



Opportunity Through Education

Jillian Balow – *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Wyoming Department of Education
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MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-072

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

FROM: Kari Eakins, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: June 1, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 RISE Award Application Now Open

RECOGNIZING INSPIRATIONAL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES (RISE) AWARD

Governor Mark Gordon’s Office, in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), has opened the 2021 application period for the Wyoming RISE award. The 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.

Submit nominations for the RISE award by using [this application](#) by June 30, 2021. Parents, students, local educational agencies, school administrators, professional associations, labor organizations, educational service agencies, nonprofit entities, private schools and their representatives, and other groups are eligible to nominate individuals for this award.

The top two applicants in Wyoming will be nominated to USED by November 1, 2021. USED officials 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, if a state finalist is selected to be the national honoree, 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 and Performance Manager, at 307-777-5315 or robin.grandpre1@wyo.gov.