



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2010-212

TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Directors
District PAWS Coordinators
Title I Directors
Special Education Directors
School Principals

FROM: Alan Moore, Director,
Standards and Assessment Division
Laurel Ballard, Chief Information and Data Officer
Information Management Division

APM

DATE: November 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Adequate Yearly Progress Graduation Rate Determination Changes

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Per US Department of Education (USDE) rules and regulations, states were required to submit to the USDE proposed goals and targets for the graduation rate. Specifically, the target of any increase over the prior year was no longer going to be allowed. The approved goals and targets were then to be used in the 2010 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations for high schools.

To develop the goal and targets, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) used the expertise of the Accountability System Review Team. This team is comprised of district personnel and staff across from the WDE. In May 2010, the WDE received approval to use the proposed graduation rate goal and targets in its AYP determinations. The AYP goal will continue to be 80%. Any school or district meeting the goal will not be required to meet any additional graduation rate targets. The targets will only be used for schools not meeting the 80% goal. The target for any individual school or district will be determined by the prior year's graduation rate. The list of targets is attached. These targets and the goal are currently in effect and will continue to be in use in future AYP determinations.

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An additional change was made to the minimum-n size for the graduation rate AYP determination. Prior to the 2010 AYP determinations, no minimum-n size had been implemented. A minimum n-size of 30 students will be applied to the AYP graduation rate determinations. This n-size will apply to all student groups. If a school/district has less than 30 students in the aggregate or in a subgroup, then multiple cohorts will be combined to increase the n-size making more schools accountable for graduating the students in all of their subgroups. The attached flowchart provides the description of how the multiple cohorts will be combined in order for more schools and subgroups to meet the minimum n-size. If the sum of cohorts over the three years for a student group is less than thirty, then no AYP graduation rate determination will be made on that student group.

For questions regarding the AYP graduation rate goal and targets contact Alan Moore at amoore@educ.state.wy.us (307-721-1930) or Laurel Ballard at lballa@educ.state.wy.us (307-777-7016).

Wyoming Department of Education AYP Graduation Rate Goal and Targets

Graduation Rate Goal: 80%			
Target if Current Year Graduation Rate is Less than 80%	Prior Year Graduation Rate		Range
	Greater than or equal to:	Less Than:	
The lesser of 5.00% or the difference between the prior year graduation rate and 80%			5%
6.00%	75%	80%	10%
7.00%	65%	75%	10%
8.00%	55%	65%	10%
9.00%	45%	55%	10%
10.00%	35%	45%	10%
11.00%	25%	35%	10%
11.00%	0%	25%	25%

Wyoming Minimum N-Size Multiple Cohort Graduation Rate Process

