



January 21, 2026 WAPSD Business Meeting, Zoom Platform

Attendance: Jackie Frankson, Kelly Schauble, Deana Smith, Tanya Barcelona, Krystyne Ethridge, Shannon Cranmore, Kim Sanford, Jami Clifford, Cindy England, Ragen Lathan, Breanna Batista, Alaria Schnase, Hayley Speiser, John Balow, Jennifer Duncan

Guests: Ashley Provencio, future replacement for Ragen Latham on the Panel.

MOTIONS

Administrative:

Minutes for the October 1, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. Shannon Cranmore moved and Deana Smith seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy:

John Balow made a motion that the Panel explore unmet needs and will help parents by creating a survey in collaboration with the Panel regarding to these three areas: Extended School Year (ESY), Transitions and supporting Behavior by providing emotional/social support. Krystyne Ethridge will create this survey and bring the results back to the Panel at the next meeting.

Cindy England moved and Krystyne Ethridge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Welcome/Opening: Chair Jackie Frankson called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. There was no public comment.

Secretary Announcements

Jennifer Duncan asked panel members to review their information on the Panel roster and report any changes. A few parent applications have been received; they are being reviewed by the Executive/Membership Committee at this time.

Chair Report, Old and New Business

Jackie requested input from the Panel for her report. Disability Innovation Fund updates were provided via a document that Jackie provided to the Panel, which is attached to these minutes. Breanna Batista will provide a more detailed report.

Professional Development Update, Deana Smith

Deana Smith provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

Teacher trainings will be held twice a month via Zoom; ASCEND 307 training in conjunction with the State Professional Development Grant are also being held once a month. Teacher Con, a WDE wide conference, will be held August 3-4, 2026 in Casper and there will be tracks for Special Education information rather than a separate Special Education Conference.

SPED Director Update, John Balow

John Balow provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

USDOE had 140 employees in the OSEP office; now there are about 5 employees due to the government shutdown and cuts to their budget, the positions have been reinstated until the end of January, Balow is uncertain how many are actually filled. The OSEP monitoring visit will take place in September. Wyoming is one of 13 states that rated at the “Meets Expectations” level with OSEP. The budget legislative session begins February 9, 2026.

Balow encouraged the Panel to find a focus within Special Education for the upcoming year. This would help facilitate the process of drafting the annual report, which is a requirement for the Panel within IDEA.

Panel/Committee Focus Discussion

The previous areas of focus have been Family Engagement and Mental Health. Jackie Frankson thought a good area of focus would be Behaviors. Ragen Latham thought it would be a good focus; transitions from CDC’s to school districts. Tanya Barcelona thought a focus on Extended School Year (ESY) would be helpful as she’s hearing a lot of discussion about it amongst other parents; gathering statewide information from districts would be helpful. Cindy England offered to reach out to districts to gather information. Jackie Frankson will put together a questionnaire for distribution to districts and at WASEA.

ESY/Behavior and Transition will be an area of focus for the Panel this year.

DFS Update, Alaria Schnase

Alaria Schnase is the new representative for DFS on the Panel. Her role is as the Clinical Services Manager with DFS. Schnase provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

WDH/BHD Update, Ragen Latham

Ragen Latham provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

PIC Update

Krystyne Ethridge provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

DVR Update, Breanna Batista

Breanna Batista provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

Corrections Update, Hayley Speiser

Hayley Speiser provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

McKinney Vento Update, Shannon Cranmore

Shannon Cranmore didn't have a detailed update. She is working on updating the McKinney-Vento grant applications to better align with Federal guidelines.

UW Update, Tiffany Hunt

Tiffany Hunt provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

Member Updates

There were no member updates presented.

Next Meeting Planning – agenda items, lodging and attendance

April 14-17, 2026 in Worland, Wyoming Department of Education

Tours: Wyoming Boys School; OWL Adult Living Program; Absaroka Head Start

June 9-12, 2026 in Sheridan, WY

October 13-16, 2026 in Jackson, Wyoming

John Copenhaver to provide samples and recommendations from other Panels; 10/14/26 will consist of half a day with John Balow for state level training; John Copenhaver condensed version virtually; tours in the afternoon, community reception; 10/15/26 will consist of the WAPSD Panel Business meeting.

Advice, Recommendations and Action Steps

Deana and John check with Leadership regarding some ESY training at some point; Krystyne Ethridge can come at it from the PIC side of things.

Panel goal for the year of focusing on ESY, Behavior and Transition is documented in Panel/Committee updates section.

