



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-110

TO: School District Superintendents
Special Education Directors

FROM: Joanne Whitson, Project Director Wyoming Deaf-Blind Project
Special Programs Division

DATE: February 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Professional Development Opportunities

TIME SENSITIVE

REGISTER NOW FOR STANDARDS EXTENSIONS IN ELA, MATH

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Project are pleased to announce a multi-phased professional development opportunity for educators working with students with significant cognitive disabilities. The training will include workshops around the state, on-line resources and strategies, as well as quarterly webinars.

Clair Greer, Ph.D. is a renowned educator in the field of significant cognitive disorders and deaf-blindness, utilizing innovative best practices to improve outcomes for students with significant disabilities.

Dr. Greer is a Research Associate at the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, in the Department of Allied Health Sciences, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Previously, she served as a consultant for autism for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and was Director of the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Project for the Severe Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities Program.

She has worked for the states of North Carolina, Kentucky and Wyoming as a Classroom Teacher, Program Specialist, Educational Director, and Exceptional Children Consultant.

Workshops will begin February 23 in Laramie with **Standards Extensions in ELA and Math for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**. This two-day training opportunity will be offered across the State and will cover several additional topics.

Discussions will cover changes in instructional expectations, the communication needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities, and linking effective literacy and mathematics instruction with the Wyoming Standards Extensions.

A range of resources and strategies will be shared. Participants will come away with lesson plan ideas, available online modules, and a better understanding of instructional shifts associated with standards extensions aligned to the 2012 Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in ELA and Mathematics (2012 WyCPS, which are the Common Core State Standards).

- February 23 – 24, 2015 Hilton Garden Inn Laramie WY
- February 25 – 26, 2015 Western WY College, Rock Springs, WY
- February 27 – 28, 2015 Headwater Arts and Conference Center, Dubois WY
- March 2 – 3, 2015 Holiday Inn, Cody WY
- March 4 – 5, 2015 Bomber Mountain Civic Center, Buffalo, WY

Participants will be encouraged to attend follow-up training at the Leadership Symposium in Riverton June 22-23 to gain a deeper understanding of lesson plan perspectives. There attendees will learn to integrate standards extensions into daily routines in the classroom, identify communication strategies for students, and infuse best practices.

August 3-7 of this year, the WDE and Deaf-Blind Project will host a Summer Institute, entitled “How to Link Effective Literacy and Mathematics Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.”

This week-long professional development opportunity will focus on the communication needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities and how to link effective literacy and mathematics instruction incorporating Wyoming Extended Standards. The WDE encourages perspective attendees to bring along their entire teams, with the goal of developing co-teaching strategies to improve outcomes for students.

In an effort to support these training events, the WDE will host quarterly webinars to reinforce self-directed learning, brainstorming, and problem solving. Additional webinars, and other professional development opportunities, will be available to address specific concerns brought up during self-learning sessions, and to ensure that educators have the most effective practices at their disposal.

To register for the February 23rd-24th workshop, register at: <http://goo.gl/forms/ZpwZ8yl4kK>.

For more information, contact Joanne Whitson at joanne.whitson@wyo.gov or at 307-324-5333.