



Opportunity Through Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2022-071

**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:** Wanda Maloney, Chief Policy Officer

**DATE:** May 31, 2022

**SUBJECT:** 2022 RISE Award Application Now Open

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## RECOGNIZING INSPIRATIONAL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES (RISE) AWARD

Governor Mark Gordon’s Office, in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education, opened the 2022 application period for the Wyoming RISE award. The RISE 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 using [this application](#) by June 30, 2022. 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, 2022. USED will select a single classified school employee from among the nominees to receive the RISE Award by spring 2023. Governor Gordon will honor nominees and finalists. In addition, if a state finalist is selected to be the national honoree, the USED will recognize the honoree and communicate his or her story in order to inspire excellence among classified school employees.

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*For more information, contact Robin Grandpre, Project and Performance Manager, at 307-777-5315 or [robin.grandpre1@wyo.gov](mailto:robin.grandpre1@wyo.gov).*