

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG



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MEMORANDUM NO. 2019-099

TO: School District Superintendents
Special Education Directors

FROM: Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: September 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Literacy Initiative Focusing on Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities

LITERACY INITIATIVE FOCUSING ON STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Since 2004, schools have been required to ensure that all students with disabilities work toward academic state standards. This resulted in increased research on the most effective instructional practices for students with disabilities, including those with significant intellectual disabilities. Research has demonstrated that the inclusion of more traditional reading instruction in educational programs for students with intellectual disabilities results in the ability for many of these students to attain independent reading skills.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), through its deaf-blind grant will be initiating a series of professional development opportunities for teachers and related service providers who work with these students, during the 2019-20 school year.

These opportunities include:

- A Communication and Emergent Literacy workshop on September 18-19, 2019 at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper. This training focuses on supporting beginning communicators, providing access to core vocabulary and building the foundational skills for literacy. It is open to all interested school personnel. Register [here](#).
- The selection of a limited number of classrooms across the state

as implementation sites. These sites will receive five additional trainings and will be supported in implementing those strategies through a web-based coaching model. Web-based meetings will also be held during which participants can ask questions, share challenges/successes and brainstorm with other implementation sites. **Applications** are due by **September 23**. Include with the application a provide a brief letter of support from both the district special education administrator and building administrator outlining support for implementation of this initiative, including support of attendance at workshops and training, which will require use of district funds and time away from their classroom. Applicants will be notified by September 25 if their application was accepted. All implementation site teachers must have attended the workshop on September 18-19.

- A two-day workshop on Conventional Literacy on June 10-11, 2020 at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper. This will be open to all interested school personnel. Registration will open closer to the workshop date.

For more information, contact Leslie Van Orman at 307-857-9267 or leslie.vanorman@wyo.gov.