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MEMORANDUM NO. 2019-036

TO: Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Career and Technical Education Coordinators
Technology Coordinators
Principals

FROM: Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Girls Go CyberStart Challenge

GIRLS GO CYBERSTART CHALLENGE

Governor Mark Gordon announced the "Girls Go CyberStart Challenge" – a Cybersecurity initiative sponsored by the SANS Institute. SANS is an information security training and security certification organization.

This competition helps contestants learn cyber security and tests their skills through a no-cost online game called CyberStart.

"Technology is transforming every sector of Wyoming's workforce, and today's students need an education and experiences that will prepare them for the jobs of the future," Governor Gordon said. "These CyberStart competitions are fun ways for young women and men to explore and learn about the high-tech, high-impact field of cybersecurity."

"This is a clever way for students to hone their technology skills and we are grateful for Governor Gordon's support," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow. "Cybersecurity and computer technology are prosperous career fields that have seen tremendous growth over the last decade. Programs like this augment Boot Up Wyoming, our computer science initiative."

In Wyoming, at least 10 participants in the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge will have the opportunity to receive a $500 scholarship. Despite the growing demand and tremendous opportunities in the job

market, cybersecurity remains an area where there is a significant shortage of skilled professionals regionally, nationally and internationally.

The WDE, in partnership with Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), will offer a webinar at 3:30 p.m. on March 13 to provide information and support to districts and teams interested in participating in the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge. **Registration** for the webinar is required.

To be eligible to participate in the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge in Wyoming, students must be:

- Female – aged 13 or older by February 18, 2019.
- Enrolled in 9 -12th grade at a public or private school or the homeschool equivalent
- Resident of Wyoming.

No prior computer knowledge is needed, and students from all educational backgrounds are welcome. If students enjoy solving problems, logically working through challenging tasks, and learning new skills, then they have what they need to succeed at the **Girls Go CyberStart Challenge**. Registration is open now. Game play begins on March 20.

More information and registration can be found on the Girls Go CyberStart website.

For questions, contact Laurel Ballard at the WDE at 307-777-8715 or **laurel.ballard@wyo.gov** *or Arlen Fletcher at ETS at 307-275-6180 or* **arlen.fletcher@wyo.gov***.*