WYOMING SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

School Board Memo

NAEP Nation's Report Card

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has released the state's reading and mathematics results from the 2017 National Assessment of Education Progress Report. Overall, Wyoming's fourth and eighth grade students in 2017 continue to outperform national average test scores in reading and mathematics.

No state performed above Wyoming's average NAEP score in grade four mathematics in 2017 (in 2015, two states had higher grade four math scores). Additionally, Wyoming was one of only six states with over 50 percent of students in the sample scoring proficient or advanced in grade four mathematics.

Another bright spot in the new results was an increase in grade eight mathematics scores for the state's Native American students; their increased performance in mathematics during 2017 significantly reduced the achievement gap between Native American and White students in Wyoming as previously reported in 2015.

Overall, average reading and mathematics scores in Wyoming for both grades four and eight were statistically unchanged from NAEP results reported in 2015. Similarly, over the four-year reporting period from 2013 to 2017, Wyoming results in reading and mathematics at both grades were statistically flat or unchanged.

For more details on Wyoming's 2017 NAEP results and click the "2017 NAEP" button.

How Schools Have Successfully Prevented Violence

To improve student safety, districts can learn lessons from schools that have successfully stopped acts of violence, write three school-safety experts. Read more.

ESSA Implementation

[Education Week](#) (4/4) runs a package of stories titled "ESSA on the Runway" which "analyzes the state of ESSA implementation on the eve of the law's operational debut, from teaching and testing to the political pain points that may shape just how successful that rollout proves to be. This report takes a multifaceted look at just how ready those states, districts, and schools are to bringing ESSA's changes in for a successful landing when the law goes into full effect for the 2018-19 school year." Topics include how the law [is moving from "policy to practice](#) (4/4)," The difficulty states are facing in meeting the [requirement to back up school improvement efforts with research](#) (4/4), new [school assessment metrics](#) (4/4), and most states' [failure to avail themselves of testing flexibility](#) (4/4) under the law.

A Primer on Visible Trends, Initiatives in K-12 Education

In a perspective piece for the "On Parenting" feature of the [Washington Post](#)'s (4/3) Lifestyle section, freelance writer and illustrator James Paterson writes "a primer about some of the most visible initiatives and trends in K-12 education." These include: prioritizing "a trauma-informed approach" to helping students recover from "bullying and violent incidents," adopting "restorative justice practices for disciplinary infractions," shifting toward "learner-centered and personalized approaches" to teaching, implementing "new methods of assessing students," introducing project-based learning, "reversing lecture and homework time," adopting flexible seating techniques, and overworked school counselors teaching new problem-solving skills to students.

Boot Up Wyoming

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) announced today the launch of Boot Up Wyoming 2022, an initiative to implement computer science in all Wyoming schools.
Boot Up Wyoming 2022 will focus on analyzing the costs and district needs to offer computer science, ensuring teachers are trained to teach the subject, and facilitating the development of statewide standards for promulgation by the State Board of Education (SBE).
WDE staff will visit all 48 school districts over the next six months in order to thoroughly analyze all changes and costs necessary to implement computer science. Each visit will include meetings with the district's superintendent, curriculum director, business manager, tech director, principals, computer science teachers, and any other personnel that the district deems necessary.
The WDE hosts webinars on the first and third Wednesday of each month on the creation and development of computer science programs. Each meeting highlights an industry partner and a Wyoming school district. Details are available [here](#).
The Computer Science Standards Review Committee will begin meeting in the summer of 2018, with 2-6 days of meetings through the fall, and additional meetings as necessary throughout the next year. Any educators, community members, parents, or industry partners interested in serving on the committee should complete the [Call for Participants Survey](#) by May 14, 2018. Completing this survey expresses interest in participating, though it does not commit anyone to serve on the committee.

In addition, the WDE and SBE seek input on the development of the standards for the committee to review as they begin the development process. Input can be given [online](#) through June 3, 2018 or at regional community meetings from 6-8 p.m. at the following locations:
- May 14, Central Admin. Building, 665 N. Tyler Street, Pinedale
- May 15, Park #1 Support Services Building, 245 N. Evarts Street, Powell
- May 15, Central Admin. Building, 3500 Foothill Blvd., Rock Springs
- May 16, Central Admin. Building, 201 N. Connor Street, Sheridan
- May 16, Laramie #1 Storey Gym, 2811 House Avenue, Cheyenne
- May 17, Natrona #1 Central Services Facility, 970 N. Glenn Road, Casper

No-Cost Professional Development

The University of Wyoming College of Education is offering a new, no-cost professional development (PD) opportunity to Wyoming schools grades four through eight. This offering is focused on exploring the symbolic representations inherent in statistics and probability, as well as graphical literacies, which cut across disciplinary areas, including social studies or science. The goal of the project is to demonstrate an increase in teacher understandings of both graphical and probabilistic/statistical literacies in their appropriate grade levels. To learn more please click here or contact Linda Hutchison at lhutch@uwyo.edu.

WSBA BoardDocs Pro Upgrade

WSBA BoardDocs participants will receive special pricing on BoardDocs Pro if upgrade by August 31, 2018. Take meeting management to the next level with the most robust board management tool available. Designed to fit the needs of school boards, BoardDocs Pro is faster, better and more cost effective. Some features include advanced document workflow with electronic approvals from an unlimited number of document submitters, integrated strategic plan and goal tracking, automatic generation of minutes and live meeting control panel for all board actions and integrated private annotations for executive users. Learn more by going to www.boarddocs.com or calling 1.800.407.0141.

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

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