



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2016-038

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals
Special Education Directors
Human Resource Directors

FROM: Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 14, 2016

SUBJECT: ESSA – Highly Qualified Requirements and Transition

ESSA TRANSITION FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS

The U.S. Department of Education has clarified the transition from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) regarding removal of the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has determined that in order to ensure a smooth transition, the requirement will remain in place through the end of the 2016-17 school year.

The current highly qualified requirements are:

- All teachers of core academic subjects are required to be highly qualified;
- All special education teachers of core academic subjects are required to be highly qualified;
- All paraprofessionals assisting with the instruction of core academic subjects are required to be highly qualified;
- All districts that are not 100% highly qualified must submit highly qualified teacher plans to the WDE, as well as keep individual teacher plans on file at the district. All districts that are required to submit plans will continue to receive communications from the WDE;
- Reporting on the 602/652 will remain the same;
- PTSB licensure requirements connected to highly qualified will remain the same;
- Districts may still apply for exception authorizations through PTSB;

Districts will no longer need to comply with NCLB section 1111(h)(6)(B)(ii), which requires a school to notify parents when their child has been assigned to, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

As the transition to ESSA continues, the WDE will convene stakeholders to assist in defining requirements for teachers and districts in order to begin implementation during the 2017-18 school year.

For questions please contact Laurel Ballard at laurel.ballard@wyo.gov or 307-777-8715.