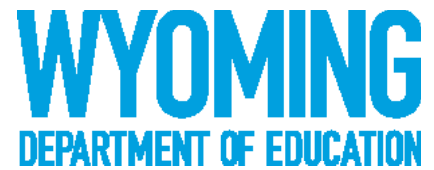


CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG



JILLIAN BALOW
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DICKY SHANOR
Chief of Staff

SHELLEY HAMEL
Chief Academic Officer

KARI EAKINS
Chief Policy Officer

TRENT CARROLL
Chief Operations Officer



CHEYENNE OFFICE
122 W. 25th St. Suite E200
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7675

RIVERTON OFFICE
320 West Main
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-9250



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MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-043

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Dicky Shanor, Chief of Staff
DATE: March 23, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Guidance Updates

COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATES

1. Status of Assessment and Accountability

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) granted Wyoming a waiver on March 20 from certain federal assessment and accountability requirements in light of the widespread school closures due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The waiver can be viewed [here](#) and public comment on the waiver can be submitted [here](#).

As a result, Wyoming students will not take the statewide assessment, WY-TOPP, this spring and WY-ALT is suspended. Additionally, no formal accountability determinations will be made for the 2019-20 school year. Last year's federal identification for targeted and comprehensive support will hold constant for the next year.

ACT

The WDE will continue to work to offer ACT testing opportunities for students. Schools will not be required to test all grade 11 students this spring, but are encouraged to still offer ACT testing options if possible. The state testing dates in March have been canceled. At this time, the WDE recommends changing ACT assessment dates using the third option, April 21 and administering the on-line version. The WDE is currently working with ACT to investigate the following:

- A voucher process to give students, schools, and districts an opportunity to leverage national testing dates should they not be able to use the state testing dates. The tests given on national testing dates will provide college-reportable scores for students.

- A new opportunity in May for state testing. ACT is looking into this option now but stated if it could be done it would have to be online testing.
- The possibility of testing in the fall.

Advanced Placement Test

The College Board announced on Friday that they are working to make AP tests available online to students enrolled in AP courses. The latest information and resources are available on the College Board [website](#).

2. Emergency Rules - Chapter 20 Transportation

The modification to the rules allows for the reimbursement of transportation services related to student needs. These needs include, but are not limited to, delivering meals or instructional materials during an emergency situation. The emergency rules have been submitted to Governor Gordon for approval.

3. Emergency Rules - Chapter 41 - Virtual Education

The modification to the rules adds language to allow for greater flexibility of delivery of instruction during times of emergency by establishing eLearning. This includes direction for documentation and tracking student participation which will determine attendance, the ability to expand currently approved virtual education programs, and the removal of some requirements during times of declared emergencies.

4. Special Education

Today the WDE received a news release and [fact sheet](#) from USED concerning further guidance for the provision of FAPE consistent with the health and safety of students and staff and for educating students with disabilities through distance instruction and the possible extension of timelines. This fact sheet was shared with special education directors this morning.

5. Food Service

Who is eligible? Is a roster or total count needed?

- If serving at an open/area eligible site use this meal count [form](#) for your meal count list.
- If serving at a 50% or higher free and reduced school use the same form.
- If serving at an under 50% school keep a roster of who is receiving the meals.

How many meals provided at a time (breakfast/lunch or breakfast/lunch for two days)?

The WDE decided to allow more than one day to be distributed as long as:

- The food is shelf stable.
- Meals are separated - breakfast is in a sack, lunch is in a sack.
- If the food is not shelf stable, directions need to be included for the students and families of proper care of the food they are receiving.

The WDE will not require families to sign a waiver.

6. Governor's COVID-19 Education Task Force

The task force is made up of Superintendent Jillian Balow, Chief of Staff Dicky Shanor, UW Interim President, Neil Theobald, Community College Commission Director, Dr. Sandra Caldwell, Department of Family Services Director, Korin Schmidt, and Governor Gordon's education policy advisor, Lachelle Brant. The focus is on the smooth transition from Pre-K through each school level into college and to communicate relevant, meaningful resources about child care, Pre-K to 12th grade education, and post-secondary education in a centralized, online location. The first meeting was held last week to plan a path forward. During the task force meeting this week we will discuss the formation of ad hoc groups of superintendents to assist with various topics.