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WDE OFFERS ACCOUNTABILITY PRESENTATIONS IN GILLETTE, AND JACKSON

Changes made for planned Jackson presentations

CHEYENNE - As the educational accountability process in Wyoming enters its next phase, The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will release inaugural School Performance Ratings to districts, schools and the public in 2014. Prior to that release, the WDE is presenting a series of demonstrations explaining how the ratings are computed and reported to the public.

Due to weather reports predicting heavy snow in northwest Wyoming this week, WDE will use its online meeting room, Blackboard Collaborate, to deliver a planned presentation to school district personnel in and around Teton County. The WDE will offer a 9 a.m. presentation on Thursday, February 13 in the conference room of the school district office for personnel of Teton County School District 1. The presentation will focus on the School Performance Ratings model, the growth indicator, and changes in Phase I of the accountability process.

A similar presentation will be made via Blackboard Collaborate again on Thursday, February 13 from 1-3:30 p.m. for all interested school district personnel in Wyoming. That presentation may be viewed by clicking on the link below: http://tiny.cc/WDE_Participant or <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/dropin.jnlp?sid=vclass&password=0DG15IPQCRZU5XBHR150>

A scheduled public event previously scheduled for the evening of February 13 has been postponed to a later date in order to facilitate an on-site presentation by WDE staff.

In addition to its time in Jackson, WDE staff will offer a pair of presentations on School Performance Ratings and changes in Phase I of the educational accountability effort in Gillette at the end of February. Educators from around the state are invited to a 2-4:30 p.m. presentation February 27 at the Lakeway Learning Center in Gillette, while Campbell County District I personnel are invited to attend a presentation from 9-11:30 a.m. on February 28 also to be held at the Lakeway Learning Center.

To register for any of the scheduled presentations, please click here: https://docs.google.com/a/wyo.gov/forms/d/1fWtfigyW4HLX0RLhFf5e39XKv_z6g7Bo02V0d-k9zGw/view-form

Leading the presentations will be WDE Director of Assessment Deb Lindsey; Data Governance Coordinator Leslie Zimmerschied, and Julie Magee, the agency's Director of Standards and Accountability. During the presentations on School Performance Ratings and the growth indicator, Lindsey said she and Zimmerschied would present tips on how to read the reports, an explanation on how the growth indicators are calculated, and examples of the reports.

There are essentially four indicators which are measured and reported in the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act's (WAEA) School Performance Ratings Model. For grades 3-8 the indicators are: Achievement, Equity and Growth and a required Participation Rate. The data summarized in the new School Performance Reports places schools into one of four Categories: Exceeding Standards, Meeting Standards, Partially Meeting Standards, and Not Meeting Standards.

The WDE is also willing to present to any other communities or districts interested in learning more about the School Performance Ratings. The agency plans two similar presentations for the School Improvement Conference next month.

For more information on School Performance Ratings and the upcoming presentations, contact Tom Lacock at 307-777-5399 or tom.lacock@wyo.gov.