



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

Jillian Balow

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dicky Shanor

Chief of Staff

Brent Bacon

Chief Academic Officer

Megan Degenfelder

Chief Policy Officer

Dianne Bailey

Chief Operations Officer

Cheyenne Office

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor
2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-2060
Phone: (307) 777-7675
Fax: (307) 777-6234

Riverton Office

320 West Main
Riverton, WY 82501
Phone: (307) 857-9250
Fax: (307) 857-9256

On the Web

edu.wyoming.gov
wyomingmeasuresup.com
twitter.com/WYOEducation
facebook.com/WYOEducation

MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-112

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals

FROM: Megan Degenfelder, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: October 2, 2017

SUBJECT: School District Accreditation

CHANGES TO ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR 2018-19

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) plans to implement a new state-led accreditation process beginning in the fall of 2018, making a regional accreditation process optional for Wyoming districts and schools. Although the WDE values the AdvancED accreditation process and partnership, reductions to the state budget make it unrealistic for the WDE to continue to provide AdvancED accreditation for all districts and all schools in Wyoming. District survey feedback was also considered in this decision.

The New Wyoming Accreditation Process:

- The process will include 25 Wyoming accreditation criteria which are based on education research and the requirements of Wyoming statute.
- Districts will implement processes aligned to these criteria in a manner consistent with Wyoming statute.
- The WDE will monitor district adherence to these criteria through an annual accreditation report, existing monitoring processes, and additional monitoring as necessary.
- The accreditation report will result in shared practices and will provide statewide information on district support needs.
- The WDE will make an accreditation recommendation to the State Board of Education for all districts annually based on adherence to the criteria. District accreditation will include all schools governed by the district.

- Compliance issues with a district or its schools will result in a reduction of annual accreditation status in accordance with Chapter 6 rules and regulations. Please note that revisions to Chapter 6 are currently in progress.

The WDE will convene an Accreditation Task Force to make recommendations regarding optional processes and external reviews. These may include a peer review process or an external review by a third party vendor.

An FAQ document with more detail can be viewed [here](#).

The WDE is seeking participants to serve on the Accreditation Task Force beginning in November of 2017. **Those interested in serving on this task force should contact Bill Pannell no later than Friday, October 13, 2017.**

Note: The WDE will continue to require AdvancED accreditation for schools that are not governed by a Wyoming school district and that receive state education funds (i.e. institutional schools).

For questions, contact Bill Pannell, Accreditation Supervisor, at 307-777-7322 or bill.pannell@wyo.gov.