

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG



JILLIAN BALOW

Superintendent of Public Instruction

DICKY SHANOR

Chief of Staff

SHELLEY HAMEL

Chief Academic Officer

KARI EAKINS

Chief Policy Officer

TRENT CARROLL

Chief Operations Officer



CHEYENNE OFFICE

122 W. 25th St. Suite E200
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7675

RIVERTON OFFICE

320 West Main
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-9250



ON THE WEB

edu.wyoming.gov
twitter.com/WYOEduation
facebook.com/WYOEduation

To: Joint Education Interim Committee

From: Kari Eakins, Chief Policy Officer

Date: November 14-15, 2019

Subject: Department of Education Data Reporting

Background

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) made note of feedback provided at the September Joint Education Interim Committee (JEIC) meeting. A further examination of the specific data collections and elements was conducted following the meeting.

Data Collections Suggested for Elimination

- **WDE103:** Reimbursable Pupil Transportation Expenditures Report. The WDE reduced this collection from 74 elements to 15 with plans to combine the remainder of the collection with the WDE601 WISE Annual District Report in the next year, eliminating the WDE103.
- **WDE109:** Employer Retirement Contribution Reimbursement. The WDE recommends retaining this collection as it is more cost effective for the state. Pursuant to [2018 House Enrolled Act No. 0065](#), amounts were appropriated to the WDE to reimburse districts for retirement increases required by W.S. 9-3-412(a). Since then, districts are reimbursed for increased retirement contributions on actual salaries. If these contributions were applied to salaries generated in the funding model, the state would see a significant increase in funding per year.
- **WDE401:** Reimbursable Special Education Expenditures Report. The WDE suggests retaining this collection. The collection deadline for the WDE652 will be shifted one month to allow the WDE to use elements to pre-populate staff elements on the WDE401 in order to reduce the submission burden.
- **WDE602:** WISE School District Staff Member Collection. The WDE suggests retaining this collection. Data from this fall collection are used in the school foundation model and to verify teacher assignments for accreditation.

- **WDE614/WDE618:** Spring and Fall Reporting Certification Checklist. W.S.21-2-203(e)(i) requires district superintendents to certify their data collections are submitted, complete, and accurate. Preloaded files are provided for both collections. If the statute were repealed, the WDE would eliminate the two data collections, but continue to provide information to district superintendents about the status of data collection submissions.
- **WDE652:** WISE School District Staff Member Collection End of Year. The WDE suggests retaining this collection. This data is used to accurately calculate staff FTE, used in the school foundation model. This collection was created due to the high frequency of audit findings. The WDE602 and the WDE652 files have been identical since 2010 allowing districts to update their fall submission with any changes that occurred throughout the school year and resubmit. Preloaded files are provided for both collections.
- **WDE901:** School District Budget W.S. 16-4-109(b) and W.S. 16-4-111(d) require districts to submit annual budget documents to the department. If the statutes were repealed, all district budgets would not be available in a central location.

Additional Work to Reduce Data Burden

Other suggestions included eliminating elements from the education file such as teacher GPA. The WDE will continue to explore the feasibility of reducing staffing collection elements, work that will require data analysis and potential changes to WDE applications. WDE staff has been meeting with the Professional Teaching Standards Board to determine if there are elements in the education file collected by both agencies. These elements are used by contractors providing school foundation model analysis for the JEIC. Any recommended changes to the education file would need to be the result of a review by the Legislative Service Office.

The WDE works closely with the School Finance Data Advisory Committee (SFDAC). A process is in place to review all new collections and major collection changes with the committee prior to their adoption to receive district feedback. School districts are encouraged to reach out to their SFDAC representatives to submit ideas for the reduction of data burden.