



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-076

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
Curriculum Directors
Instructional Facilitators

FROM: Lisa Weigel, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: May 30, 2017

SUBJECT: FREE Summer Learning Opportunities for Students

FREE SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN READING AND MATH

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is encouraging educators and families to help students engage in reading and mathematics practice during the summer months in an effort to retain academic skills they learned during the school year. However, students can slip in their abilities over the summer months. This phenomenon is called “summer learning loss” and is well documented by researchers throughout the country. The WDE, in partnership with MetaMetrics, is trying to stop the negative effects of summer learning loss with two free summer learning initiatives: [Find a Book, Wyoming](#) and [The Summer Math Challenge](#).

Find a Book, Wyoming

Find a Book, Wyoming enables students, educators and parents to build custom reading lists based on their reading ability, i.e. Lexile® measure, as well as, personal interests. It enables students, parents and educators to check the availability of books at their local library, and to submit a pledge to read this summer. To access the *Find a Book, Wyoming* tool, visit: www.lexile.com/fab/wy/.

The Summer Math Challenge

The *Summer Math Challenge* is a math skills maintenance program based on grade-level state standards for Mathematics. The program is targeted to students in 1st through 8th grade and is designed to help them retain

math skills learned during the previous school year. Parents who enroll their child will receive daily emails with targeted activities and resources to help children retain the math skills learned during the previous school year. The *Summer Math Challenge* runs from **June 19 to July 28**. To find out more, visit: www.quantiles.com/content/summer-math-challenge/.

Both learning tools use measures that are reported on the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS). *Find a Book, Wyoming* uses a student's reading score, reported as a Lexile measure to provide a corresponding list of texts that fall within the student's reading ability. The *Summer Math Challenge* uses a student's mathematics score, reported as a Quantile® measure, to produce activities tailored to the student's mathematical ability. Both tools have features that allow students, parents and educators to estimate a Lexile or Quantile measure if it is not known.

For more information, contact Jill Stringer, WDE Math Consultant, at jill.stringer@wyo.gov or Terra Hernandez, WDE English/Language Arts Consultant, at terra.hernandez@wyo.gov.