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MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-054

TO: Superintendents
FROM: Julie Magee, Accountability Division Director
DATE: May 4, 2015
SUBJECT: Phase 1 of WDQI Study Release

RELEASE OF WORKFORCE DATA QUALITY INITIATIVE REPORT – PHASE 1

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services and Wyoming Department of Education will release Phase 1 of the Workforce Data Quality Initiative Report (WDQI) at 8 a.m. on May 4, 2015. Answers to frequently asked questions are listed below.

What is it?

The WDQI Report – Phase 1 is based on research conducted by the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Research & Planning Division.

The report describes, statistically, the number of Wyoming high school students working and what they earn. It also attempts to identify what Wyoming high school students do after they graduate and determine how the labor market, economy, and life choices impact not only workforce decisions, but why students might choose to stay or leave Wyoming.

Please note that county-level data is the smallest population used for this report.

Why was it done?

The purpose of this study is to address questions regarding education and workforce development in Wyoming. In 2015, one of the priorities of the state legislature’s Joint Education Interim Committee is to “concentrate its study on workforce development and preparation”, see <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/InterimCommittee/2015/04Interimstudies.htm>.

What will the layout be?

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Student Interaction with the Labor Market

Chapter 3: Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

Chapter 4: WDQI Methodology – How We Built It

Appendix A: Table 1: All Secondary Students, Completion Year 2009/10

Appendix B: County Level Information; available at

http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/education_we_connect/WDQI_Pub1_Appendix_B.pdf

Which findings will be included in Phase 1?

- Percentage of 2009-10 Wyoming high school students to attend a post-secondary institution the year after high school graduation
- Average annual wage for students who graduated in 2010 the year immediately following completion
- How the earnings of Wyoming students compare to the statewide average for all people in the same age group
- Percentage of students with an IEP who participate in the workforce during and after 12th grade
- Percentage of students with a disability who participate in the workforce during and after 12th grade
- How students' with disabilities participation in the workforce compare to the general student population

Call to Action

Districts are invited to provide feedback and suggestions, as well as share anecdotal stories related to this report (i.e. Why are these trends occurring?). They may also use this report to help set their own local priorities and goals.

In addition, districts are invited to help Research & Planning meet local needs and goals by telling them what additional data would be most helpful.

For questions, contact Tom Gallagher, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Manager of Research & Planning, at tom.gallagher@wyo.gov.