

# Dept. of Education proposes new statewide support system

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**CHEYENNE**—Teachers and administrators across Wyoming soon may get more chances to be students rather than the educators.

Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow and state Department of Education Chief of Staff Dicky Shanor on Wednesday presented via teleconference a proposal to the State Board of Education.

It would create a new system of support for educators across the state.

The effort is in response to Enrolled Act 87, which was passed by the Legislature during the last session and became effective March 9.

The act requires the State Board to create "a progressive multi-tiered system of support, intervention and consequences to assist schools."

Shanor said the Legislature set aside \$750,000 to create the support system. In response, the state department developed a four-piece proposal that Shanor said the agency and its stakeholders believe is the best way to move forward on the project.

He said those four parts are:

- Special efforts from Wyoming Center for Education Leadership.
- Proposed work from the Wyoming Association of School Administrators.
- A request for proposals seeking a strategic planner to help implement the program
- A request for proposals seeking a "technical assistant coach or district coach to help deal with all the new requirements in (Act 87) regarding aligning the curriculum and assessment programs."

According to the Department of Education's proposal, "(The Center for Education Leadership)

currently is running the Wyoming Principal's Leadership Academy, co-sponsoring the return of the Wyoming School Law Conference and planning for the implementation of the ECHO project for superintendents."

Former Laramie County School District 1 Superintendent Mark Stock is leading development at the center. He said Wednesday that UW graduate students determined educators prefer technology-based networking for education training.

The proposal states the Center for Education Leadership hopes to use the ECHO project because it provides training via online technology. This training then can occur anywhere in the state.

According to proposal, the trainings are expected to be held weekly, be recorded and placed online so "participants can keep current even if they miss a weekly session."

The Center for Education Leadership also is putting in place the Wyoming

Principal Leadership Academy.

The proposal says that will be three face-to-face trainings and two sessions using the same ECHO technology. These will take place over four days.

The center also introduced this year the Wyoming School Law Conference. Education professionals attended that to focus on legal issues in education.

The department's proposal also states the Center for Education Leadership also plans to "train 25 principal mentor/coaches" using subcontracted "mentoring and coaching curriculum."

Those mentors will then be able to train principals across the state during the 2016-17 school year.

Alongside with the center's efforts, the Association of School Administrators proposes hiring Anthony Muhammed.

Shanor said he is an international expert consultant on education. He works for Solution Tree, a professional development organization for educators based in Bloomington, Indiana.

Fees for hiring Muhammed are \$6,000 a day.

Kari Eakins is the communications director for the Department of Education. She said Muhammed would host workshops for teachers. Shanor added that Muhammed will teach them to host professional learning community workshops in their districts.

Kevin Mitchell, superintendent of Park County School District 1, said in the teleconference that Muhammed's specialty is "changing school environments."

Shanor said the total proposed budget is \$600,000. He said that is "still \$150,000 under what the State Board was given for this project."

Balow told the board she supports the program to help move state education ahead.

"It's really frightening—keeps you up at night frightening—to think about how far we are behind the ball," she said. "Given the importance and the urgency in this, it is the very best way to go forward."