

Bill No.: SF0008 **Effective:** 3/9/2015

LSO No.: 15LSO-0141

Enrolled Act No.: SEA 87

Chapter No.: 179

Prime Sponsor: Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability

Catch Title: State education accountability and assessment.

Subject: Revision of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This bill modifies the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) in the following manner:
 - Refines Phase I (School Accountability) and requires a separate school accountability model for alternative schools;
 - Specifies additional details for Phase II (Teacher and Leader Accountability) and delays implementation, requiring leader evaluation begin in school year 2018-2019 and teacher evaluation begin in school year 2019-2020.
- This bill modifies the administration of the school district assessment system by requiring the State Board of Education to review each district's assessment system once every five (5) years on a staggered basis.
- The bill modifies the requirements for conferring a high school diploma by eliminating the endorsed diploma concept and utilizing course completion as the measure for issuing a high school diploma.
- The bill requires the State Board of Education to establish a taskforce to conduct a review and evaluation of the statewide assessment system and report recommendations to the Select Committee and Joint Education Interim Committee.
- The bill modifies administration of the job skills assessment, allowing it to be administered as an optional assessment in grades 11 and 12. This bill also modifies administration of the mandatory college entrance examination by allowing the State Superintendent to choose a date in a manner that best meets the needs of the students and school districts.

- The bill requires the Department of Education to immediately contract for services to provide a statewide system of support as required under the WAEA.
- The bill continues the operation of the Select Committee on Education Accountability and the Advisory Committee and requires the reports submitted to the Select Committee to also be submitted to the Joint Education Interim Committee. A joint meeting of the committees is also required to receive information related to Phase II, a recommendation for a school accountability model for alternative schools and the statewide student assessment recommendations.

Comments:

- Amends a major program: Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.
- Requires reports: Report to the Select Committee and the Joint Education Interim Committee by the State Board of Education on statewide assessment, report by the Department of Education on a recommendation for a school level performance model for alternative schools and requires a report on activities related to Phase II.
- Appropriates funds to LSO: \$35,000 for the expenses of the Select and Advisory Committees.
- Continues a Select Committee: Select Committee for Educational Accountability.