



WYOMING SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

School Board Memo

Week of January 8, 2018 – Happy New Year!!



National Committee Appointment

Janice Marshall, Past President of WSBA, has been appointed to the 2018 NSBA Policies and Resolutions Committee. One representative from each of the five regions nationally are appointed by the NSBA President, Kevin Ciak.

New Board Member

Sherman Skelton has been appointed to the **Hot Springs County School District Board of Trustees** to fill vacancy left by resignation of trustee, **Tobi Johansen**. Mr. Skelton will serve on the board through November, 2018.

National Award

Shannon Hill, a PE and health teacher for **Thermopolis Middle School (Hot Springs County School District No. 1)**, has received a Milken Family Foundation Educator Award. Hill was named a 2017-18 recipient of the national recognition, which comes with an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. She is the only Milken Educator Award winner from Wyoming this year, and is among the 44 honorees for 2017-18. Shannon is in her sixth year teaching at Thermopolis Middle School. For more information please click [here](#).

WSBA Board Training Workshops

WSBA invites all Wyoming school board members and superintendents to our annual Winter Board Workshops to be held January 13th in Riverton and January 20th in Casper. This year focuses on school board leadership and teamwork. We will be utilizing the model from Kouzes & Posner's Leadership Challenge. Participants will learn about what makes an effective leader, how that leadership aligns with the Key Work of School Boards, and how to build an effective team around these leadership practices. The workshops will be informational and interactive. You will learn some exercises that will both give you insight into yourself and can be done with your board at home as you build your local leadership team. A flyer is posted on the WSBA website (www.wsba-wy.org).

WSBA Legislative Forum

The 2018 WSBA Legislative Forum and Reception will be held on Sunday, February 25th at Cheyenne Little America. Board members, superintendents, WSBA Advocacy Liaisons and other administrators can make a difference in the political process. Here is your opportunity to hear and give input on the latest legislative issues likely to have an impact on your school district! Please click [here](#) to see flyer.

Superintendent Balow Appointed Treasurer of Education Commission of the States

State Superintendent Jillian Balow has been appointed Treasurer of [Education Commission of the States](#), a nonprofit organization that serves as a partner to state policymakers across the 50 states, District of Columbia and territories.

Superintendent Balow is the first person from Wyoming to serve on the Executive Committee of Education Commission of the States (ECS) since Governor Jim Geringer chaired the commission from 1999-2000.

Wyoming K-12 Enrollment Decreases

Fall K-12 enrollment data for Wyoming public schools for the 2017-18 school year is [available online](#). Fall 2017 enrollment fell 0.3 percent to 92,976 students from 93,261 in the fall of 2016. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has prepared several reports that break down the enrollment statistics:

- [Historical Fall Enrollment since school year 1991-92](#)
- [Districts ranked by enrollment total](#)
- [Districts ranked by enrollment per grade](#)
- [District demographics](#)

This data was gathered from all school districts throughout the state in a snapshot performed on October 2, 2017.

Public Comment Open on Proposed Virtual Education Rules

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) seeks public comment on the [Chapter 41 Rules: Virtual Education](#). These rules establish the minimum requirements that districts must meet to provide part-time or full-time virtual education to Wyoming students.

The rules are being revised following the passage of SEA0057 during the 2017 Legislative Session. The revisions include a methodology for counting the number of students participating in virtual education programs, and updates to several definitions and processes surrounding virtual education. A full rationale for the revisions can be found in the [Statement of Reasons](#).

Public comment on the proposed rules is open through February 18, 2018, and may be submitted [online](#) or mailed to: Wyoming Department of Education, Attn: Lori Thilmany, 2300 Capitol Avenue, 2nd Floor, Cheyenne WY 82002

All public comments will be recorded, filed and posted on the [Secretary of State website](#) as part of the rules promulgation process

High School Girls CyberStart Challenge

Governor Matt Mead has announced the “High School Girls CyberStart Challenge” – a Cybersecurity initiative sponsored by the SANS Institute. SANS is a trusted and significant source for information security training and security certification in the world.

The competition is open to Wyoming high school junior or senior girls who are at least 16 years old.

