



School Board Memo

Week of October 12, 2020



WSBA 2020 Annual Conference Will Be Virtual

With great consideration the decision has been made to move the 2020 WSBA Annual Conference to a virtual format. Issues considered included hotel meeting room capacity, safety, cost, and equitable opportunities for all school board members. Please keep the Conference dates marked on your calendars, **Wednesday afternoon, November 18th through Friday morning, November 20th**. Conference activities will include Delegate Assembly, a General Session with a keynote speaker and a General Session with legal update, legislative update, and any other business. Additional information will be available as planning on this event progresses. We look forward to sharing time with you in November!

The COVID-19 Child Care Relief Program

The Department of Family Services (DFS) has been allocated \$1.5 million in Wyoming CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funds to provide relief to families who experienced an increase in child care expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning October 1, residents who experienced an increase in child care expenses as a result of the COVID-19 child care/school closures will be able to apply for financial relief. Examples of increased child care expenses may include, but are not limited to: additional or unanticipated child care expenses for children who would have otherwise been attending school; child care holding fees to secure spots at child care facilities during the closures, or additional/alternative care for children while parents/guardians were working, attending school or training. The COVID-19 Child Care Relief Program is not based on income eligibility. Applicants must be Wyoming residents and demonstrate an increase in child care expenses between March 13, 2020 through present. The program will be available starting October 1, 2020 and will operate while funding is available or until December 30, 2020, whichever occurs first. For more information, please visit <https://dfs.wyo.gov/wyoming-child-care-relief-program/>, <https://childcarerelief.wyo.gov/> or call (307) 777-5819.

Dispatches From Education's Front Lines

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6) reports that "across America, the coronavirus pandemic has rewritten the syllabus for the 2020-2021 school year." Teachers "are facing formidable challenges, whether educating students in masked-up, socially distant classrooms or virtually, from computer screens." The Post publishes a 7,000-word piece what some teachers "had to say about their experience as the school year began."

[WSBA 2020 Leadership Development Series](#)

Due to the current public health orders and conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided that we will not hold in-person WSBA Regional Meetings this year. Instead, we will be hosting the [WSBA Leadership Development Series](#), a sequence of open virtual discussion and information sessions on a variety of topics of interest to Wyoming school board members. This series will be hosted on Zoom on select Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm, with repeat sessions available the following Thursday at 12:00 noon. These sessions will be open to any school board member, superintendent, or invited guest who wishes to attend.

October 21/22 Session – School District Communication – Click below to register:

[Wednesday 5:00 pm](#) [Thursday 12:00 noon](#)

[Legislative Meetings](#)

Select Committee on School Facilities: October 21, 2020, [Meeting Materials](#) (Updated October 7, 2020)

[Public Comment Form](#) (Updated October 13, 2020)

Joint Appropriations Committee: October 26-27, 2020, [Meeting Materials](#) (Updated 10/12/2020)

Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration: October 28-30, 2020, [Meeting Materials](#) (Updated October 1, 2020)



**MODERN
GOVERNANCE
100**
COMMUNITY BOARDS

Nominations are Open

Diligent's Modern Governance 100 Community Boards program provides a first-ever opportunity for superintendents and publicly elected officials to recognize board teams and board members, board secretaries, and board clerks for their commitment to supporting their local community and driving positive change. During unprecedented times, this vital work takes on an added layer of significance. As stewards of modern governance, these individuals excel in their role – even in times of uncertainty. They are forward thinkers who go above and beyond to ensure continuity and enable effective (now virtual) board meetings and governance practices. They are working countless hours, monitoring health data, learning levels, service offerings, and much more, to ensure the safety and well-being of their communities and school districts. They encourage their organizations and communities to use best practices in modern governance and are constantly looking for ways to help them thrive as the world adjusts to a new normal.

[Nominate Now](#)

[NASSP Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#)

The National Association of Secondary School Principals is now accepting applications for the **2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards**, in partnership with Prudential Financial. The program honors middle level and high school students for making meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteer service. Applications for 2020 awards are now open to students in grades 5-12 who have volunteered in the past year. More information can be found online at <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

WDE Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Computer Science Performance Standards and Math Extended Standards

The Wyoming Department of Education seeks public comment on the proposed Chapter 10 Rules, which include the proposed 2020 Computer Science Performance Standards and 2020 Math Extended Standards. Public comment may be submitted [online](#), in person, or via mail, October 2-November 30, 2020. The standards documents and proposed Chapter 10 Rules can be found on the [Standards Review](#) webpage and at the links below:

- [Proposed Chapter 10 Rules](#)
- [Proposed 2020 Computer Science Performance Standards](#)
- [Proposed 2020 Math Extended Standards](#)

Send written comments to Barb Marquer, Wyoming Department of Education, 122 W 25th St, Cheyenne WY 82002. All public comments will be recorded verbatim, including the submitter's name and city of residence, on the [Secretary of State website](#) as part of the rules promulgation process.

COVID-19

WSBA is sharing as much information as possible to school districts as the information is updated. Please check the WSBA [website](#) and look for emails from Brian Farmer and Julie Magee that are shared with district offices and board chairs. It is a challenging time.

Governor Mark Gordon has made it easy to see how the state is utilizing federal dollars awarded to Wyoming through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The Governor has added a [dedicated page to the Wyoming Sense budget transparency website](#) that illustrates how CARES Act funds are being distributed.

News Articles

Does your district have newsworthy 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, **Horace Mann Companies** – www.horacemann.com, **HUB International Mountain States LTD** – www.hubinternational.com, **Long Building Technologies** – www.long.com, **Pine Cove Consulting** – www.pinecc.com, **Software Unlimited, Inc.** – www.su-inc.com

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