

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG



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MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-124

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
DATE: August 12, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Guidance Updates

COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATES

Smart Start Update

The team at the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) continues to review and approve the Smart Start Guidance plans. As of August 12, 27 plans have completed the process. The plans from [Sweetwater #1](#) and [Weston #7](#) were shared to provide some insights into the revision process.

CARES Updates

The WDE has received and approved applications from 22 districts for ESSER funds. The application window for GEER funding is currently open, and the WDE has received six applications from districts that are currently under review. The performance period for both the ESSER and GEER funding is through September 30, 2022.

The CARES funding that is being provided through Governor Mark Gordon's office includes millions for technology, broadband connectivity, and school nutrition programs. At this time, 33 school districts have submitted grant requests and payments are being processed. If you are a district with a payment pending, you will receive an email this week with the details of that payment, United States Treasury guidance for use of the funds, and a copy of the fully executed grant agreement. There is a provision that will require verification of insurance, but a waiver was sent out last week providing assurance to all school districts that the WDE will not be enforcing that requirement. The performance period for these grants will be from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. Questions about these grant

agreements or procurement of technology can be directed to WDE Operations Chief Trent Carroll at trent.carroll@wyo.gov.

The WDE is actively working with Amazon to arrange for personal protective equipment to be delivered to school districts. This is a complex process involving availability of equipment and shipping logistics. More updates will be provided as available.

Moving forward

A recording of this meeting is available upon request. The next COVID-19 Update with the WDE is set for 8:30-9:30 a.m. MDT on August 24. 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.