Wyoming Department of Education
PRESS RELEASE

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Regional Summits on Educational Accountability Slated For This Fall

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and State Board of Education will partner this fall for 13 sessions offered around the state updating stakeholders on the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

Wyoming's Summit on Education Accountability are a series of meetings committed to providing outreach to educational professionals and community members from across the state regarding accountability efforts in its beginning.

The Board of Education and the WDE plan to offer two sets of informational meetings, which would satisfy the requirements of Section 5(f) of the 2013 Educational Accountability Act Amendments (Interim Study Priority number 10). These meetings will be held face-to-face in five sites around the states as well as online through the WDE's Blackboard Collaborate tool in hopes of accommodating the largest number of interested stakeholders.

"I think it is important that any time you are doing something across the state, you keep the stakeholders and the people around the state as involved as we can possibly do it," said State Board of Education Chair, Ron Micheli. "Generally speaking when there is a void in information or lack of input from around the state, the vacuum tends to be filled sometimes with misinformation, so it is important that we do everything we can to keep the people and the stakeholders involved."

Meetings scheduled for August will include 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. The aim is to gather insight from those who attend, foster two-way communication and help educators move forward with implementing elements of the WAEA.

These meetings will observe the following tentative agenda:

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

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	6 p.m.
August 27	Gillette	Noon
August 27	Casper	6 p.m.
August 28	Worland	Noon
August 28	Rock Springs	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 (School Improvement Conference) - Little America	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	Noon
October 1	Worland	6 p.m.
October 2	Casper	Noon
October 2	Gillette	6 p.m.

The Link to join the Blackboard Collaborate online meetings is:
http://tiny.cc/WDE_Participant
or
https://sas.elluminate.com/site/external/launch/dropin.jnlp?sid=vclass&pas
sword=0DG15IPQCRZU5XBHR15O

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.elluminate.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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