



Wyoming Department of Education PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

February 28, 2013

Contact:

Tom Lacock

(307) 777-5399

tom.lacock@wyo.gov

edu.wyoming.gov

Wyoming to request flexibility waiver from ESEA targets

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Department of Education will submit a request for a Flexibility Waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as No Child Left Behind. The waiver request will be filed by Thursday, Feb. 28.

The request comes four days after Wyoming Governor Matt Mead met with leadership at the United States Department of Education (USDE) and discussed the need for relief from escalating Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets set for the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO's). Without the flexibility waiver, the AYP targets set for 2014 require all students in Wyoming be proficient or advanced, as measured by the state assessment -- PAWS -- in reading, math and science.

After the meeting, Governor Mead suggested the Wyoming Department of Education prepare a request for the ESEA Flexibility Waiver offered by the USDE during Window Four of the USDE's ESEA submission calendar. The window for Window Four of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver Submission closes on February 28, 2013.

"Wyoming school districts tell us they appreciate the effort to request relief from some of the most restrictive requirements of No Child Left Behind," said WDE Interim Director Dr. Jim Rose. "Wyoming is one of six states without a waiver being considered or granted. The waiver application will give us an opportunity to initiate deeper conversations with the United States Department of Education. We cannot predict an outcome, but we know the effort is important."

Comments from Wyoming stakeholders may be included in the submission if received before noon, February 28. For more information, contact Dr. David Holbrook, Federal Programs Unit Leader at 307-777-6260 or david.holbrook@wyo.gov.