



Wyoming Department of Education **PRESS RELEASE**

August 20, 2013
For Immediate Release

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Locations for Regional Summits on Accountability revealed

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Department of Education and the State Board of Education announced locations for their regional summits on the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) today in Cheyenne.

Wyoming's Summit on Education Accountability is a series of meetings offering answers to questions on accountability efforts in Wyoming education, while collecting feedback from educators and parents alike.

The meetings will be held in five different sites throughout the state as well as two meetings through the WDE's Blackboard Collaborate tool in hopes of accommodating the largest number of interested stakeholders.

Meetings scheduled for August will feature discussion on elements of the WAEA, which are to be presented at the Oct. 24-25, 2013 meeting of the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Education Committee and gather insights from those who attend. The hope is for the meeting format to foster a two-way communication and help educators move forward with implementing elements of the WAEA.

These meetings will observe approximately the following agenda:

Time allotted	Subject	Presenter
15 Minutes	Welcome, introduction and meeting goals	Paige Fenton Hughes, State Board Coordinator

Time allotted	Subject	Presenter
30 Minutes	Standards, District Assessment Systems, System of Support	Julie Magee, WDE (Fenton Hughes will provide information on multiple measures)
20 Minutes	Accountability model	Mike Flicek, WDE
20 Minutes	Assessment	Deb Lindsey, WDE
30 Minutes	Wrap up, questions and discussion	

The presentations

Julie Magee is the WDE’s Administrator of the Standards, Learning and Accountability Division said she will present for half an hour on District Assessments. Magee said the idea of a district assessment, and its impact on accreditation is nothing new. However, the Wyoming Legislature did away with the Body of Evidence component of the assessments in 2012. That has resulted in the need for updating the assessment system.

WDE assessment division administrator Deb Lindsey will also attend the summits to explain how assessments will be used to measure students, teachers and schools.

Former Casper educator Dr. Mike Flicek, has been working with the WDE to refine the school performance model. Currently, the performance model describes all of the indicators, which would contribute to a school’s rating. For grades 3-8, the indicators will be: achievement, growth and equity measured by growth. For grades 9-12, the indicators will be achievement, readiness and equity measured by achievement gap.

Another group of meetings will take place after the Professional Judgement Panel (PJP) convenes in Casper, Sept. 16-18. These meetings are scheduled to be more focused in time and scope and will share the results of the PJP and explain how the decisions made by the PJP will impact individual schools. Stakeholder feedback will be recorded and shared with the State Board of Education.

The PJP is a 27-member panel of teachers, administrators and members from higher education as well as the business community. Their role is to set cut scores for each of the indicators to help categorize schools as exceeding expectations, meeting expectations or below expectations. The PJP will meet in September to set the targets.

Schedule for Regional Summit on Educational Accountability

August 26	Cheyenne <i>(Hathaway Building, Room 126)</i>	6 p.m.
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August 27	Gillette <i>(Campbell County District Office Board Room)</i>	Noon
August 27	Casper <i>(Natrona District Administration Building, Jefferson Room)</i>	6 p.m.
August 28	Worland <i>(Washakie District Office, Board Room)</i>	Noon
August 28	Rock Springs <i>(Sweetwater 1 District Office, Board Room)</i>	6 p.m.
August 30	Online Meeting through Blackboard Collaborate (see below for instructions for joining BBC meeting)	9: 30 a.m.
September 15-18	PJP Meeting - Casper	
September 24	Cheyenne <i>(School Improvement Conference - Little America)</i>	12:30-1:30
September 30	Online Meeting through Blackboard Collaborate (see below for instructions for joining BBC meeting)	1:30
October 1	Rock Springs <i>(Sweetwater 1 District Office, Board Room)</i>	Noon
October 1	Worland <i>(Washakie District Office, Board Room)</i>	6 p.m.
October 2	Casper <i>(School District Annex Building)</i>	Noon
October 2	Gillette <i>(Campbell County District Office Board Room)</i>	6 p.m.

The Link to join the Blackboard Collaborate online meetings is:

http://tiny.cc/WDE_Participant

or

<http://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/dropin.jnlp?sid=vclass&pas>

sword=0DG15IPQCRZU5XBHR150

Please treat this link as you would any other public meeting space. This webinar platform should be accessed only at the scheduled time and date of the event. (Blackboard does offer a public platform that can be accessed at any time. A link to this Demo Room is provided below.)

Webinars are collaborative and interactive online experiences. If you are new to Blackboard Collaborate, please visit the "Tutorial and Documentation" links below. Prior to attending any sessions, we strongly suggest that you use the "System Check" links below to confirm that your system is properly configured.

System Check:

- **Configuration** - Verification that your computer's operating system and Java are supported through Blackboard Collaborate's Configuration page: <http://support.blackboardcollaborate.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8336&task=knowledge&questionID=1473>

- **Demo Room** - If you will be using a microphone (or webcam), Blackboard Collaborate has a demo room that can be used to verify the connection to these devices through the "Audio Setup Wizard": <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/meeting.jnlp?sid=345&password=M.A2DE26587EB74583B59A0F8AAD0CC4&username=Test>

Tutorial and Documentation:

- Online Orientation

(Video): <http://www.brainshark.com/blackboardinc/vu?pi=zGLzYw5XBz35Sgz0>

On-Demand Learning

(Documentation): <http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Collaborate/Services/OnDemand-Learning-Center/Web-Conferencing.aspx>

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