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MEMORANDUM NO. 2016-050

TO: School District Superintendents

Special Education Directors

FROM: Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Ongoing PD for Students with Significant Disabilities

ONGOING PD FOR STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES

The Wyoming Department of Education's Individual Learning Division and the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Project are offering an ongoing professional development opportunity for educators working with students with significant cognitive disabilities.

The three-day Summer Institute: "Opening the World of Literacy for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities" will take place June 28-30, 2016 at the Pronghorn Conference Center in Lander. A block of rooms have been reserved.

The Institute will focus on the communication needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities and linking effective literacy strategies for students.

Participants are encouraged to bring a support team with them to assist in developing co-teaching methods and strategies to improve outcomes for these students. Educators will come away with lesson plan perspectives and ideas, access to online modules, and a better understanding of instructional shifts.

To ensure that the participants have the support and follow-up for implementation, the WDE will host quarterly webinars for the participants to mentor each other, brain-storm, and problem solve. Supplementary webinars will be offered to address specific concerns brought up during these sessions, along with additional professional development opportunities. These will be offered to ensure educators have the most effective practices at their disposal.

Register here: wde.memberlodge.com/event-2191217

For more information, please contact Joanne Whitson at <u>joanne.whitson@wyo.gov</u> or 307-324-5333.