



## WYOMING ADVISORY PANEL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

January 12, 2009

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Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building  
2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Dear Dr. McBride,

As the Chairperson for the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities (WAPSD), I first want to remind you that the panel is organized to address the unmet needs of Wyoming students with disabilities. To this end, members want to urge your attention to the needs for scholarships for students with disabilities that are akin to those offered by the Hathaway Scholarship.

Panel members and their constituents are very supportive of the Hathaway Scholarship initiative. Because all four Hathaway Scholarship award categories are linked to academic performance, the Hathaway Scholarship is not able to address the ongoing educational needs of all deserving high school-aged students in the state. Many students with disabilities are unable to perform satisfactorily with even modified success curriculum coursework in high school. Yet these same students may have the greatest need for post-secondary learning. A potential alternative scholarship program should be developed that broadens incentives to include students with disabilities.

Panel members propose the following as a separate scholarship strand:

- A needs-based program designed to encourage and reward post-secondary learning and training
- Eligibility criteria gleaned from multiple sources, at least one of which represents information collected outside of the school setting
- Monetary as well as long-term training and career support for students to promote and encourage post-high school training and employment opportunities
- Resources about and collaboration with non-academic programs and opportunities within the state that can be based on recipients' individualized needs
- A continuing commitment to investigate, improve and embrace non-traditional training, informal school-to-work transitions and public and private opportunities to prepare all students graduating or completing high school for the rewards of life-long learning and fulfilling employment
- A comprehensive system that includes case study evidence by which the program's effectiveness can be evaluated

Dr. Jim McBride  
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We appreciate your attention to this issue. Should you wish to meet with panel members, our next meeting will be held in Riverton on January 21 and 22.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Davey Hough in cursive script, followed by the initials 'uey n m'.

Davey Hough  
Chair, Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

cc: Henry H.R. Coe, JEC Chairman

Del McOmie, JEC Chairman

Pat Aullman, Select Committee on Mental Health Chairman

Keith Gingery, Select Committee on Mental Health Chairman

Deb Simon, Transition Council

Beth Optiz, DDD Council