Potential Agenda items for April Meeting

Hayley Speiser moved and Kim Sanford seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am. Motion carried unanimously.

WAPSD Meeting Updates September 2025

- WDE Website: <https://edu.wyoming.gov/parents/special-education/>
- Dispute resolution findings: <https://edu.wyoming.gov/parents/special-education/dispute-resolution/>
- All virtual training recordings and materials can be found here: <https://wyominginstructionalnetwork.com/professional-development/currenttrainings/>

And

<https://wyominginstructionalnetwork.com/professional-development/specialeducationprofessionaldevelopment/>

WDE is pleased to announce a virtual 2025 training series for all Special Education Teachers to be held on the **second Tuesday of each month from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. MT**. This training series is designed to provide technical assistance, updates, facilitate discussion on important topics, and offer a valuable networking opportunity and shared learning among SPED Teachers across the state. Topics are subject to change. All sessions will be recorded and can be found @ <https://wyominginstructionalnetwork.com/professional-development/currenttrainings/>

For more information, contact Deana Smith at 307-777-5326 deana.smith@wyo.gov

Date	Topic	Zoom Link
September 9, 2025	Procedural Safeguards & Confidentiality	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JJLNCxQtQ6CjbL6UGVlycg
October 14, 2025	Communication with Families	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0II-83pxSnWYAb6GNP3vWg
November 10, 2025* (Monday call due to holiday)	Accommodations	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RGNs_xyNREGKojuhF8-hIA
January 13, 2026	Cognitive Deficits & Instructional Strategies Pt. 1	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_klr0NU5wTXCW1WFkugD8AQ

February 10, 2026	Cognitive Deficits & Instructional Strategies Pt. 2	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NTJufRpjQ9e5Qae0LKIDUA
March 10, 2026	10-Day Drop	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-up3ieZZTAihFlnCLx4pQ
April 14, 2026	ESY Considerations	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WN65NFCwTjSThnwOJIV6RQ

WDE Self-Paced Modules:

<https://wde.catalog.instructure.com/>

Special Education:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) <https://wde.catalog.instructure.com/browse/wde/courses/individualized-education-program-iep>
- Special Education Law <https://wde.catalog.instructure.com/browse/wde/courses/special-education-law-modules>
- Planning Transition Services (secondary) <https://wde.catalog.instructure.com/browse/wde/courses/planning-transition-services>
- Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Series <https://wde.catalog.instructure.com/browse/wde/courses/specially-designed-instruction-sdi>
- Special Education Process <https://wde.catalog.instructure.com/browse/wde/courses/the-special-education-process>

State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)

- Support for those on an Exception Authorization (EA's) and for their mentor teachers.
- Support for secondary transition
 - Employability skills
 - Family engagement

Essential Readiness Skills Webinar Series

Monthly webinars are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 4:00–5:00 PM, with the exception of May, which will be held during the first week

<https://edu.wyoming.gov/parents/special-education/ascend-307/>



Join us at TeacherCon26 this year to attend amazing sessions on special education, literacy, and administration topics. See the information and link to register below:

<https://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/conferences/teachercon26/>

Wyoming's second annual statewide educator conference will take place August 3-4 at the Best Western Casper Downtown in Casper. Building on the success of our inaugural event, TeacherCon26 brings together three specialized tracks under one roof: Special Education (SPED), Literacy, and Principal Leadership Academy (PLA). Join educators from across Wyoming for this comprehensive professional development experience presented by the Wyoming Department of Education.

We are planning to host the New SPED Teacher Boot Camp - July 28-29, 2026 in Cheyenne. Final details will be shared soon.

WAPSD Directors report 1/21/26

USDOE-

- Most OSEP positions were cut with fall govt. Closure- 5-9 leadership and direct reports remained
- Govt. reopen and reinstated OSEP employees at least through January
- On track for DMS (monitoring on site visit) end of Sept. this year
- WDE will be busy this spring preparing/uploading documents and communication

Legislature:

- Budget session begins 2/9/26
- Bill Tracker: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation>
- Joint Appropriations meeting link from last week: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrGyCyP-fWY>

Charter Schools:

- Application period for next year is open now, not sure how many applications to anticipate
- Team for WDE (Including SPED) review and score applications
- SPED professional development starting - BLOOM

Pre-schools CDC's and 6 year olds

- 6 year old SWD should not be attending a CDC- the LEA's are responsible for FAPE
- Transition planning meetings should be taking place with both the CDC's and the LEA's well in advance of anticipated start date

WAPSD open call for members

- Focus has been on recruiting parents- Once interviews are completed by the the committee recommendations heading soon to Superintendent Degenfelder for consideration

Chap. 7 update:

- On pause for now until better clarity on what's happening at the Federal level at least until next year at this time

Suggestion for panel:

- Pick an area of focus for this year
- Assign and create annual report

Questions/Feedback?