Contestants will learn cybersecurity skills and test their aptitude through a no-cost online game of discovery called CyberStart. For more information and to get started playing CyberStart, please visit,

ets.wyo.gov/CyberStart

[Wyoming Economic Summary Report](#)

A new edition of the Wyoming Economic Summary Report is now available. This quarterly publication highlights the State's economic conditions. The economic indicators that are discussed and graphically illustrated include employment by industry, income, housing, taxable sales, tourism, agriculture, and selected revenue. The current report highlights data for the third quarter of 2017 (3Q17). Please click [here](#) for report.

[NSBA Survey](#)

The National School Boards Association is conducting a survey of school board members and superintendents that will make NSBA a better advocate for all of states in Washington DC. This survey hasn't been conducted for seven years, so please complete the survey so that Wyoming is well represented in the results. Thank you. Please click [here](#) to take survey.

[Legislative Meetings](#)

Joint Appropriations Committee will the second and third weeks of January, 2018 in Cheyenne.

[Meeting Notice](#) [Listen Live](#)

Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration will meet on January 29-30, 2018 in Cheyenne.

[Meeting Notice](#)

Joint Revenue Committee will meet on January 31, 2018 in Cheyenne. [Meeting Notice](#) [Agenda](#)

[Wyoming Population](#)

Wyoming's population has dropped for the second consecutive year, according to data released Wednesday by the state's Economic Analysis Division. In total, the state has lost 6,649 residents since the energy industry tanked in 2015. The Cowboy State lost 5,595 residents between July 2016 and July 2017, a 1 percent drop. That is the largest decline in Wyoming since 1989 and well below neighboring states like Idaho, which saw the largest population increase in the nation last year at 2.2 percent. In all, 8,300 more people left Wyoming than moved to the state over the last year but new births meant that the total loss of population was less than that. Please click [here](#) for full release.

[Net Neutrality Could Hamper School Technology Programs](#)

The [Seventy Four](#) (12/17) reports that education leaders say the FCC's recent vote to "roll back regulations that prevent internet service providers from blocking or prioritizing certain online content" could hurt schools efforts to use technology in the classroom. According to International Society for Technology in Education CEO Richard Culatta, "students, teachers, and researchers are among those who could take a hit...as public schools may be forced to pay steeper bills and startup education technology companies could struggle to compete."

[Special Education and Transition Planning](#)

The [Hechinger Report](#) (12/16) reports that public schools "are legally obligated to create meaningful post-schooling plans for students with disabilities as part of their Individualized Education Programs." However, often schools fail to prepare students "for higher education or a career." The experiences of students who wind up underemployed after high school show "how important legally mandated transition plans and services are — and demonstrates how hard it is to do them right for all students." The piece reports that "parents, students, advocates and experts across the country" say "transition planning and services are largely neglected. Students with disabilities who could pursue higher education or meaningful employment are instead living at home and working low-wage jobs."

Personal Finance Education Offerings

The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, Strauss) reports the Champlain College Center for Financial Literacy issued “a new [report card](#) grading the U.S. states and the District of Columbia on personal finance education offerings in high school” that found “22 percent earned F’s in 2017.” Only Alabama, Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia, and Utah received A’s. The so-called “National Report Card on State Efforts to Improve Financial Literacy in High Schools” – the third and latest report card released by the center – showed only a slight improvement from the grades it granted in 2015, “when 24 percent of states and the District earned an F.” The report card also underscores the Council for Economic Education’s 2016 [Survey of the States](#), which found “slow growth in personal finance education in recent years and no improvement in economic education.”

News Articles

Does your district have news worthy of statewide interest? If so, please email your news articles to wsba@wsba-wy.org. The articles will be included in the next weekly WSBA Memo.

WSBA Partners

Arthur J. Gallagher & Company – www.ajg.com, **BoardDocs** – www.boarddocs.com, **George K. Baum & Company** – www.gkbaum.com, **HUB International Mountain States LTD** – www.hubinternational.com, **Long Building Technologies** – www.long.com, **NE Wyoming BOCES CO-OP** – www.newboces.com, **Software Unlimited, Inc.** – www.su-inc.com

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