



Opportunity Through Education

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To: Joint Appropriations Committee

From: Dicky Shanor, Chief of Staff
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Subject: Budget Hearing Follow-Up

The Wyoming Department of Education presented its 2023-2024 Biennium Budget Request to the Joint Appropriations Committee on December 13, 2021. Several requests for more information about specific budget units were made by the committee. Available information is provided below.

(1) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1210: After School Alliance

Chairman Perkins-are there issues with DFS licensing requirements?

We have spoken with DFS and know that they have had conversations recently with some after school programs about licensure requirements. We do not want to speak for them so we will focus on what we know from our work:

W.S. 14-4-102(a) requires centers serving school-age children to be licensed unless they meet a statutory exemption under W.S. 14-4-102 (b) (i-ix). One of the statutory exemptions that is applicable to After School Alliance programming is, "Child care facilities supervised by the state, and local government, school district, agency or political subdivision thereof." A program or facility that meets this definition does not need a child care license.

In a collaborative decision made by the DFS and WDE, it was determined that programs who receive Title IV Part B, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21stCCLC) funding are exempt from licensure due to WDE oversight and the associated health and safety supervision requirements incorporated in the 21stCCLC monitoring criteria. In addition, programs that receive federal child care assistance are required to meet basic health and safety standards regardless of licensure status.

(2) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1213: St. Stephens Indian School

Rep. Larsen-send St Stephens report to Tribal Relations.

W.S. 21-4-601 requires the joint business council of the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho Indian Tribes to annually report to the governor and the state superintendent of public instruction on the expenditure of contractual amounts. The 2019-20 report is available [here](#).

(3) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1259: Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services Admin

Chairman Perkins-Metrics for the SAMHSA grant.

Several metrics regarding the SAMHSA Project AWARE Grant are being tracked, including the number of students served (159), the number of clinical counseling hours (1,414), the student return rate (78%), the number of policy changes or creations (15), the number of district and behavioral health partner staff trained on evidence-based mental health and substance abuse practices (73), the number of district personnel trained in suicide prevention (521), and the number of students referred for services (354). This grant is partnered with Campbell #1, Fremont #1 and Park #1. In the first year of grant administration, all goals surrounding these metrics were either met or exceeded.

(4) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1261: Comprehensive Literacy State Development

Rep. Larsen-how are districts chosen for 43MM literacy grant how much going to early pre k, who is getting what?

The subgrants for Comprehensive Literacy State Development are awarded to districts on a competitive basis. Scoring includes federal requirements for preference to be given to districts considered “high-need” as determined by a combination of:

- Their location in a federally identified Opportunity Zone;
- The percentage of students entering kindergarten ready to read;
- The percentage of K-12 students meeting or exceeding literacy proficiency standards on the WYTOPP; and
- Literacy achievement gaps between student groups within the individual districts.

To date, every district that has applied for the subgrant has been funded. By federal requirement, each district receiving a subgrant must use funding to address needs identified through its grant proposal based on a 15/40/40 percent split for early childhood, elementary, and secondary levels respectively. Districts identify an early childhood education setting of their choice, which may be a district-hosted early childhood setting or a community setting. Districts may also choose to use the 15% identified for early childhood to provide training to early

childhood providers or other means to impact the early childhood setting within the district's geographic boundary.

- Round 1 Full-Grants:

Big Horn County School District #1	\$1,756,738
Big Horn County School District #4	\$233,750
Carbon County School District #1	\$797,901
Fremont County School District #1	\$656,247
Hot Springs County School District #1	\$432,500
Platte County School District #2	\$1,183,850
Uinta County School District #1	\$1,419,163
Weston County School District #1	\$355,957
Total	\$6,836,106

- Mini-grants:

Converse County School District #2	\$400,000
Fremont County School District #24	\$122,350
Goshen County School District #1	\$1,235,100
Laramie County School District #2	\$57,795
Lincoln County School District #1	\$50,000
Niobrara County School District #1	\$90,000
Park County School District #6	\$686,513
Park County School District #16	\$83,400
Platte County School District #1	\$710,500
Sheridan County School District #1	\$244,000
Sublette County School District #1	\$953,000
Sweetwater County School District # 1	\$869,638
Teton County School District #1	\$26,000
Uinta County School District #6	\$118,000
Total	\$5,646,296

(5) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1303: Vision Outreach Services

Rep. Larsen-VOS collaborate with health? Nicholas - are there duplicate services?