From the DFS Annual Report

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pq_LExM5P6_quLi9pzPq6zVvSwk-18g1/view

I. Early Childhood & School Readiness

- **Expansion of Evidence-Based Home Visiting:** DFS funds two major programs that directly impact school readiness.
 - **Wyoming Hand in Hand:** Served 2,046 participants (including 958 children) across all 23 counties in FFY 2024.
 - **Parents as Teachers (PAT):** Served 717 individuals in 293 households. Capacity is expanding to Carbon County (October 2025) and two additional counties by 2027.
- **Child Care Assistance (Subsidy) Utilization:** * The penetration rate for child care assistance among children aged 0-12 reached **13.4%** in SFY 2025.
 - For children aged 0-5, the penetration rate increased to **22.1%**.
 - **41.7%** of foster children aged 0-5 received child care assistance in FFY 2024, up from 35.6% the previous year.
- **Modernizing Access (ECARES):** In August 2025, DFS launched the **Early Childhood Access Resources and Eligibility System (ECARES)**. This system allows parents to search for local providers and check eligibility online, reducing administrative barriers for both families and providers.

II. Supporting Vulnerable Students & Stability

- **Decreasing Court-Ordered Removals:** In SFY 2025, there was an **18% decrease** in court-ordered removals compared to SFY 2024. Fewer children entering the foster care system means more stable educational environments for students.
- **Community-Based Prevention Spending:** DFS spent approximately **\$80 million** (45% of its SFY 2025 expenditures) on grants and aid to community-based organizations for services like juvenile diversion, family support programs, and crisis services.
- **Interagency Children's Collaborative (ICC):** Success was seen in maintaining placements for high-needs youth; **88%** of ICC youth in therapeutic residential treatment maintained their placement without disruption in SFY 2025.

III. Youth in Transition & Independence

- **Independent Living (IL) Services:** DFS tracks the percentage of youth exiting care who receive IL services to support their transition to adulthood.
 - **100%** of youth exiting the Wyoming Girls' School and Wyoming Boys' School in SFY 2025 received IL services.
 - **27%** of youth aged 14+ exiting foster care received these services.

- **Economic Supports for Exiting Youth:** DFS is monitoring SNAP utilization for youth exiting care, with **25%** of those aging out of foster care receiving SNAP benefits in SFY 2025.

IV. Systems Integration & Data Sharing

- **IT Modernization:** DFS has launched or is developing several systems that could offer data-sharing opportunities with the WDE, including:
 - **WYOSAFE:** New case management system for CPS and Juvenile Justice (Go-Live Sept 2024).
 - **JJIS (Juvenile Justice Information System):** Collects data on adjudicated delinquents (Go-Live July 2024).
- **Data Governance:** DFS is working with the Wyoming Data Governance Council to establish a comprehensive data dictionary and is participating in the **Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)** and **Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS)**.

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities (WAPSD)
January 21, 2026
Behavioral Health Division Updates

- Upcoming Part C - [Differentiated Monitoring and Support](#) - The week of September 21, 2026
- [2026 Budget Session](#) - budget markup completed
- Wyoming [Interagency Children's Collaborative \(ICC\)](#)
- Title 25 work
- [Wyoming's Rural Health Transformation Program](#) -\$205,004,742.95
 - Funding under this program is intended to support priorities such as:
 - Chronic disease prevention and behavioral health;
 - Sustaining access to care in rural communities;
 - Innovative approaches to care delivery and payment models;
 - Workforce development and training;
 - Technological and consumer health solutions; and
 - IT advances and technical assistance.

