



**WYOMING**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities  
for Students to Keep  
Wyoming Strong*

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-137

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Principals  
Curriculum Directors  
Instructional Facilitators  
Social Studies Teachers

**FROM:** Brent Young, Chief Policy Officer

**DATE:** November 9, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Professional Development Resource for Civics Education

## WYOMING WE THE PEOPLE ANNOUNCES NEW RESOURCES TO TRAIN TEACHERS

Funding will be made available to provide professional development for teachers through the Wyoming We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution initiative. The program is focused on the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the rights and responsibilities of citizens to middle and high school teachers of civics and government.

Wyoming We the People participates in the 46-state James Madison Legacy Project partnership. The state is part of a multi-state partnership with Idaho, Montana and South Dakota working on state and regional training(s). The funding received will be used to increase the number of highly effective teachers of high-need and other students through professional development and the implementation of an exemplary curricular program for students. The teacher institutes and workshops will focus on research-validated, nationally acclaimed curriculum that teaches upper elementary, middle and high school students about the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution.

The James Madison Legacy Project is part of a nationwide professional development program directed by the Center for Civic Education, a nonprofit educational organization that was recently awarded a federal grant under the U.S. Department of Education's Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant program.

The Project will use a model that is enhanced with online resources as well as a new blended-learning variation of the traditional model that will involve the use of new online resources to be developed by the Center. These resources will provide teachers rich academic content and a mastery of teaching methods useful in helping students develop the capacity and inclination to become competent and responsible participants in the civic life of their communities and the nation.

“In order to help students become effective and engaged members of ‘We the People’ and further the goal of a nation that is supposed to be of, by, and for the people, it is critical that teachers have a sound background in civics and government and develop the skills required to bring the subject to life for their students,” said state coordinator Matt Strannigan.

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*For more information, contact Matt Strannigan, State Coordinator, 307-778-8110 or [mstrannigan@hotmail.com](mailto:mstrannigan@hotmail.com).*