

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG

MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-088



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

TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Career and Technical Education Coordinators
Technology Coordinators
Assessment Coordinators
Principals
Virtual Education Coordinators
Food Service Directors

FROM: Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: June 1, 2020

SUBJECT: RISE Award Application Now Open



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RECOGNIZING INSPIRATIONAL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES (RISE) AWARD

Governor Mark Gordon's Office, in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), opened the 2020 application period for the Wyoming RISE award. The new award, passed by Congress in 2019 and overseen by the U.S. Department of Education (USED), honors classified school employees who provide exemplary service.

A classified school employee can be someone who works in any grade, from pre-kindergarten through high school, in any of the following occupational specialties: paraprofessional, clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, security services, health and student services, technical services, and skilled trades.

Nominees must, at a minimum, demonstrate excellence in the following areas: Work performance; School and community involvement; Leadership and commitment; Local support (from co-workers, school administrators, community members, etc., who speak to the nominee's exemplary work); Enhancement of classified school employees' image in the community and schools. Letters of recommendation can be cited.

Individuals, local educational agencies, school administrators, professional associations, labor organizations, educational service agencies, nonprofit entities, private schools and their representatives, parents and students, and other groups may nominate using this [application](#) by **June 30, 2020**.

The top two applicants in Wyoming will be nominated to USED by November 1, 2020. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos will select a single classified school employee from among the nominees to receive the RISE Award by spring 2021. Governor Gordon will honor nominees and finalists. In addition, USED will recognize the honoree and communicate his or her story in order to inspire excellence among classified school employees.

For more information, contact Robin Grandpre, Project Performance Manager, at 307-777-5315 or robin.grandpre1@wyo.gov.