

CREATING  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR STUDENTS TO  
KEEP WYOMING  
STRONG



## MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-053

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
**FROM:** Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**DATE:** April 13, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Guidance Updates



**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

## COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATES

### University of Wyoming (UW) - Changes for Incoming Students

The University of Wyoming is committed to helping students make a smooth transition from high school and is prepared to answer questions from superintendents, parents and students.

- UW moved to offering online instruction only through August. Student orientation will also be conducted online.
- UW routinely processes students with Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grade designations from high school, and the process will be expanded to assure students will not be negatively affected.
- Students may confirm enrollment until June 1, 2020. UW will work with students and families to reduce the \$300 student confirmation deposits if needed.
- UW plans to extend the opportunities for summer bridge classes in Math and English into the fall.

For more information, contact Kyle Moore, UW Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, at [kyle.moore@uwyo.edu](mailto:kyle.moore@uwyo.edu) or the office of Academic Affairs at 307-766-4286.

### Community College Commission

Enrollment for summer and fall is well underway. Admissions will not be a problem with S/U, since the colleges are open admission. Colleges already use S/U, so they can accommodate those coming in including placement.



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- College course completions are being done through a variety of formats, but mostly online.
- Concurrent enrollment courses fall under higher education, rather than K-12. As such, they must follow the community college plan for determination of completion and awarding of grades. Generally, changes to S/U are per course, not class. There are variations, so the K-12 concurrent coordinator should contact the college coordinator for details. Send Dr. Sandra Caldwell any questions or clarifications and she will forward the questions to the appropriate person to answer.
- Some equipment-dependent or CTE courses may finish in the summer.
- Institutional Scholarships are being adjusted at each institution.
- CARES Act funding for college students will be provided to Institutions for Higher Education directly. Those 18 years or older, who are dependents, will not be receiving a stimulus check nor will their families receive the child amount. Students are accommodated via the student grant funding made to the colleges. This will be distributed during this year, once the institutions determine how they will structure the grants.

For more information, contact Dr. Sandra Caldwell, WCCC President, at 307-777-7763 or [sandra.caldwell@wyo.gov](mailto:sandra.caldwell@wyo.gov).

### **Department of Family Services**

Two important ways DFS supports families through the COVID-19 crisis that districts should be aware of are childcare and child protection.

- DFS provides a [web page](#) where parents who are essential employees can find childcare. The web page is also available on the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) COVID-19 page.
- Licensing requirements have been relaxed in the event a provider is considering establishing pop-up childcare. The DFS can help a potential provider navigate this process quickly.
- The DFS has provided a document called [Protecting At-Risk Students from a Distance](#) to help school districts continue their mandatory reporter responsibilities. The document includes strategies for family engagement, resources and supports.
- The DFS is still responding to reports of abuse and neglect with investigations over video, telephonically and with law enforcement. However, if districts have incorporated collaboration with DFS into the student engagement section of their Adapted Learning Plans, be aware that DFS well-checks are investigative in nature and could trigger a more formal process. The WDE recommends exhausting all methods of student engagement and contacting DFS when appropriate.

### **CARES Act H.R. 748**

- 18002-Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) - Wyoming is estimated to receive approximately **\$4,693,000** from this fund. It will be distributed in the form of emergency support grants to child care and educational institutions.
- 18003-Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) - Wyoming is estimated to receive approximately **\$32,563,000** from this fund. Ninety percent of that amount will be distributed directly to districts based on the part A Title I formula. A draft estimate of what each district can expect to receive can be found [here](#).

## CARES Act Waiver Flexibility

- The availability for FY 2018 funds is extended to September 30, 2021 and applies to federal Title programs represented in the consolidated grant, McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Title I-A 1003 School Improvement, Title I-D Subpart 1, and Rural and Low-Income School Programs.
- The Title I, Part A funds 15% carryover limitation is waived allowing districts to carryover a greater percentage of the FY 2019-20 funds regardless if the district has received this waiver in the past two years.
- Standard Title IV-A requirements for LEAs receiving an allocation of \$30,000 or more are waived for FY 2019-20. An updated needs assessment to apply the flexibility of funds based on the COVID-19 emergency is not required. Percentage caps for within-district allocation content area spending are waived including the 15% limit for technology infrastructure.
- The definition of “professional development (PD)” as used in ESEA is broadened to allow funds for short term PD as long as it is otherwise allowable.

Consider how to leverage existing funds: Evaluate the funds on hand, look to Title IV-A as the most flexible funding streams for technology needs, and finally, consider the immediate needs of students and teachers and align funding streams. Remember, there is transferability to increase funding to areas of highest needs.

**Perkins:** [Round #2 Critical Questions](#) were released Friday, April 10, 2020.

## Hathaway Scholarship Updates

- Districts may decide to utilize a Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading methodology as part of their Adapted Learning Plan. Courses graded in this fashion are not included in the student’s Hathaway GPA calculation, but districts still must report any credits earned from these courses in order to show completion of the Hathaway Success Curriculum.
- Students must still complete the Hathaway Success Curriculum to be eligible for the Hathaway Scholarship. Any students unable to complete the curriculum because a district was unable to offer courses due to the COVID-19 pandemic can apply to the WDE for an [exception](#).
- The 8th Grade Unit of Study is still required. If students did not take it before the closure of school buildings, it should be delivered through the district’s Adapted Learning Plan. Districts are still required to submit a [certification form](#) to the WDE assuring that all 8th graders have received the information. Resources are available [here](#).

For more information, contact Bradley Barker, Hathaway Scholarship Consultant, at 307-777-6226 or [bradley.barker@wyo.gov](mailto:bradley.barker@wyo.gov).