



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2016-059

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
Curriculum Directors
Instructional Facilitators and Coaches
Language Arts Teachers
Mathematics Teachers, grades 1-7

FROM: Brent Young, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: April 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Free Summer Learning Opportunities for Wyoming Students

NEW SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WYOMING STUDENTS

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) encourages educators and families to help students engage in reading and mathematics practice during the summer months, in an effort to retain the academic skills they learned during the school year. Students grow their reading and mathematics abilities during the academic school year, but their abilities can slip over the summer months. This phenomenon is called “summer learning loss” and is well documented by research. In partnership with MetaMetrics, the WDE is combatting the effects of summer learning loss with two new summer learning initiatives: [Find a Book, Wyoming](#) and [The Summer Math Challenge](#). Both of these activities are free.

Find a Book, Wyoming

Find a Book, Wyoming enables students, educators and parents to build custom reading lists based on their reading ability (Such as Lexile® measure) and personal interests. The tool also 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 lexile.com/fab/wy.

The Summer Math Challenge

The *Summer Math Challenge* is a math skills maintenance program based on grade-level state standards. The program is geared toward students who have just completed 1st through 7th grade, and is designed to help them retain math skills learned during the previous school year. Parents who enroll their child receive daily emails with targeted activities and resources. The *Summer Math Challenge* begins June 20th, and runs until July 29th. For more information, visit quantiles.com/summer-math.

Both learning tools use measures that are reported on the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS) for grades three through eight as well as grade 11. *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 that 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 questions, please contact Julie Magee at julie.magee@wyo.gov or 307-777-8740.