



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

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Wyoming Department of Education Partners with MetaMetrics to Offer FREE Learning Solutions over the Summer

Reading and Math Initiative Aim to Fight Summer Learning Loss

CHEYENNE – Wyoming Department of Education Interim Director Jim Rose is encouraging educators and families to help students engage in reading and mathematics practice during the summer months in an effort to retain the academic skills they learned during the school year.

Students in Wyoming grow in their reading and mathematics abilities during the academic school year. However, like students across the nation, students in Wyoming can slip in their abilities over the summer months. This phenomenon is called “summer learning loss,” and is well documented by researchers throughout the country. The Wyoming Department of Education, in partnership with MetaMetrics and the Council of Chief State School Officers, is trying to stop the negative effects of summer learning loss with two new summer learning initiatives: [Find a Book, Wyoming](#) and [The Summer Math Challenge](#). These summer activities are FREE and each is described below.

[Find a Book, Wyoming](#)

Research shows that when students read high-interest, ability appropriate books over the summer, they can actually grow and improve their reading ability.¹ *The Find a Book, Wyoming* tool supports and facilitates this research based solution. *Find a Book, Wyoming* enables students, educators and parents to build custom reading lists based on their reading ability, i.e., Lexile® measure, as well as, personal interests. The tool also enables students, parents and educators to check the availability of books at their local library, as well as, submit a pledge to read this summer. To access the *Find a Book, Wyoming* tool, visit lexile.com/fab/wy.

¹ Kim, J.S. (2005). Project READS (Reading Enhances Achievement During Summer): Results from a Randomized Field Trial of a Voluntary Summer Reading Intervention. Paper presented at Princeton University, Education Research Section, November 7, 2005.

[The Summer Math Challenge](#)

The *Summer Math Challenge* is a math skills maintenance program based on grade-level state standards and Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The program is targeted to students who have just completed 2nd through 5th grade and is designed to help them retain math skills learned during the previous school year. Parents, who enroll their child, receive daily emails with targeted activities and resources to help children retain the math skills learned during the previous school year. The *Summer Math Challenge* begins **Monday, June 24 and runs until Friday, Aug. 2**. To find out more information about the Summer Math Challenge, visit quantiles.com/summer-math.

Both learning tools use measures that are reported on the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS) for grades 3-8 and 11. *Find a Book, Wyoming* uses a student's reading score, reported as a Lexile measure to provide a corresponding list of texts that fall within the student's reading ability. The *Summer Math Challenge* uses a student's mathematics score, reported as a Quantile® measure, to produce activities tailored to the student's mathematical ability. Both tools have features that allow students, parents and educators to estimate a Lexile or Quantile measure if it is not known.

“The foundations students build during the academic year are compromised when summer loss occurs,” stated Jim Rose, Interim Director. “For our students to progress and meet the challenges of the next school year, engaging in reading and mathematics practice during the summer months is crucial. Summer learning tools like *Find a Book, Wyoming* and the *Summer Math Challenge* will help us in this endeavor.”

For more information, please contact Julie Magee at julie.magee@wyo.gov or 307.777.8740. More information regarding both of these summer initiatives will be available soon at <http://edu.wyoming.gov/Students.aspx>.