



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM. NO. 2012 -140

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals

FROM: Jerry Zellars, Public Information Officer

Date: September 26, 2012

RE: Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) Progress Update

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION

On October 1, 2012, Natrona County School District #1 will host a briefing by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) concerning the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA). The briefing, scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m., will take place at the school district's office building located at 970 North Glenn Road, Casper, Wyoming.

BACKGROUND:

The Wyoming Legislature Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability and its Advisory Committee, along with a contracted consultant, proposed a basic outline for accountability to the 2012 legislature. The bill was introduced, amended multiple times by the 2012 Wyoming state legislature, and passed as Senate File 0057. It became Enrolled Act 65 and was signed into law by Governor Matt Mead on March 21, 2012.

The WAEA legislation contains seven goals, they are: 1. Become a national education leader among states; 2. Ensure all students leave Wyoming schools career or college ready; 3. Recognize student growth and increase the rate of that growth for all students; 4. Recognize student achievement and minimize achievement gaps; 5. Improve teacher, school and district leader quality; 6. Maximize efficiency of Wyoming education; 7. Increase credibility and support for Wyoming public schools.

The WDE identified six themes throughout the legislation, they are: 1. Assessment; 2. Accountability (School Performance Rating and Reporting); 3. Support and Capacity Building; 4. Teacher/Leader Effectiveness; 5. District and State Assessment System; 6. Future Direction.

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WDE BRIEFING:

The WDE will present a two-part WAEA briefing:

1. Part A will be a discussion of the Pilot Model which is designed to demonstrate how data from various sources can be combined to categorize schools. The three indicators being used are achievement, growth, and career and college readiness.
2. Part B will focus on the Wyoming State System of Support.

In addition to Natrona County School District #1 staff, persons invited to attend include state legislators, teachers, and media.

Please direct questions to Gerry Minick (307-256-1018; gerry.minick@wyo.gov).

JZ