In Wyoming, all services typically provided by state agencies have been consolidated within the Vision Outreach Services at the Wyoming Department of Education. There is no duplication of services. Rather, VOS collaborates with other state agencies to address the needs of individuals with vision impairments they serve through state programs, eliminating the need for these state agencies to contract with vendors for most of these specialized services.

(6) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1329: Montgomery Trust Fund

Rep. Larsen-Montgomery Trust fund details?

The Trust was created through the Will of Roy Montgomery, a rancher and businessman from Campbell County, to “alleviate the condition of the blind and make their lives more comfortable and enjoyable.” Through a series of legislative actions and court reviews, oversight of the Montgomery Trust Fund currently rests with the WDE. Funds are allocated through a grant application process and driven by the recommendations of an advisory board as is required by state law.

(7) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1360: Homeless Education

Rep. Schwartz-McKinney Vento Numbers?

In the 2020-21 school year, 1,635 children and youth met the federal [McKinney-Vento definition](#) of homeless, meaning individuals who lack a fixed regular, and adequate nighttime residence. State and district-level data for the last five years is available [here](#).

(8) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1361: Title 1A

Rep. Larsen-Title 1A follow up on allocations by district?

The 2021-2022 Title 1A final allocations for Wyoming School Districts are available [here](#).

(9) Agency 206 Budget Unit 1366: Title 1 Neglected & Delinquent - Sub Part 1

Rep. Larsen-Title 1D and corrections?

The 2021-22 Title 1D Subpart 1 final allocations for Wyoming are available [here](#).

(10) Agency 205 Budget Unit 4101: Foundation Basic

Chairman Nicholas-curious about cost and performance of virtual students?

An update on virtual education was provided to the Joint Education Interim Committee in June. [This memo](#) provides information on instructional delivery methods and definitions, virtual education programs, performance data, and best practices.

Chairman Nicholas-school open and closing data during covid?

In the spring of 2020, all school buildings in Wyoming were ordered closed and schools completed the school year with remote instruction. In the fall of 2020, 43 of 48 school districts opened to full-time in-person instruction, two districts opened to hybrid instruction, and three districts were fully remote due to health orders on the Wind River Indian Reservation. In November 2020, three school districts had schools with COVID outbreaks shift temporarily to remote instruction for one to two weeks before returning to in-person instruction. In February 2021, three districts shifted from fully remote to hybrid instruction. In March 2021, one of the hybrid districts switched to full-time in-person instruction. In the spring of 2021, 44 districts offered full-time in-person instruction and the remaining four districts offered hybrid instruction.

(11) Agency 205 Budget Unit 4201: Court Ordered Placements

Rep. Schwartz-COMPS pre and post covid numbers? Rep. Larsen-how much are contracted special services costing around the state?

The WDE contracts with Guidehouse Consulting for the determination of daily tuition rates paid to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF), Residential Treatment Facilities (RTC), and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for education and related services provided to students placed under court order or medical necessity.

The WDE daily education rates are provider specific and are calculated annually based on reported allowable education costs from each facility. The WDE also pays for related services that are prescribed on a student’s Individualized Education Program. Related services rates typically follow the Wyoming Medicaid rate schedule. Room and board costs for court order placements are covered by the Wyoming Department of Family Services through a daily per diem amount.

PRTF, RTCs, and BOCES also contract directly with school districts and families at negotiated amounts specific to the circumstances of each placement.

<i>WDE COMPS Placement Counts</i>				<i>WDE COMPS Expenditures</i>			
Facility Type	FY19	FY20	FY21	Facility Type	FY19	FY20	FY21
PRTF	288	241	184	PRTF	2,229,540	2,263,081	2,028,658
RTC	176	179	163	RTC	2,426,224	2,754,424	2,068,076
BOCES	16	23	21	BOCES	1,361,001	1,519,854	1,363,855
Total	480	443	368	Total	\$6,016,765	\$6,537,358	\$5,460,589

In State	385	381	299	In State	\$5,416,679	\$6,197,476	\$5,176,517
Out of State	95	62	69	Out of State	\$600,086	\$339,882	\$284,072
Total Student Count	271	253	204				

<i>WDE 401 Special Education Reimbursement - Out of District Placements</i>			
	FY19	FY20	FY21
Total Expenditures	\$16,184,223.00	\$14,904,914.00	\$11,680,863.00