PHP - WAPSD Meeting Updates - September 2025

Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming continues to grow and strengthen our reach across the state. We are excited to share several updates:

- **Staffing Updates:** Our staff is doing very well and continues to grow in both capacity and impact. We have also continued to strengthen our team to meet growing demand, ensuring families across the state receive timely, high-quality support and training.
- **Training & Support:** Our Family and Community Trainer is excelling in her role, successfully bridging relationships between schools and parents across Wyoming. She has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from special education directors statewide and is currently booked through 2026, providing parent trainings in multiple school districts. We have seen an increased need for training for daycare providers across the state and are beginning to look into additional funding to fill this need.
- **Conference & Events:** Our Annual Conference is scheduled for September 19, 2026, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Our Keynote Speakers are Chrisine Manning and Dominic Syracuse. Christine Manning will be presenting on behavior supports in the classroom and Dominic Syracuse will be doing a presentation on Caregiver Mental Health (relating to both parents and professionals). We have announced sponsorship tiers and are accepting applications for sponsors and vendors at this time.
- **Looking Back & Moving Forward:** Over the past year, we have:
 - Expanded services to include more parent training opportunities across multiple regions.
 - Strengthened partnerships with schools, agencies, and community organizations.
 - Increased focus on mental health supports for families, especially those with middle-aged children, where the need is greatest.
 - Continued to build capacity by adding new staff and leadership positions, ensuring that families across Wyoming have access to the resources and advocacy they need.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to empowering parents, strengthening family-school partnerships, and ensuring every Wyoming family feels supported and connected.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Program Update

Prepared By: Breanna Batista, Transition Consultant

Date: January 21, 2026

I am the new Transition Consultant for WY DVR. I started in my capacity in October 2025, and this is my first WAPSD panel meeting. In my role, I support DVR staff, educational programs, other state agencies, and community stakeholders in developing and implementing pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) for students.

Current Program and Service Updates

DVR is advancing its youth services portfolio, which currently includes virtual reality job exploration. Work is underway to develop new pre-apprenticeship programming designed for in-school student utilization.

Future Focused Fair

In collaboration with the Wyoming Transition Team, I am organizing the Future Focused Fair, scheduled for **January 28, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Casper College**. This event aims to educate students on statewide resources available to support their transition from school to adulthood. Key vendor areas covered include:

- Employment
- Post-secondary education
- Independent living
- Financial literacy
- Benefits programs

Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) Grant Expansion

The DIF grant has been successfully expanded to include **Carbon County School District #1**, adding to existing coverage in Sweetwater #1, Albany #1, and Park #1 schools. DVR is currently recruiting a DIF Navigator for Carbon #1 to facilitate the development of innovative, transition-related programs.

Job Coach Training

WY DVR is offering periodic, free-of-charge job coach trainings statewide. These trainings are a key opportunity for school paraeducators and other staff to receive instruction on supporting students in a work setting for work-based learning experiences. The next scheduled training is in **Cowley on February 9**, and educators statewide are encouraged to attend.

Summer Programming Development

Work is currently focused on building out the annual summer programming, which includes several camps designed to address the transition needs of students with disabilities. These camps will provide opportunities for students statewide to engage with topics related to the five core services of our Pre-ETS program:

- Career exploration
- Post-secondary guidance



Jennifer Duncan <jennifer.duncan@wyo.gov>

Re: January 21, 2026 Meeting

1 message

Hayley Speiser <hayley.speiser@wyo.gov>
To: Jennifer Duncan <jennifer.duncan@wyo.gov>

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 8:28 AM

Hi, Jennifer! Here is my update for next week.

WDOC IET Plumbing Program-The first cohort of Plumbing students have completed the program. We had 9 students complete the program. At the end of the program, the students participated in mock interviews with MSI and GW Mechanical. This was very helpful for the students, and in the future, we plan to have the Dept. of Workforce Services participate in those mock interviews as well and provide individualized feedback to students.

Digital Literacy Program-The digital literacy program is now available on the tablet platform. We will be selecting our first cohort of students next month. For the first cohort, serving as the pilot group for the program, six students will be selected from two facilities, and then expand enrollment with each new cohort until they reach the number of students the instructors feel is manageable.

CareerEdge Implementation-We have added the CareerEdge program to our tablet platform. CareerEdge powers the HireWyo site which connects students with the career prep and exploration resources available through the Dept. of Workforce Services (DWS). CareerEdge also enables students to build their resume, engage in employment activities, and many other career exploration activities. All of the work they do in the program while incarcerated is transferred to their HireWyo profile upon release. We've been collaborating with DWS on this initiative for about a year now, and we're very excited to see it come to fruition.

iCEV and BrightThinker Integration-We're in the process of bringing the iCEV and BrightThinker programs to our tablet platform. Both of these programs will be initially used to help our Title I students (20 and under). Specifically, we'll be using iCEV's 90 Days to Release program which consists of 2 parts:

- **Employment Piece**-student takes the Career Interest Inventory Cluster Survey (CCII) within the iCEV Platform which places them in one of the 10 Career Clusters. The student is then enrolled in one of the certifications that falls with that cluster.
- **Overcoming Barriers**-student has customized courses based on their needs.

