



## WYOMING ADVISORY PANEL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

January 29, 2009

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Dr. Jim McBride  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building  
2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Dear Dr. McBride:

Two bills being presented at the current legislative session have gained the attention of the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities (WAPSD). As you know the WAPSD is organized to advise you of the unmet needs of students with disabilities. The panel would like to provide public comment concerning these bills.

In reference to Senate File No SF0099 – Career and technical training grants, the panel suggests the following:

- Specific language be included for provision of students/individuals with disabilities
- Those who would not qualify for the Hathaway grant will qualify for this provision
- This grant opportunity becomes available for part time students as some students with disabilities are unable to handle a full time load
- Students who are incarcerated would be allowed to apply for the grant with 12 month grace period to utilize the awarded grants if released during that 12 month period

In reference to House Bill No. HB0122 – Harassment by bullying, the panel suggests the following:

- Section 21-3-601 under definitions in line 11: **ADD:** Harming a student “**physically, emotionally, or psychologically**” (The impact of bullying does not just result in physical abuse; oftentimes, emotional and psychological abuse are much worse consequences. In addition, bullying does not just impact the victim and the perpetrator, but also families, friends, and community members as well. The effects of bullying are invasive on all levels.)
- Section 21-3-604 **ALTER:** should be “**REQUIRED**” (We do not feel that teaching and enforcing the humanitarian and fair treatment of others should be an option).
- Section 21-3-605 **ADD:** treating others with “**COMPASSION**”, civility and respect ... (Children, as well as adults, should learn to be able to place themselves in one another’s position to truly be able to alter their behavior, or to respond appropriately to whatever situation they may be put in that makes them feel uncomfortable. To do this, we must learn compassion in addition to simply being able to be civil and respectful
- Provisions be made for “cyber bullying”
- Those with severe disabilities are excluded from protection if they do not have awareness of the activity

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There is overwhelming support for both bills with the hopes that they will be passed by the legislator taking into consideration the above suggestions.

Thank you for your time in expressing our suggestions to the appropriate entities

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Davey Hough by nm". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Davey Hough, Chair  
Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

DH:nm

cc: Senator John Hastert  
Senator Stan Cooper  
Representative James Byrd  
Representative Kathy Davidson  
Mary Kay Hill