

Joint Education Committee Interim Topics

Standard Budget: \$40,000.00

Priority #: 1 Community Colleges

The Committee will receive reports required by several laws enacted during the 2019 General Session regarding the community colleges, including reports on applied baccalaureate programs implemented or planned at community colleges and the evaluation of the financial impacts to the community colleges and the state of Wyoming implementing applied baccalaureate programs (2019 SF 0111) and ensuring the transparency of the funding. The Committee will request the Wyoming Community College Commission provide an overview of the community college funding formula to understand how colleges are funded and what impact applied baccalaureate programs and the Wyoming Works Program (2019 SF 0122) will have on the funding model in future years. The Committee will also receive an update on the electronic common transcript and transfer process system (2019 HB 0204) and a report on the administration of the statewide longitudinal education data system (2019 HB 0001).

Priority #: 2 School Finance

The Committee will make a recommendation to the Joint Appropriations Committee regarding an external cost adjustment to the K-12 education resource block grant model (funding model) for fiscal year 2021 pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309(o) and (u). Additionally, the Committee will study the funding model's transportation and special education components. The Committee will request the Department of Education update the Committee on the promulgation of rules related to the transportation component of the funding model as a result of amendments made to the transportation component through 2019 HB 0308. Finally, the Committee will request the Department of Education report on school district special education expenditures from school year 2018-19 and the implementation of the statewide funding model expenditure cap and out-of-district placement appropriation for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years (2018 HB 140).

Priority #: 3 K-12 Education Government Efficiency Commission Recommendations

The Committee will study two recommendations from the Government Efficiency Commission related to K-12 education. The first recommendation is to amend the State's Medicaid plan for special education. The Department of Health is directed through the 2019 budget bill, Section 344 (2019 HB 0001) to negotiate an amendment to the State's Medicaid plan to include services authorized for special education beginning school year 2020-21. The Committee will request the Departments of Education and Health provide status updates on the progress of amending the Medicaid plan and provide assistance to the Committee in implementing this across school districts and the respective state agencies. The second recommendation is related to K-12 shared services. The Committee will request school districts, the Department of Education and the State's efficiency contractor, Alvarez and Marsal to provide additional information on this topic and tangible recommendations on how to implement this efficiency recommendation. The Committee will review the Alvarez and Marsal reports and additional information provided by school districts and state agencies.

Priority #: 4 Department of Education Data Collection and Reporting Requirements

The Committee will request the Department of Education provide information related to data collection and reporting requirements of school districts and other entities across the state and the potential to remove redundant reports. This topic is also related to the Wyoming Community College Commission’s requirement to report on the statewide longitudinal education data system. During the 2019 General Session, many inquiries were made related to this topic and it warrants further discussion. The Committee will provide a report to the Joint Appropriations Committee related to any financial impacts to the Department of Education’s FY 2020-2021 biennial budget regarding this topic.

Priority #: 5 K-12 Education Program

The Committee will study the K-12 education program and request the Department of Education and State Board of Education provide information in the following areas: 1) civic education standards, 2) K-3 reading and early childhood education (2019 HB 297), and 3) monitoring of the State Board of Education’s implementation of computer science standards. During the 2019 General Session, HB 0129 and SF 0143 explored the possibility of requiring a civics proficiency exam and the Committee will study this concept further. The Management Council also requests the Committee to convene a task force composed of an equal number of school board trustees, superintendents, curriculum directors, elementary principals, and elementary level educators and parents to report to the Committee by October 1, 2021 regarding K-3; the task force members would receive no compensation.

Priority #: 6 Hathaway Scholarship Award Amounts

The Committee will study the Hathaway Scholarship award amounts and consider options on how to increase award amounts. The Committee will also review the Hathaway accounts and the potential fiscal impact of increases in award amounts and report any recommendations to the Select Committee on Capital Financing and Investments no later than September 30. During the 2019 General Session, HB 0132 proposed a five percent increase to current award amounts.

Committee Meeting Dates:

June 5 – 6, 2019	Casper, WY	Oil and Gas Commission
September 26 –27, 2019	Cody, WY	TBA
November 14 – 15, 2019	Cheyenne, WY	TBA