

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

School finance-at-risk programs.

Sponsored by: HDRAFT

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; establishing a study  
2 committee to review at-risk resources and strategies;  
3 specifying study components; providing appropriations;  
4 authorizing an additional position; and providing for an  
5 effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) To continue study efforts assigned to the state  
12 superintendent of public instruction by 2006 Wyoming  
13 Session Laws, Chapter 37, Section 7(c), and further  
14 directed under 2007 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 147,

1 Section 103, the state superintendent shall through the  
2 department of education establish a study committee to  
3 continue the review, analysis and evaluation of at-risk  
4 resources and strategies for refinement of block grant  
5 model components supporting at-risk students. This effort  
6 shall be in coordination and consultation with the  
7 allocation and use study effort initiated under 2006  
8 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 37, Section 8.

9  
10 (b) The state superintendent's study committee shall  
11 be appointed by the state superintendent from among  
12 representatives of school districts, community programs and  
13 state governmental agencies which are engaged in and have a  
14 designated responsibility for developing, implementing and  
15 administering programs and services addressing the needs of  
16 at-risk student populations. Study committee members shall  
17 be reimbursed only for per diem and travel expenses  
18 incurred while attending official committee business, at  
19 rates prescribed by law for members of the Wyoming  
20 legislature. The study committee shall expire on June 30,  
21 2010, unless extended by the state superintendent and  
22 funded by legislative appropriation.

23

1           (c) Duties of the state superintendent's study  
2 commission shall at minimum include the evaluation of at-  
3 risk prevention and intervention programs and providing  
4 guidance to the state superintendent on necessary program  
5 and policy changes for effective and equitable at-risk  
6 program delivery. In undertaking these assigned duties,  
7 the study committee shall:

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9           (i) Develop an operational definition of at-  
10 risk, using definitions at local, state and federal  
11 program-levels as guidance in establishing definitional  
12 components;

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14           (ii) Following the evaluation of at-risk  
15 programs including the identification of consistent and  
16 reliable measures of program effectiveness and the  
17 implementation of research-based strategy models, determine  
18 an equitable and effective standard for a continuum of  
19 learning support services for school districts in  
20 addressing at-risk student needs;

21

22           (iii) Evaluate the role of alternative schools  
23 and programs and the expected student outcomes from this

1 at-risk strategy, including the identification of entry and  
2 exit criteria and program effectiveness indicators;

3

4 (iv) Identify different programs appropriately  
5 provided through court ordered and institutionalized  
6 placements and develop standardized individual learning  
7 plans for each identified program as appropriate;

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9 (v) Within the court ordered and  
10 institutionalized placement policy, establish school  
11 district and institutional responsibilities tied to each  
12 placement as well as the responsibilities for the effective  
13 transition of each placement.

14

15 (d) Preliminary study recommendations shall be  
16 provided by the study committee to the state superintendent  
17 in sufficient time for submission of an initial report to  
18 the joint education interim committee on or before November  
19 1, 2008. Final study committee recommendations shall be  
20 completed and reported to the state superintendent by  
21 October 1, 2009, and the state superintendent shall submit  
22 a final report to the joint education interim committee on  
23 or before November 1, 2009. Findings shall be coordinated

1 with the allocation and use study effort initiated under  
2 2006 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 37, Section 8, and shall  
3 be in a form and of a substance to assist the 2010  
4 recalibration of the education resource block grant model.

5

6 **Section 2.**

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8 (a) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) is  
9 appropriated from the public school foundation program  
10 account to the department of education to fund the costs of  
11 the study committee established under Section 1 of this  
12 act. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning  
13 on the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010,  
14 and shall be expended only for necessary expenses incurred  
15 for the study committee and for necessary contractual  
16 services to obtain required analytical expertise in  
17 carrying out duties imposed under Section 1 of this act.

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19 (b) Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) is  
20 appropriated from the public school foundation program  
21 account to the department of education for an at-will  
22 employee position in accordance with W.S.  
23 9-2-1022(a)(xi)(F) to coordinate at-risk programs and

1 services statewide, as well as to assist the study  
2 committee established under Section 1 of this act. This  
3 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the  
4 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010.

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6 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon  
7 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
8 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
9 Constitution.

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11

(END)