



**WYOMING**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities  
for Students to Keep  
Wyoming Strong*



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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-058

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Principals  
Curriculum Directors  
Instructional Facilitators

**FROM:** Julie Magee, Director, Accountability Division

**DATE:** May 11, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Free Summer Learning Opportunity for Students

## FREE SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is encouraging educators and families to help students engage in reading and mathematics practice during the summer months in an effort to retain the academic skills they learned during the school year. Students grow in their reading and mathematics abilities during the academic school year; however, students can slip in their abilities over the summer months. This phenomenon is called “summer learning loss” and is well documented by researchers nationwide. In partnership with MetaMetrics, the WDE is attempting to stop the negative effects of summer learning loss with two free summer learning initiatives: [Find a Book, Wyoming](#) and [The Summer Math Challenge](#).

### Find a Book, Wyoming

Research shows that when students read high-interest, ability-appropriate books over the summer, they can actually grow and improve their reading ability.<sup>1</sup> *The Find a Book, Wyoming* tool supports and facilitates this research-backed solution. *Find a Book, Wyoming* enables students, educators, and parents to build custom reading lists based on their reading ability (Referred to as Lexile® measure), as well as personal interests. The tool also enables students, parents, and educators to check the availability of books at their local library, and to submit a pledge to read this summer. To access the *Find a Book, Wyoming* tool, visit <https://www.lexile.com/fab/wy/>.

### The Summer Math Challenge

The *Summer Math Challenge* is a math skills maintenance program based on grade-level state standards for Mathematics. The program is targeted to students who have just completed 2nd through 5th grade and is designed to help them retain math skills learned during the previous school year. Parents who enroll their child receive daily emails with targeted activities and resources to help children retain the math skills learned during the previous school year. The *Summer Math Challenge* begins **June 22nd and runs until July 31st**. To find out more visit <https://www.quantiles.com/content/summer-math-challenge/>.

Both learning tools use measures that are reported on the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS). *Find a Book, Wyoming* uses a student's reading score, reported as a Lexile measure to provide a corresponding list of texts that fall within the student's reading ability. The *Summer Math Challenge* uses a student's mathematics score, reported as a Quantile® measure, to produce activities tailored to the student's mathematical ability. Both tools have features that allow students, parents and educators to estimate a Lexile® or Quantile® measure if it is not known.

*For more information, please contact Julie Magee at [julie.magee@wyo.gov](mailto:julie.magee@wyo.gov).*

<sup>1</sup>Kim, J.S. (2005). Project READS (Reading Enhances Achievement During Summer): Results from a Randomized Field Trial of a Voluntary Summer Reading Intervention. Paper presented at Princeton University, Education Research Section, November 7, 2005.