



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-077

TO: School District Superintendents
Personnel Directors
Principals
Title I Coordinators
Special Education Directors

FROM: Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: June 5, 2017

SUBJECT: Impact of ESSA on Teacher Certification Requirements and Assignments

TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS UNDER ESSA

Questions have arisen about the elimination of the Highly Qualified (HQ) requirement for general, special, and Title I teachers under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In compliance with ESSA, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will no longer require HQ teacher plans to be filed.

Even though HQ designation no longer exists, testing and other requirements for teacher licensure and added endorsements in all areas remain the same. W.S. [21-2-802](#), with rules and regulations promulgated by the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB), remain the authority and standard Wyoming educators must meet. Teachers of record may not be placed without meeting all requirements for the assignment.

Through the WDE 602 and 652 data collections, the WDE will monitor and ensure compliance with W.S. [21-2-203](#), the state statute which addresses the administration of data collection from districts.

The WDE has prepared an FAQ document (attached) addressing questions received about the topic.

The WDE is working with external stakeholders to define effective teacher and develop guidance with associated evaluation methods. Until such policies are defined, districts are still required to operate under the current state rules, as this ensures students will be taught by fully licensed educators in compliance with state law.

For questions about Title I, contact Jon Lever at 307-777-6216 or jon.lever@wyo.gov.

For questions about Title II, contact Mark Bowers at 307-777-8739 or mark.bowers@wyo.gov.

For questions about Individual Learning, contact Anne-Marie Williams at 307-777-2870 or anne-marie.williams@wyo.gov.

For questions about PTSS, contact Nick Bellack at 307-777-1926 or nicholas.bellack@wyo.gov.

For questions about staffing assignments, contact Dianne Frazer at 307-777-8676 or dianne.frazer@wyo.gov.