

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0011

Distance education task force.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the study of distance education for
2 informing recalibration of the education resource block
3 grant model; establishing a task force; establishing
4 duties; requiring reporting; providing an appropriation;
5 and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

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11 (a) For the purpose of informing the 2015
12 recalibration of the education resource block grant model
13 required by W.S. 21-13-309(t), the department of education
14 shall convene a distance education task force comprised of
15 distance education professionals, members of the state
16 board of education, postsecondary educational personnel

1 from the University of Wyoming or a Wyoming community
2 college, school district personnel including but not
3 limited to superintendents, principals or other educational
4 leaders, technology directors, business managers and
5 teachers of distance education or distance education
6 combined with regular classroom instruction. The task force
7 shall consist of not more than eleven (11) members to be
8 appointed by the department.

9
10 (b) The task force shall review distance education
11 programs provided by or in cooperation with Wyoming school
12 districts to students in grades kindergarten through twelve
13 (12). The review shall include programs provided under
14 W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxi), 21-13-330, 21-20-201 and programs
15 using resources provided by the education resource block
16 grant model. The taskforce shall compile a report
17 containing recommendations for the following:

18
19 (i) Programmatic requirements for the delivery
20 of quality distance education programs statewide that
21 provide equal access and opportunity for all students
22 enrolled in a Wyoming school district;

1 (ii) Guidance to ensure compliance with
2 statewide education standards and student assessment and
3 accountability requirements under W.S. 21-2-202, 21-2-204,
4 21-2-304 and 21-9-101, including but not limited to data
5 collection requirements;

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7 (iii) In consultation with the professional
8 teaching standards board, professional certification
9 requirements for distance education instructors;

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11 (iv) Guidance to ensure compliance with the
12 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement
13 Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. 1400;

14
15 (v) Requirements for partnership agreements, if
16 necessary, for school districts electing to collaborate in
17 the delivery of a distance education program.

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19 **Section 2.** Commencing June 15, 2015, the department
20 shall provide monthly progress reports on the work of the
21 task force to the legislative service office. The
22 legislative service office shall provide the reports to the
23 appropriate legislative committees to ensure the progress

1 reports are incorporated into the 2015 block grant model
2 recalibration process. Not later than October 15, 2015,
3 the department shall provide a final report documenting the
4 recommendations of the taskforce to the legislative service
5 office for distribution to the appropriate legislative
6 committee.

7
8 **Section 3.** There is appropriated from the school
9 foundation program account to the department of education,
10 up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) for
11 the period beginning on the effective date of this act and
12 ending June 30, 2016. This appropriation shall be expended
13 only for professional consulting expertise and other
14 administrative costs necessary to support the work of the
15 distance education taskforce established under section 1 of
16 this act.

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18 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon
19 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
20 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
21 Constitution.

22
23 (END)