



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2007- 073

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
Curriculum Coordinators

FROM: Laurel Ballard, Accountability and Education Data Analyst
Standards, Assessment and Accountability Unit 

DATE: April 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS – PLEASE DISTRIBUTE

The Department of Education is looking for **highly motivated teachers** to participate in the Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute (WTPI), a year-long professional development program. The Department is recruiting approximately nine teacher cohorts throughout the state for a total of 45 teacher participants. Preference will be given to teachers who apply as a district cohort with up to five teachers. Districts with 1 or 2 teachers are encouraged to apply as we may combine them with teachers from other districts to form the cohort.

The Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute is a professional development initiative which includes the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Education, and Wyoming districts and teachers. The purpose of the WTPI is to guide and support *regional groups* of Wyoming teachers in conducting action research related to current education issues. Through this program WTPI will provide participating teachers the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills to influence education policy locally, statewide, and nationally. Program participants will be awarded a \$1,000.00 stipend and will receive PTSB or UW Outreach/Graduate credit. In addition to the \$1,000.00 stipend, the WTPI will pay for meeting space and program materials. Districts will be responsible for paying teachers' *per diem*, mileage, hotel, and substitutes.

Teachers and districts interested in working with the Wyoming Department of Education and the University of Wyoming in this professional development program should apply to the Wyoming Department of Education by **May 15**,

School District Superintendents
Memo No. 2007 - 073
April 6, 2007
Page 2

2007. An application is provided with this memorandum. Applications are also available on line at www.k12.wy.us. Additional WTPI information, including an information sheet and an application template, is attached to this memorandum. ***Please share this information with district principals and teachers.***

If you have questions, contact Laurel Ballard at lballa@educ.state.wy.us (307-777-7016) or Julie Sellers at jselle@educ.state.wy.us (307-777-7963).

LB:al

Attachments

Application for the Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute

Due to WDE by May 15, 2007

Name _____

School Name _____ District _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Experience

What do you currently teach?

List the subjects/grade level you have taught and the years taught in each area?

What was your preparation for becoming a teacher?

How have you continued your professional development?

Please list any professional organizations in which you are a member:

Continued on page 2

Commitments

Please check the commitments you are willing to make in the boxes provided:

- I will complete and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings related to educational policymaking and action research.
- I will attend a **required** three-day introductory session in **August 2007**. For the rest of the school year (through June, 2008), I will attend all local monthly sessions and other scheduled sessions. I understand that these sessions provide opportunities to participate in dialogues with policy makers, discuss readings, and develop action research projects.
- I have access to computer equipment and will participate on-line. I will check my e-mail on a regular basis.
- I will participate in conducting action research and writing documentation.
- I would like to be the Facilitator of my local group.

Essay

Please attach a short essay (approximately two typed double-spaced pages) describing an initiative in which you were an active participant that was designed to produce positive classroom or school change. Be specific about your role. Please attach your essay to this application.

Applicant’s signature _____

Date _____

School District Commitment

The Policy Institute will pay teachers’ \$1000 stipends. The Policy Institute budget will also fund meeting rooms, professional development resources for all participants, and meals during scheduled meetings/events. Districts will be responsible for paying for teachers’ mileage, hotel rooms, and substitutes (for 2 day legislative meetings in Cheyenne).

Authorized District Representative

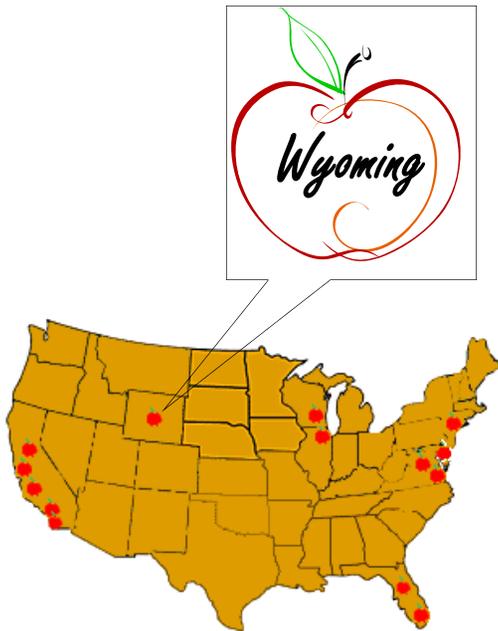
Representative’s Signature

Return to:

Laurel Ballard (WTPI Co-director)
2020 Grand Ave., Ste. 500
Laramie, WY 82070
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Local Districts Connecting With A National Network

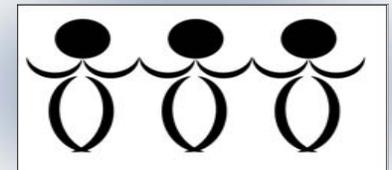
The **Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute** is one of 14 affiliates across the nation that together comprise the Teachers Network Leadership Institute.



**WYOMING TEACHER
POLICY INSTITUTE**

2020 Grand Avenue
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Laramie, WY 82070
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<http://www.k12.wy.us>

Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute



Teachers as Leaders



Leading Action Research in Wyoming & Across the Nation

The **Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute (WTPI)** is a collaborative effort among the Wyoming Department of Education and public school teachers and administrators across the state. The **WTPI** is modeled after and affiliated with the national Teachers Network Leadership Institute, a MetLife funded organization.



Mission Statement

To improve student learning by empowering teachers through ongoing research that engages others and influences education policy.

Making a Difference in Wyoming Schools

“Teachers’ voices add authenticity to policy debates, and they provide ‘on the ground’ snapshots of the real effects of new and old policies on classrooms and children.”

(Linda Darling-Hammond,
Former Executive Director,
National Commission on Teaching
& America’s Future)

The **Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute** offers educators a variety of opportunities and experiences for professional development as they:

- * Plan and conduct action research in classrooms and schools to improve student achievement and develop policy recommendations;
- * Participate in a state- and nationwide professional community of educators;
- * Engage the public and policymakers in conversations about education policy; and
- * Publish and disseminate research findings and recommendations locally, statewide, and nationally.





The Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute

Program Description

Application Deadline is May 15, 2007

The Wyoming Department of Education is seeking a diverse group of teachers to participate in the 2007-2008 Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute. Applicants must be active in their school communities and have a track record of working for educational change. Teacher participants will receive a \$1,000 stipend upon completing and sharing an action research project.

The Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute (WPTI) was funded by the Fifty-Eighth Legislature. It is a professional development initiative that includes the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Education, the Wyoming School University Partnership, and Wyoming districts and teachers. The purpose of the Institute is to guide and support regional groups of Wyoming teachers in conducting action research related to current education issues. Through the Institute, teachers study issues that impact students, student learning, classrooms, and schools in a democratic context. Teachers research and develop policy and practice recommendations and inform key stakeholders of their findings.

Teachers from all Wyoming districts will be considered. However, preference will be given to districts that enroll up to five teachers from their district. This provides an adequate local support group and allows for the maximization of program facilitators. Other selection criteria include regional balance, consideration of continuing and new teacher participation, and strength of teacher applications.

Program participants will be required to attend and participate in all district and whole group meetings. They will be required to read assigned materials and participate in on-line discussions and planning. Additionally, participants must complete an action research project, including a written report (approximately 10 pages); a policy brief (approximately 2 pages); and present their projects at the 2006 Wyoming School Improvement Conference. Districts will be responsible for paying for teachers' *per diem*, mileage, hotel, and substitutes.

Participants may earn PTSB credit or University of Wyoming Outreach/Graduate Credit upon successfully completing program requirements.

The following is a **tentative timeline** for the 2007-2008 Teacher Policy Institute

- **August 2007:** WTPI Retreat – 3 days.
- **Ongoing:** WTPI teachers conduct classroom-based inquiry. Regional groups meet monthly.
- **January 2008:** WEN meeting to discuss project updates and readings. Prepare for meeting with Wyoming Legislators in February.
- **February 2008:** Meet in Cheyenne for the legislative session – 2 days
- **June 2008:** Teachers complete research reports and policy briefs. Year-end presentations will highlight findings pertinent to education issues in Wyoming.
- **October 2008:** Project presentations at the School Improvement Conference in Casper – 2 days

Applications are available from your principal or on line at www.k12.wy.us.

For more information please contact a Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute Co-Director.

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Julie Sellers, Wyoming Department of Education
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