Additionally, we'll be using iCEV's The Gap Pack program which is designed to "bridge the gap". The Gap Pack equips students with essential workplace readiness skills during their final 90 to 180 days before release. The curriculum focuses on critical soft skills—communication, teamwork, time management, accountability, problem-solving, and digital literacy—helping participants prepare for employment. Since soft skills are highly valued yet difficult to teach, the program uses iCEV's Career Cluster Interest Inventory (CCII) to guide participants toward career pathways. The curriculum is divided into five key areas employers prioritize:

- **Communication** – Writing, coordination, verbal & interpersonal skills
- **Working with Others** – Leadership, teamwork, customer service, planning
- **Professionalism** – Accountability, time management, ethics
- **Problem-Solving & Decision-Making** – Critical thinking, adaptability, resilience
- **Digital Literacy** – Technical skills, cybersecurity, media literacy

Embedded within this curriculum is also the prep courses for one of the 19 Industry Based Certifications tested on the platform. The Gap Pack is designed to be delivered along, or in tandem with any education offering (High School Equivalency, CTE, Post-Secondary, Job Training, etc.)

BrightThinker offers an array of K-12 content as well as high school equivalency prep and career and technical education opportunities. This program may also be used in the future for high school credit recovery.

Zoom-With grant funds, I was able to purchase 16 Zoom licenses to be used for various educational and reentry activities. Those Zoom links are now available for use on the tablet platform. We'll be able to, more easily, connect students with employers, community resources, etc. prior to release.

University of Wyoming Pell Program-We still have the two cohorts of UW students pursuing their Bachelor's degree in

General Studies. Our female cohort is about to begin the second semester of their senior year and will be graduating this coming summer. The men's cohort is entering the second semester of their junior year.

On Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 11:29 AM Jennifer Duncan <jennifer.duncan@wyo.gov> wrote:

Good morning, Panel Members,

I just sent the Zoom calendar invitation for our meeting next Wednesday, January 21, 2026. I've attached the meeting packet to this email. I look forward to seeing all of you via Zoom next week. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Jennifer

Jennifer Duncan

Division Administrative Assistant, Special Education Programs

O: 307-777-3530



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Wyoming Department of Education

122 W. 25th St., Ste. E200, Cheyenne, WY 82002

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E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

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Sincerely,



E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

- Work readiness training
- Work-based learning experiences
- Instruction on self-advocacy



Jennifer Duncan <jennifer.duncan@wyo.gov>

WAPSD Panel Meeting Update

1 message

Tiffany Lynn Hunt <thunt@uwyo.edu>
To: Jennifer Duncan <jennifer.duncan@wyo.gov>

Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 11:14 PM

Hello Jennifer!

Below, I have provided a brief update for tomorrow's meeting. Unfortunately, I will likely be unable to attend, as I will be heading home from Cody in the morning. (I attended the All State concert this evening to watch my son perform in the orchestra.) I will join the call if I can, but with minimal service, I am doubtful that I will be able to connect.

I hope you are well and managing to stay warm! Please let me know if you need anything else!

Sincerely,
Tiffany

University of Wyoming
College of Education
Counseling, Leadership, Advocacy & Design
Special Education Program Coordinator
Assistant Professor

UW, Special Education Program Update:

- We have two candidates coming to campus to interview for the Wyoming Excellence Chair in Special Education. Both candidates are well established scholars, devoted to special education and service to local school districts. We are excited to welcome them to campus to learn more about their work and interest in the Excellence Chair position.
- We have been given the opportunity to expand the PrePARE Program to students in majors outside the Elementary and Special Education Dual Major. This means, interested students in Elementary Education, CTE, and other majors on a case-by-case basis will have an opportunity to serve as PrePARE students. During their methods semester, PrePARE students serve as para-professionals in the schools where they will student teach. The following semester, PrePARE students transition into student teaching, already having built relationships with their mentor teachers, colleagues, students, and families. By expanding PrePARE to other degree programs, more students will have an opportunity to engage in a year-long residency experience, while learning more about special education, how to support and work with students with disabilities, and how to effectively utilize and support paraprofessionals.
- We officially have a demo platform for ColEP. We are looking forward to working with educators in utilizing the system to better their IEP development and specialized instructional planning, while learning from their feedback and experiences to improve the system.