

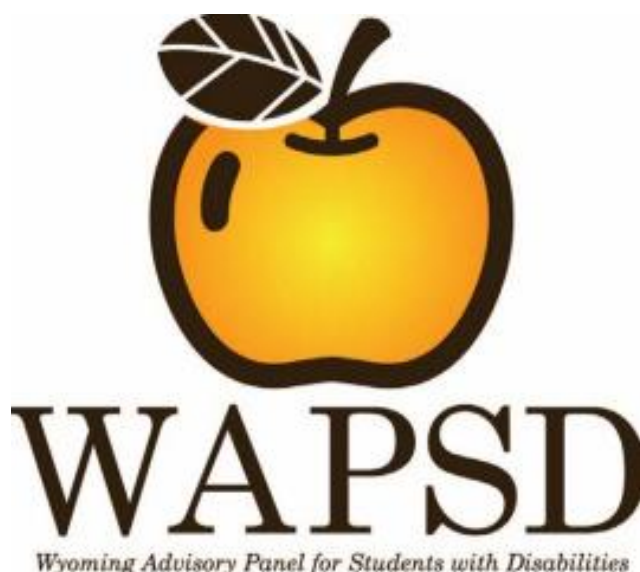


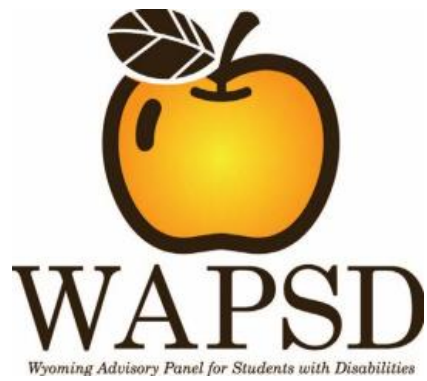
# WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

**2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

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It is with great honor and pleasure that I address you as the chairperson of WAPSD. Over the course of my tenure, we have worked together to address the needs of students with disabilities in Wyoming. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our accomplishments and express my gratitude to the Panel and to the Department of Education for their dedication and contribution this last year.

At the beginning of the year, we initiated a valuable discussion among panel members, allowing everyone to share their perspectives and needs. This led us to focus on key areas, with the following in mind: Priority #1: State-wide Data Collection, Priority #2: Preschool Services, and Priority #3: Provision of Transition Services.

It has been a priority for our panel to ensure the representation of parents and students, and I'm delighted that we were able to include two high school students whose insights have added depth and meaning to our conversations.

Effective communication and collaboration with our state and local legislators have been crucial in addressing the challenges faced by students with disabilities. Through out the year our Panel had dialogue which provided valuable insights and helped us enhance both our knowledge and provide valuable recommendations towards the support of students with disabilities.

Recognizing the importance of staying updated on relevant legislation, the panel emphasized the need for the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to provide regular updates on bills and topics moving through the legislature. This change will enable us to provide informed advice and guidance in critical legislative areas. Additionally, we expanded our knowledge base through informative presentations from the WDE/Behavioral Health Division, the Parent Information Center, The PDG Evaluation and Finance Workgroup, and various post-secondary entities. These insights have enabled us to adopt a systems perspective and better fulfill our role..

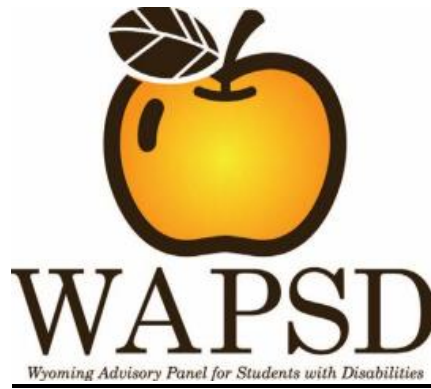
During the year, we experienced leadership transitions with WDE, with the departure of Jillian Balow in January 2022 as the State Superintendent and the position being filled by Brian Schroeder as the interim. The Panel wants to acknowledge our appreciation for Superintendent Balow. Her time, knowledge and expertise have proven invaluable in guiding our panel and the state forward.

Lastly, I would like to express my confidence in Christine Bullinger, who will assume the role of chairperson for the 2022-2023 advisory year. Christine's capability and commitment will undoubtedly ensure the continued success and progress of our panel.

It has been a privilege to serve as your chairperson, and I want to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals. Together, we have made significant strides towards fulfilling our mission to advocate for the unmet needs of students with disabilities. Let us continue to raise our collective voice, provide guidance on education policies, and create opportunities for all students to become compassionate, productive, and contributing citizens of their communities.

