



School Board Memo

Week of September 14, 2020



WSBA Special Listening Session With Governor Gordon

Wyoming school board members are invited to attend a special virtual listening session with Governor Mark Gordon to share your observations, thoughts, and concerns regarding the opening of our schools under the COVID-19 pandemic. **This session is only open to local school board members** and is intended to provide a forum for you to share how things are going in your district since the start of this school year. The session is scheduled on Wednesday, September 16th at 10:00 a.m. Please register [here](#).

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.

September 23/24 Session – Fall Legislative Update – Click below to register:

[Wednesday 5:00 pm](#)

[Thursday 12:00 noon](#)

Wyoming History Teacher of the Year

Shannon Hall, a teacher at **Johnson Junior High School** in Cheyenne (**Laramie County School District No. 1**), has been named the 2020 Wyoming History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The Institute recognizes one exceptional K-12 American History teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and U.S. territories. The award highlights the importance of history education and the teachers who teach it.

NSBA Adopts Resolutions and Beliefs & Policies

The Resolutions and Beliefs & Policies, adopted at the 2020 NSBA Virtual Delegate Assembly on August 14, 2020 have been posted to NSBA's website "[About Us](#)" page.

Straight Talk in Financially Uncertain Times

In 2018, researchers at Georgetown University's Edunomics Lab worked with Edge Research to learn how district staff, principals, teachers, and parents engage with and react to information about district finances. Reinforcing findings from earlier interviews conducted by The Winston Group, the authors uncovered lessons for district leaders when it comes to engaging their staff and communities on the topic. Here the authors adapt those lessons for the current context to help leaders connect on finance in a way that cultivates transparency and trust. [Read report.](#)

How Students Find Strength Now

View the Education Week special opinion project "[How Students Find Strength Now.](#)" In the face of the pandemic, racial injustice, and trauma, young people are displaying inner reserve, resiliency, self-regulation, leadership, service, and citizenship in ways that no one could have anticipated. In these essays and videos educators, students, and researchers explore how students have carved their own paths in recent months.

Wyoming Insight

The August 2020 issue of the [Wyoming Insight](#) is available at the State of Wyoming's Economic Analysis Division website <http://eadiv.state.wy.us/>. The Wyoming Insight serves as an energy index and business indicators report for the state.

Legislative Meetings

Select Committee on School Facilities: October 21, 2020, [Tentative Meeting Notice](#)
Appropriations Committee: October 26-27, 2020, [Tentative Meeting Notice](#)

Quality Counts 2020: Grading the States

As the 2020-21 school year opens amid the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption, this third and final installment of [Quality Counts 2020](#) delivers a data-driven portrait of the nation's school system along with A-F grades and rankings for each state on a wide range of academic, school finance, and socioeconomic indicators. Also, in this report, an exclusive [Coronavirus Learning Loss Risk Index](#) using recent U.S. Census Bureau data to weigh states' educational vulnerability in key areas, in addition to the first full update of Quality Counts' K-12 Achievement Index since 2018.

ECHO in Education Professional Development Sessions Starting Soon

UW ECHO Education networks will continue to run as scheduled. Any changes in operation that are required by the University of Wyoming in response to COVID-19 will minimally impact the delivery of Project ECHO. 2020-2021 Networks: [Assistive Technology](#), [Autism for Educators](#), [Early Childhood](#), [Families](#), [Student Health](#). Register for individual sessions or the entire Fall 2020 series. Registration links are posted on each network's webpage.

Virtual Wyoming Education Summit

Education professionals are invited to the virtual [Wyoming Education Summit](#), a two-day learning opportunity on September 21-22, 2020. This is an in-depth exploration into education leadership, instruction, virtual learning, social and emotional learning (SEL) - and the annual Wyoming Teacher of the Year award. education professionals to the Wyoming Education Summit, a two-day learning opportunity on September 21-22, 2020. This is an in-depth exploration into education leadership, instruction, virtual learning, social and emotional learning (SEL) - and the annual Wyoming Teacher of the Year award. PTSB and UW credit will be offered to those interested.



The U.S. Census Bureau's STOP THE KNOCK campaign is underway. It's an effort to encourage Wyomingites to respond to the Census now to lessen the possibility of a Census employee knocking on their door this month to obtain Census responses. Census takers will soon begin knocking on doors to follow up with households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. The door-to-door operation is scheduled to end on [September 30](#). Households can still respond now by completing and mailing back the [paper questionnaire](#) they received, by responding online at [2020census.gov](#), or by phone at 844-330-2020. Households can also respond [online](#) or by [phone](#). As of today, **60.0%** of Wyomingites have responded to the 2020 Census. The current deadline for households to respond [has been extended](#) to **October 31, 2020**.

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. The CARES Act spending page breaks down spending into nine categories: Economic/Business Relief (\$327.3M); Education Resilience (\$110.5M); Broadband and Communications Infrastructure (\$100M); Testing and Contact Tracing (\$60M); Unemployment and Workers Compensation (\$42.2M); Local Governments (\$35.9M); Eviction Prevention and Support (\$15M); State Agencies COVID Response (\$12.2M); and Judicial and Legislative Branches (\$7M).

The page, <https://www.wyomingsense.gov/cares-act>, includes additional details on each category, along with helpful links and additional resources. It will be updated regularly as additional funds are allocated.

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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