



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone 307-777-7673 Fax 307-777-6234 Website www.k12.wy.us

MEMORANDUM NO. 2007 - 143

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Principals
Human Resource Directors

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D.

DATE: August 24, 2007

SUBJECT: Highly Qualified Teachers Follow-up Information

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND AS NECESSARY

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) have been collaboratively working to support the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirement that all teachers of core academic subjects are highly qualified.

In mid-July all superintendents and principals were sent a packet of information that included a list of the teachers in their districts and schools who appeared to be not highly qualified in their teaching assignments, the percentage of classes in the district taught by highly qualified teachers; documents describing the responsibilities for moving all teachers to highly qualified; templates for that work at the district and school level; and copies of certification, testing, and highly qualified information sent to the districts on June 1, 2007 by PTSB.

It appears that there is some confusion as to whether or not a teacher who is not highly qualified may teach. A "highly qualified teacher" in Wyoming has certification to teach in Wyoming, has demonstrated content knowledge in the certified subject area, and is assigned to the subject area in which he/she is certified and highly qualified.

- A certified teacher who is not yet highly qualified may teach in his/her subject area(s), but is expected to develop and implement, with the collaborative support of his/her principal, a plan for becoming highly qualified.
- **The exception: All teachers working in federally funded programs must be highly qualified in order to work in those programs -- Title I, Class-Size Reduction, and Part B, IDEA (Special Education).**

School District Superintendents
School District Principals
Human Resource Directors
Memorandum 2007-143
August 24, 2007
Page 2

WDE is continuing to assist districts with compliance with the law in the area of highly qualified teachers. The Human Resource Directors from each district play a critical role in this endeavor. Individual teachers should rely on that individual for guidance relative to their specific qualifications and assignments.

If your district has questions regarding highly qualified teacher information, please contact Carol Illian at 307-777-8715 or cillia@educ.state.wy.us.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring that all students are taught by highly qualified teachers. WDE welcomes your questions and comments as we work together to achieve our goal of 100% highly qualified teachers.

JM:ci