



Opportunity Through Education

Jillian Balow – *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-022

TO: School District Superintendents
District Grant Managers
Curriculum Directors
Instructional Facilitators
Building Principals

FROM: Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 1, 2021

SUBJECT: District Literacy Grant Opportunity

WYOMING BELIEVING IN LITERACY TOGETHER DISTRICT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is accepting applications from Wyoming's 48 school districts for the Wyoming Believing in Literacy Together (WY BILT) District Grant Opportunity through April 15, 2021. Grant awards will be announced May 1, 2021. Application information can be accessed [here](#).

WY BILT initiative funded grants are intended to improve literacy outcomes for Wyoming students and close opportunity and achievement gaps for historically underserved student groups, including economically disadvantaged students, American Indian/Alaska Native students, Black students, English learners, and students with disabilities. Districts with disproportionate percentages of students who read below grade level are encouraged to apply.

The aims of WY BILT include: Increasing the percentages of educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement evidence-based literacy practices; having children entering kindergarten ready to read; having students reading proficiently by the end of grades 3 and 5; having graduates with the literacy skills necessary for college and careers; and ensuring families have access to literacy programs.

The WDE anticipates that about 16 high-need districts will receive awards funded through the Comprehensive Literacy State Development five-year federal grant totaling \$43.3 million. Districts receiving subgrants will be determined through an application process, but districts in Wyoming's 25 federally identified Opportunity Zones will be prioritized. Funding for early childhood centers as a partner with the local school district is required under this grant.

For more information, contact Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer, at 307-777-2058 or shelley.hamel@wyo.gov.