With sincere gratitude,

Erin Swilling  
WAPSD Panel Chair



### **WAPSD MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of WAPSD, as a diverse group, is to raise a common voice to advise the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the unmet needs of the students with disabilities by advocating for and commenting on the improvement of education opportunities.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of the WAPSD is to provide guidance on education policies for all students with disabilities that create opportunities for them to become compassionate, productive and contributing citizens of their communities.

### **PANEL FUNCTIONS**

The purpose of the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities is to provide policy guidance to the State Education Agency with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State (CFR 300.167). The Wyoming Advisory Panel exists under the authority of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Panel shall serve as a forum by which issues and benefits regarding current and potential services to children and youth with disabilities may be discussed by consumer, public, private, professional, and lay interests. Specific responsibilities include:

- (a) Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities; CFR 300.169(a)
- (b) Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities; CFR 300.169(b)
- (c) Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the U.S. Secretary of Education as required; CFR 300.169(c)
- (d) Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; CFR 300.169(d)
- (e) Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. CFR300.169 (e)
- (f) Waiver of non supplant requirement. The SEA must consult with the Advisory Panel regarding the provisions of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) (CFR.164 c4)
- (g) Findings and decision to Advisory Panel and general public. The public agency, after deleting any personally identifiable information must:
  - 1- Transmit the findings and decisions referred to in CFR 300.512 a5 to the State Advisory Panel established under VFR 300.167; and

2- Make those findings and decisions available to the public. (CFR 300.513 d 1-2)

In order to promote activities that facilitate services for all children with disabilities ages three through 21 years old, the Panel will:

- Identify annual Panel priorities at the first Panel meeting of the year (September), based on data from the State performance plan, annual performance report, federal levels of determination, SEA monitoring data and dispute resolution data;
- Provide information regarding Panel priorities for the public, educators, and policy makers;
- Work collaboratively with the State Director of Special Education and SEA staff
- Receive public comment and consider the content in Panel discussions.

## **PANEL MEMBERS**

\* **Bullinger, Christine** – Parent

\***Robertson, Ashley** – Parent

\***Selley, Anedra** – Parent

\***Smith, Deana** – Parent

\* **Norris, Char** - Parent

\***Swilling, Erin** - Parent

\***Acosta-McCune, Liz** - Parent

\***Norris, Grace** – Student

\***Crawford, Rachel** - Special Education Teacher (LCSD 1)

\***Baldwin, Nikki** - Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel

\***Cranmore, Shannon** - Education officials who carry out activities title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

**Hawk, Penny** - Administrators of programs for children with disabilities: CCSD1

**Wondercheck, Danielle** - Administrators of programs for children with disabilities: Wyoming Child & Family Development

**Caylor, Kim** - Representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities: BHD/EIEP

**Zamora, Pam** - Representatives of private schools and public charter schools: Cathedral Home

**Mechem, TJ** - Representative of a vocational community concerned with transition services to children with disabilities

**Neely, Jennifer** - Representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care: Wyo. Dept of Family Services

**Speiser, Hayley** - Representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies: DO

**Myers, Dallas** - Cultural representation: FCSD25

# PANEL PRIORITIES

## Priority #1: State-wide Data Collection

- A. Monitoring all federal indicators
- B. Monitoring child outcome data for 3-5 program
- C. Monitoring post-secondary transition data
- D. Monitoring Dis-proportionality data

## Priority #2: Preschool Services

- A. EIEP Evaluation reports: Phase 1 and 2
- B. Placement for oversight for Regional Child Development Centers

## Priority #3: Provision of Transition Services

### A. Compliance with Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- 1. Job exploration counseling
- 2. Work based learning experience
- 3. Counseling on post-secondary opportunities
- 4. Workplace readiness training
- 5. Instruction in self-advocacy

### B. Collaboration with the following:

- 1. Employers
- 2. Families
- 3. Communities
- 4. Schools
- 5. Vocation Rehabilitation
- 6. Workforce Development



# WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Margee Robertson  
State Special Education Director  
February 2020 - Present

Jennifer Duncan  
Panel Secretary

Erin Swilling  
Panel Chair

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information about the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities, please contact us at (307) 777-3530 [jennifer.duncan@wyo.gov](mailto:jennifer.duncan@wyo.gov) or <https://edu.wyoming.gov/district-leadership/special-programs/wapsd-advisory-panel/>