



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

Megan Degenfelder

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
twitter.com/WYOEducation
facebook.com/WYOEducation

MEMORANDUM NO. 2018-005

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
Technology Directors
Curriculum Directors
CTE Directors
Institutions

FROM: Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: January 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Girls Go CyberStart Challenge

GIRLS GO CYBERSTART CHALLENGE

Governor Matt Mead has announced the “Girls Go CyberStart Challenge” – a Cybersecurity initiative sponsored by the [SANS Institute](#). SANS is a trusted and significant source for information security training and security certification in the world.

This competition will help contestants learn cyber security and test their skills through a no-cost online game called CyberStart. “The Girls Go CyberStart Challenge is an opportunity for students to learn to protect digital assets while honing skills in technology,” said Governor Mead. “Cybersecurity and computer technology are career fields that have seen tremendous growth over the last decade. Jobs in technology are in high demand and are high paying. This gives kids the chance to learn more and it fits well with the ENDOW initiative.”

Participants in the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge will have the opportunity to share in \$150 scholarships, registration, and travel to Chicago for the Women in CyberSecurity Conference (WiCyS) on March 23-24 in Chicago, Illinois. WiCyS is a community engagement, encouragement and support for women in cybersecurity. Despite the growing demand and tremendous opportunities in the job market, cybersecurity remains an area where there is a significant shortage of skilled professionals regionally, nationally and internationally.

The WDE, in partnership with Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), is offering a webinar on January 18 at 10:30 a.m. to provide information and supports to Districts and teams interested in

participating in the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge. To join the webinar please click [here](#).

To be eligible to play in Girls Go CyberStart Challenge, students must be:

- Female
- Enrolled in 9-12th grade at a public or private school or the homeschool equivalent
- A resident in one of the following U.S. states: American Samoa, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, **Wyoming**.

No prior computer knowledge is needed and students from all educational backgrounds are welcomed. If students enjoy solving problems, logically working through challenging tasks and learning new skills, then they will have what they need to succeed at the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge.

Registration opens on January 29 and closes February 16. Game play begins at 7 a.m. MST on February 20, and ends at 9:59 p.m. MST on February 25.

More information and registration can be found on the [Girls Go CyberStart website](#).

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