
MEMORANDUM No. 2014-018

TO: District Superintendents
School Principals
Instructional Facilitators
Curriculum Directors
Teachers

FROM: Deb Lindsey, Director
WDE Assessment Division

DATE: February 10, 2014

SUBJECT: School Performance Ratings Model Presentations

WDE TO OFFER PRESENTATIONS ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE RATINGS MODEL

Presentations slated for Jackson and Gillette

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will present a series of events to explain how School Performance Ratings are computed and reported to the public, as well as changes in the educational accountability process for 2014.

WDE will be in Teton County for three presentations on Feb. 13. Its 9 a.m. presentation in the school district board room is directed at personnel from Teton County School District 1 and 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 from 1-3:30 p.m. for all interested school district personnel in Wyoming.

The public is invited to an evening presentation by the WDE from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Jackson Hole High School Auditorium. The evening presentation will cover data concerns, the future of assessment in Wyoming, and concerns about the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.

In addition to its time in Jackson, WDE staff will offer a presentation on School Performance Ratings and changes in Phase I of the accountability effort in Gillette on Feb. 28.

Personnel from Campbell County District 1 will be able to attend a presentation from 9-11:30 at the Lakewood Learning Center, with another presentation open to educators from 2-4:30 p.m., also scheduled for the Lakewood Learning Center.

To register for any of the scheduled presentations, please click here: https://docs.google.com/a/wyo.gov/forms/d/1fWtfiqyW4HLX0RLhFf5e39XKv_z6g7Bo02V0d-k9zGw/viewform

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 for how the growth indicators are achieved, 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 model defines growth as the measurement of how much students improved on the state test in reading and math compared to other Wyoming students who started at the same level during the prior school year. The growth score is known as a Student Growth Percentile (SGP), which ranges from 1-99. If a student did better than 50 percent of his or her peers, the SGP is 50. Each school has one summary growth score, called the Median Growth Percentile (MGP). The MGP is found by taking each individual student SGP for math and reading for the entire school year and sorting them from highest to lowest and finding the score that has half of the individual SGP's above and half of the SGP's below. That number is the MGP for the school.

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

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