



Opportunity Through Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2022-039

TO: School District Superintendents
Business Managers
Curriculum Coordinators
Principals

FROM: Wanda Maloney, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: March 28, 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 Education Legislation Information

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON EDUCATION LEGISLATION

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will begin implementing statutory changes from the 2022 legislative session across its programs, and will provide guidance and transition plans for the 2022-23 school year. The most relevant changes are discussed below. The WDE will continue to provide updates as it works with various stakeholder groups on implementation.

General Government Appropriations ([SEA0012](#))

Section 205 of the budget bill, Senate Enrolled Act 0012, includes funding for a partial external cost adjustment to the education resource block grant model (model) for the school year 2022-23. The category components of the model along with the respective increases are educational materials at 5.958% and energy at 8.935%. The estimated fiscal impact for 2022-23 is \$10.2 million.

Regarding school construction, the 2022 Budget bill included \$245.4 million for the FY 2023-2024 biennium. The appropriation includes \$90.4 million for K-12 capital construction and \$159.0 million for Major Maintenance.

Absenteeism and Truancy ([SEA0002](#))

Senate Enrolled Act 0002 amends W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxxix) to require school boards to define “habitual truant” and “willful absenteeism” for all students who are attending public schools and to

establish rules regarding student attendance. This bill also amends the penalties regarding compulsory attendance requirements, clarifies the duties of attendance officers, and provides specific notification requirements for any student that is an Indian child as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. This bill is effective July 1, 2022.

K-3 Reading Assessment and Intervention Program ([SEA0028](#))

Senate Enrolled Act 0028 amends the reading assessment and intervention program in W.S. 21-3-401 to require school districts to screen students in kindergarten through third grade at least three times per year for reading difficulties. This bill also requires school districts to notify the parent or guardian of screening results and provide them a copy of the student's individualized reading plan, and requires the State Superintendent to adopt rules which contain criteria for identifying appropriate instruments to screen for reading difficulties and monitor and measure reading progress. Additionally, this bill requires school district employees providing K-3 reading instruction to receive professional development not less than every three years regarding literacy instruction and identification of students with reading difficulties. The bill provides \$300,000 for professional development expenditures in excess of the amount provided in the block grant for the 2023-24 school year. The WDE will begin working with the required stakeholder group this spring in order to develop the criteria for instruments that screen for reading difficulties and monitor and measure reading progress, as well as the criteria for appropriate and suitable professional development materials.

School Finance-Increasing Cash Reserves ([HEA0003](#))

House Enrolled Act 0003 amends W.S. 21-13-313(e) to temporarily increase the limit of school districts' operating balance and cash reserves from 15% to 30% through June 30, 2026. This bill is effective immediately.

Child Care Facility Certification Exemption ([SEA0042](#))

Senate Enrolled Act 0042 amends W.S. 14-4-102 to clarify that specific after school programs are exempt from certification requirements with the Department of Family Services. This bill is effective July 1, 2022.

Tribal Reference Amendments ([SEA0046](#))

Senate Enrolled Act 0046 makes amendments throughout the education statutes in Title 21 to replace foreign language with world language. This bill is effective July 1, 2022.

Language Proficiency-Seal of Biliteracy ([SEA0047](#))

Senate Enrolled Act 0047 adds a new duty to W.S. 21-2-202 to require the State Superintendent to establish a Wyoming seal of biliteracy and an advanced distinction for high school graduates who

are proficient in English and one or more world languages. Policies on the use and appearance of the Wyoming seal for student transcripts will be developed. The bill also adds to W.S. 21-3-111 to grant that boards of trustees may confer the Wyoming seal of biliteracy or an advanced distinction to a high school graduate and shall report the number of seals issued by October 15 of each year. This bill is effective July 1, 2022 and the WDE anticipates initiating the data collection in the fall of 2023.

For more information on school finance, contact Trent Carroll, Chief Operations Officer, at 307-777-7720 or trent.carroll@wyo.gov.

For more information on absenteeism and truancy, contact Wanda Maloney, Chief Policy Officer, at 307-777-2871 or wanda.maloney@wyo.gov.

For more information on K-3 reading, contact Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer, at 307-777-2058 or shelley.hamel@wyo.gov.

For more information on child care facility certification exemptions, contact Karen Bierhaus, Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC Program Consultant, at 307-857-9284 or karen.bierhaus@wyo.gov.

For more information on tribal reference amendments or the seal of biliteracy, contact Antoinette Hallam, English Learner/Foreign Language Consultant, at 307-777-5217 or antoinette.hallam@wyo.gov, or Rob Black, Native American Liaison, at 307-777-3747 or rob.black1@wyo.gov.