

SENATE FILE NO. SF0046

Public school teacher incentive appropriations.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public school teachers; expanding the  
2 Wyoming teacher of the year program as specified;  
3 continuing the Wyoming teacher policy institute; enhancing  
4 funds available for teacher participation in national  
5 certification; funding a teacher advancement or alternative  
6 professional development program subject to specified  
7 conditions; providing appropriations to the department of  
8 education and imposing reporting requirements; and  
9 providing for an effective date.

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11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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13 **Section 1. Wyoming Teacher of the Year Program.**

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15 (a) For school year 2005-2006, the department of  
16 education shall expand the Wyoming teacher of the year  
17 program as follows:

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2 (i) Establish a teacher of the year award for  
3 each county within the state;

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5 (ii) Develop a selection process whereby each  
6 school district principally located within each county  
7 nominates a teacher to participate in the county-wide  
8 competition, to be selected by a committee assembled by the  
9 department which is comprised of school district teachers,  
10 administrators and board members together with business  
11 leaders, parents and members of the Wyoming legislature who  
12 are residents of a school district located within the  
13 county;

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15 (iii) Award each county teacher of the year  
16 selected under paragraph (ii) of this subsection with an  
17 incentive payment equal to one thousand dollars  
18 (\$1,000.00);

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20 (iv) Provide for the selection of a Wyoming  
21 teacher of the year from among all selected county teachers  
22 of the year, to receive an award equal to five thousand  
23 dollars (\$5,000.00).

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1           (b) Twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000.00) is  
2 appropriated from the school foundation program account to  
3 the department of education to implement subsection (a) of  
4 this section and fund program expansion during school year  
5 2005-2006.

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7           **Section 2. Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute.** One  
8 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) is appropriated from  
9 the general fund to the department of education to fund the  
10 Wyoming teacher policy institute in collaboration with the  
11 University of Wyoming during school year 2005-2006.

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13           **Section 3. National Teacher Certification Program.**

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15           (a) For school year 2005-2006, one hundred eighty-two  
16 thousand dollars (\$182,000.00) is appropriated from the  
17 school foundation program account to the department of  
18 education to supplement amounts available under W.S.  
19 21-22-106(a)(iii) to districts for reimbursements to  
20 teachers for actual costs of national certification fees as  
21 provided under W.S. 21-7-501. A charter school operating  
22 within the district pursuant to W.S. 21-3-301 through  
23 21-3-314 and employing teachers otherwise qualifying under  
24 W.S. 21-7-501 shall be entitled to reimbursements under

1 this section for its teachers. In addition and  
2 notwithstanding limits imposed under W.S. 21-7-501(a), the  
3 department shall in consultation with the Wyoming  
4 professional teaching standards board, expend the funds  
5 appropriated under this subsection, together with any funds  
6 received from private sources, to:

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8 (i) Increase recruitment of teacher applicants  
9 for national certification;

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11 (ii) Establish a support system for teachers  
12 while in the process of obtaining national certification;

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14 (iii) Provide awards and public recognition for  
15 teachers receiving national certification.

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17 (b) Not later than July 1, 2006, the department of  
18 education shall report expenditures of amounts appropriated  
19 under this section to the joint education interim  
20 committee, and recommend any necessary modification to the  
21 national certification program established by W.S.  
22 21-7-501.

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24 **Section 4. Teacher Advancement Program.**

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2 (a) Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) is  
3 appropriated from the school foundation program account to  
4 the department of education to initiate and pilot a teacher  
5 advancement program providing incentives and support for  
6 teachers during the 2005-2006 school year. In lieu  
7 thereof, this appropriation may be expended for piloting a  
8 professional development program other than the teacher  
9 advancement program if the program substantially provides  
10 components similar to but not inclusive of those identified  
11 in paragraphs (a)(i) through (v) of this section. If an  
12 alternative program is selected, the nonstate funds  
13 participation requirement shall not apply to expenditure  
14 limitations. The department shall establish a  
15 qualification and selection process to determine school  
16 program participation based upon demonstrated ability to  
17 completely and effectively implement the program and the  
18 level of teacher and administrator interest. Except as  
19 otherwise provided in this subsection, funds appropriated  
20 under this section shall not be expended by the department  
21 unless supplemented by federal or other nonstate funds.  
22 Program components shall provide incentives and support  
23 for:

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1           (i) Multiple career paths providing options to  
2 teachers for career advancement with corresponding  
3 increases in responsibility, compensation and leadership;

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5           (ii) Teacher compensation based upon classroom  
6 performance and student progress;

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8           (iii) Performance evaluation and promotion based  
9 upon knowledge and ability standards agreed to by teachers;

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11           (iv) Frequent, regularly scheduled collaborative  
12 professional development opportunities for teachers;

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14           (v) Expanded teacher certification programs and  
15 processes made available at alternative entry points.

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17           (b) On or before July 1, 2006, the department shall  
18 report to the joint education interim committee on the  
19 expenditure of amounts appropriated under this section and  
20 shall provide recommendations to the committee on program  
21 continuation.

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1       **Section 5.** This act is effective July 1, 2005.

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(END)