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# Wyoming Legislature Education Update

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Wyoming Legislative Service Office

June/July 2002

*The Legislative Education Update is produced by the Wyoming Legislative Service Office (LSO) and provides a short synopsis of joint interim legislative committee activities related to K-12 education issues. The update includes summaries of legislative committee meetings, as well as a schedule of education activities related to the Legislature. The meeting summaries are not an official record of committee meetings. Please refer to the committee meeting minutes for the proceedings of the meeting. Meeting minutes can be requested from the LSO by calling 307-777-7881. The minutes are also available on the legislative website by clicking on the 2002 Interim Committee Activities link at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/>. For more information about legislative education issues and upcoming legislative committee meetings, contact LSO staff member Dave Nelson at 307-777-7881. For information about upcoming events marked with an asterisk (\*), please contact Debbie Jourgensen at the State Department of Education at 307-777-7674.*

## Meeting Summaries

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### **Joint Education (June 18-19, 2002)**

The Committee met in Sheridan to review school finance studies required by 2002 legislation (SF0051). The required school finance data facilitation report recommended development of a statewide database for school financial data, as well as general student data and standards assessment data. The Committee supported the facilitation process in general and agreed to continue the data facilitation forum.

The State Department of Education reported on MAP model implementation, the small school study, issues arising from the hold harmless provision and payment on the kindergarten error, the vocational education study, the special education study, and new requirements pertaining to the federal No Child Left Behind Act. State Department small school study efforts for definition development and exploring school-level data collection were endorsed. The Committee directed the MAP compensation study require consulting expertise to solicit written comments from the education community on this model component to be considered in this review and analysis.

Although most study reports will be considered at an October meeting, the Committee will meet on September 23 and 24, 2002 to commence work on federal requirements under the No Child Left Behind legislation, and to receive further input on progress with the vocational and special education studies.

### **School Facilities (June 20, 2002)**

The Select Committee on School Facilities met on June 20, 2002 in Sheridan. The Committee elected Senator Devin as Chair and Representative Shvler as Vice

Chair. The Committee reviewed the school capital construction program (specifically the 2002 transition process), received testimony from State consultant, MGT, regarding MGT's planning process format, guidelines and timetable, as well as the 12 schools on the immediate needs list, and the school seismic report. MGT also reviewed the preliminary remedy options and cost estimates for Sheridan County School District #2 and Park County School District #1.

The Committee will meet again on August 15, 2002 in Cheyenne to consider the remedy options to be developed by MGT addressing the 12 buildings in immediate need.

### **Joint Appropriations (July 9-10, 2002)**

The Committee met in Powell to receive remediation options for school building inadequacies identified in Powell and Sheridan, and as required by 2002 enacted legislation. A remedy for construction of new buildings for Sheridan School District #2 was adopted, and funds were released for development of schematic design documents on the adopted remedy by the school district.

After touring the Powell High School Complex and receiving testimony from MGT and Powell school officials, the Committee delayed the release of schematic planning monies until completion of a structural engineering analysis of identified facilities by MGT and until the district has held further public hearings on facility remedies.

The Committee will meet again on September 5, 2002 in Riverton to consider the structural engineering findings and to determine a remedy for the Powell High School complex.

### **School Data Facilitation Forum (various dates)**

2002 school finance legislation required the Joint Education Interim Committee to provide facilitated discussions of school finance data issues, with a report on discussions to be submitted to the Committee by June 15, 2002. Following receipt of the report, the Education Committee elected to continue the facilitated discussion process on school data issues including data pertaining to school finance, student data in general, student assessment/tracking data, district staff data and other educational data needs, the goal being to develop a statewide system capable of addressing data needs of

districts, state and federal governments as well as the Legislature. The Forum is to report recommendations to the Committee at its October meeting.

The purpose of the School Data Facilitation Forum is to provide a forum for school district representatives, relevant state agencies, higher education and the business community to discuss data issues pertaining to education. The Forum held several meetings in May and in late July and Forum representatives will meet again in late August in Casper.

## **Upcoming Events**

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### **August 15, 2002**

Select Committee  
on School Facilities  
Room 302, Capitol Building  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
9:00am

### **August 15, 2002 \***

Vocational Education  
Study Advisory Group  
Hitching Post, Coach Room D  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
8:00am

### **August 16, 2002**

School Facilities Commission  
Room 302, State Capitol Building  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
8:30am

### **August 28, 2002**

School Data Facilitation Forum  
UW Outreach Center  
Casper, Wyoming  
9:00am

### **September 5, 2002**

Joint Appropriations Committee  
(Powell CapCon Project)  
Riverton City Hall  
Riverton, Wyoming  
8:00am

### **September 5, 2002 \***

Special Education Study  
Stakeholder's TF Meeting  
Holiday Inn  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
8:30am

### **September 16-17, 2002 \***

State Department School  
Improvement Conference  
Radisson Hotel  
Casper, Wyoming  
Time to be announced

### **September 17, 2002 \***

No Child Left Behind Act  
Implementation Hearings  
Casper, Wyoming  
Location and time to be announced

### **September 17, 2002 \***

Standards Based Grading/Body  
of Evidence Advisory Group  
Casper, Wyoming  
Location and time to be announced

### **September 19-20, 2002 \***

School Business Manager's  
MAP Training  
UW Outreach Center  
Casper, Wyoming  
8:00am

### **September 23-24, 2002**

Joint Education Committee  
School Dist Office Board Room  
Afton, Wyoming  
12:00pm to 5:00pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
8:00am to 5:00pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>

### **September 24, 2002 \***

Local District Facility  
Planning Advisory Group  
(Hearing on Master Plan  
Guidelines and Requirements)  
UW Outreach Building  
Casper, Wyoming  
Time to be announced

### **September 26, 2002 \***

Local District Facility  
Planning Advisory Group  
(Hearing on Master Plan  
Guidelines and Requirements)  
Fremont #25 District Offices  
Riverton, Wyoming  
Time to be announced

### **September 26-27, 2002**

Select Committee on Capital  
Financing & Investments  
(Financing of School CapCon)  
UW Student Union  
Senate Chambers  
Laramie, Wyoming  
8:30am

### **October 7, 2002 \***

Standards Based Grading/Body  
of Evidence Advisory Group  
Sheridan, Wyoming  
Location and time to be announced

### **October 14-15, 2002 \***

Standards Based Grading/Body  
of Evidence Advisory Group  
Location and time to be announced

### **October 22, 2002 \***

Standards Based Grading/Body  
of Evidence Advisory Group  
Torrington, Wyoming  
Location and time to be announced

### **October 23-25, 2002**

Joint Education Committee  
UW Student Union  
Family Room  
Laramie, Wyoming  
Time to be announced

### **November 19-21, 2002**

Joint Education Committee  
UW Outreach Center  
Casper, Wyoming  
Time to be announced