

Wyoming Education Trust Fund Award Summary 2019-2020

FREMONT #24- “Blockchain Innovations R&D”

Fremont County School District #24 was awarded the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant to expose and educate students about new, innovative technologies by emulating what many elite, higher education institutions are doing by building a blockchain technology research and development lab. “Blockchain is a new form of database technology that enables multiple parties to share a single “golden copy” of data and trust that it is valid, owing to a breakthrough of computer science that enables computers of multiple users or organizations to reach consensus about the state of their shared data without the need to reconcile their own copies.” Fremont #24 intends to foster opportunities for their students to become computer science leaders by giving them access to innovative educational opportunities that can lead to high-paying, fast-growing, opportunities in the blockchain industry.

SHERIDAN #1- “Computer Science Courses”

Sheridan County School District #1 received the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant in order to establish a Computer Science program in their district. The goal will be to offer Intro to Computer Science, followed by AP Computer Science as a sequenced set of classes. This grant will help Sheridan #1 provide the curriculum necessary for the courses and they will use their technology teachers to provide instruction. Sheridan #1 also plans to partner with Johnson County School District #1, who has a vibrant computer science program. Johnson #1 will demonstrate how they integrate CS into their elementary classes through professional development.

FREMONT #1- “Reaching Forward with Computer Science”

Fremont County School District #1 was awarded the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant to focus on two goals. The first goal is to update and modernize their existing technology professional development with deeply-embedded computational thinking and problem-solving strategies. The second goal is to increase participation and engagement for PreK-5 students with activities both at school and at home. This grant will help create a focused, in-depth professional development course that will empower teachers to comfortably integrate computational thinking and computer science skills into their existing units of study.

LARAMIE #1- “Bringing Computer Science into Everyday Teaching Practices”

Laramie County School District #1 was awarded the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant to provide interdisciplinary Computer Science lessons to a diverse population of 130 grades fourth and fifth students to support the learning process. Through these lessons, students will demonstrate problem solving, creativity, computational thinking skills, and transfer of knowledge. Additionally, the grant funds will be utilized for professional development for teachers who will be implementing this project. The information obtained through this professional development will help guide the interdisciplinary lesson development and be shared with other staff.

Campbell #1- “Revving Up Robotics in CCSD #1 Grades 3-6”

Campbell County School District #1 was awarded the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant to expand computer science instruction through developing and implementing a comprehensive and systematic robotics curriculum in grades 3-6 that fosters creativity and flexible use of knowledge and skills. STEM educators will work together to determine and define the progression of robotics knowledge and skill objectives systematically from third grade through sixth grade. The knowledge and skill objectives will be rooted in the proposed Wyoming Computer Science Standards. The curricular objectives will not be tied to a specific tool, platform, or robot to ensure that innovation, creativity, and flexible use of knowledge and skills is not limited.

Johnson #1- “I³ Lab”

Johnson County School District #1 was awarded the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant to create a replicable model to revolutionize professional development. They plan to focus on three key ideas: Invest in teachers to gain experience, create a space for teachers to innovate and work to personalize their professional development, and integrate the proposed computer science standards within the existing curriculum. Johnson #1 will create an I³ lab specifically for the purpose of investing in their teachers, innovating education, and integrating computer science to provide the framework to transform teaching.

Park #6- “Cody Middle School MAD STEM Lab”

Park County School District #6 was awarded the Wyoming Education Trust Fund Grant to design a Maker, Automation, and Discover STEM Lab at the Cody Middle School. This makerspace focuses on providing technology to make physical creations powered by computer programming. The makerspace will take the already-equipped wood shop and expand it into a makerspace that will fuel 21st century critical thinking and problem solving. This project will allow for the purchase of equipment that will transform students’ STEM and CS education from being the recipients of knowledge and skills to being visionaries, designers, and creators.