 WISE Annual District Report.

In accordance with [W.S. 21-13-335\(e\)](#), any funds not spent or encumbered from the 2016-17 IF Grant must be returned to the WDE by June 30, 2017. Please send your payment to Jed Cicarelli, Wyoming Department of Education, 2300 Capitol Ave., Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002. The WDE will be providing additional information on finishing out reporting requirements for current year funding. Additional information on Bridges funding can be found in Superintendent's Memo [2017-033](#).

Alternative School Moratorium

House Enrolled Act 125 enacts a moratorium on the creation of new alternative schools under [W.S. 21-13-309\(m\)\(V\)\(B\)](#). Effective March 15, 2017, the new alternative school application process will be suspended through June 30, 2019. Additional information can be found in Superintendent's Memo [2017-032](#).

16:1 Class Size Requirement for K-3

The 16:1 student-teacher class size ratio required for grades K-3 under [W.S. 21-13-307\(a\)\(iv\)](#) has been repealed. Effective immediately, the current waiver process to determine eligibility for FY 2017-18 funding has been suspended. Elementary school core teachers are resourced at a ratio of sixteen students (ADM) per teacher under the education resource block grant model. Districts are encouraged to endeavor to staff their K-3 classrooms at the 16:1 ratio as recommended by [W.S. 21-9-101\(d\)](#).

Payment of Tuition for Pupils Attending School in Another State

With the passing of [House Enrolled Act 0022](#) (House Bill 0039), there will be a new process for requesting reimbursement for tuition expenses paid to school districts in another state under W.S. 21-4-505. For the first year of implementation, Section 2 of HEA0022 authorizes the WDE to reimburse school districts for expenses incurred during FY 2016-17 no later than June 30, 2017. The School Finance Section will be releasing the WDE101 to collect reporting claims for eligible tuition payments. Please note that all of the requirements under [W.S. 21-4-505](#) still apply to reimbursements made through the WDE101 process. The WDE will follow up with eligible districts when the form is available on the Data Collection Suite with reporting deadlines for the current fiscal year.

Advance Payment Loans

School Foundation Advance Payment Loans are available to qualifying recapture districts or entitlement districts that receive 20% or less of their guarantee from entitlement payments. [House Enrolled Act 0040](#) (House Bill 0038) requires full repayment on or before December 15th of the school year the loan was issued. Districts will no longer be assessed interest or have the option to carry the loan past December 15th.

Elementary School Foreign Language Requirement

Governor Matt Mead vetoed [House Enrolled Act 0102](#) (House Bill 126) on March 14, 2017. All school districts are still required to provide instruction in foreign languages to students in kindergarten through grade 2 under [W.S. 21-9-101\(g\)](#).

For more information about school finance, instructional facilitators, out-of-state tuition payments, and advance payment loans, contact Jed Cicarelli at jed.cicarelli@wyo.gov or 307-777-5808.

For more information about the Bridges program or the alternative school moratorium, contact Dianne Frazer at dianne.frazer@wyo.gov or 307-777-8676.

For more information about the 16:1 student-teacher ratio requirement, contact Julie Magee at julie.magee@wyo.gov or 307-777-8740.

For more information on the elementary school foreign language requirements, contact Laurie Hernandez at laurie.hernandez@wyo.gov or 307-777-3469.