

CREATING  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR STUDENTS TO  
KEEP WYOMING  
STRONG

## MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-108

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
**FROM:** Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**DATE:** July 14, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Guidance Updates



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Superintendent of Public Instruction

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## COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATES

**Smart Start Guidance Document – Wanda Maloney and Stephanie Pyle**  
The Smart Start Guidance [document](#) was reviewed, with special attention to the requirements that need to be addressed in each school district's plans. Smart Start documents are due to the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) by August 3 and should be submitted through this [Google Form](#). The CDC will issue additional guidance on school reopenings this week. The American Academy of Pediatrics guidance document can be found [here](#).

**Virtual Learning – Dr. Laurel Ballard and Lori Thilmany**  
A guidance document on [distance learning](#) has been developed to provide school districts with information about using remote education, classroom-based virtual education, and virtual education within a resident district. Classroom-based virtual education is a temporary, newly authorized program included in emergency Chapter 41 Virtual Education Rules to be promulgated at the start of the school year. A combination of any of the three types of distance delivery may be used during the 2020-21 school year for course delivery to students off-site. In each of the distance delivery options described in this guidance the resident district maintains student membership.

Classroom-based virtual education and resident district virtual education options may be used when teachers or students must be off-site when there is not a health order requiring closure. Remote education is only an option when schools are at least partially open with teachers and students in the classroom when instruction is provided to remote students.

Training opportunities for educators, delivered by WDE staff, are available:

- From 9 - 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 16

## **Chapter 41 Revisions Slides**

### **CARES Funding - Chief of Staff Dicky Shanor**

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) are available for school districts, and the WDE is accepting applications. To date, four districts have submitted applications and received grant approval (Final or Conditional Approval while waiting on updated Equitable Services documentation).
- The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) is working its way through the state process and is expected to be released soon. If district personnel were unable to attend the training on the Equitable Services Requirements, the WDE will provide a recording of the training. Send an email request to [jess.binning@wyo.gov](mailto:jess.binning@wyo.gov)
- There are two education-related expense categories to be addressed with CARES Act funds that were not dedicated specifically for schools: :
  - (a) Devices, Wifi "jetpacks," and summer nutrition - a grant agreement will need to be executed. Major terms of agreement will include:
    - i. funds should only be spent on costs necessary to respond to the pandemic;
    - ii. funds should not be items in the most recently approved district budget;
    - iii. funds only expended for costs incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020;
    - iv. funds shall be expended by December 30, 2020; and
    - v. federal reporting requirements will be adhered to.
  - (b) PPE - Work has been completed with the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information to create a spreadsheet based off the spreadsheet from the Wyoming Association of School Administrators. We now have price ranges for each of the 17 different PPE items, and the numbers needed for each district. Representatives with the Wyoming Department of Health reached out to Amazon, looking at efficient purchasing options.

### **Wyoming's Tomorrow Task Force - Kari Eakins**

The Wyoming's Tomorrow Task Force met last week and discussed options for increasing post-secondary educational attainment, including high school preparedness for college. Several working groups were formed and are meeting this week. These working groups will review dual and concurrent enrollment options, the provisional level of the Hathaway Scholarship Program, and a potential Hathaway Scholarship account. The task force will meet again at the end of July.

### **Moving forward**

The WDE has transitioned to a schedule of every two weeks; the next COVID-19 Update with the WDE is set for 8:30-9:30 a.m. MDT on July 27. The WDE will continue to answer questions regarding operating under the current state health orders. WDE staff remain available by email or telephone to discuss any aspect of a district's adapted learning plan at any time.