



WYOMING SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION



School Board Memo

Week of September 19, 2022

Blue Ribbon Schools

Two Wyoming schools are among the 297 nationwide recognized as [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) by the U.S. Department of Education - **Washington Elementary School in Green River (Sweetwater County School District No. 2)** and **Henry A. Coffeen Elementary School in Sheridan (Sheridan County School District No. 2)**. Based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates, the Department of Education recognizes schools in one of two performance categories:

- Exemplary High-Performing Schools are among their states' highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap–Closing Schools are among their states' highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

2021-22 School Performance Ratings

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has released its school accountability results for the 2021-22 school year after a two-year hiatus from reporting. The 2018-19 determinations were held constant during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. Full results are available [online](#). Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 50% of traditional schools were able to maintain their level of school performance. Additionally, 20% were able to increase their school performance rating. As our state and education system continues to recover, more support and resources are available, as 30% of Wyoming schools are performing at a lower level compared to pre-pandemic levels. School performance is evaluated on a combination of student performance indicators, including academic achievement, equity and growth based on the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP), the state assessment. Additional indicators for high schools include post-secondary readiness and graduation rates.

Legislative Meetings

Joint Education Committee: [Meeting Notice & Agenda](#), October 10, 2022

Joint Education Committee, Joint Appropriations Committee: [Joint Meeting Notice & Agenda](#), October 10, 2022

Select Committee on School Facilities: [Meeting Notice](#), October 19-20, 2022

2022 WY-TOPP Assessment Results

Results for the fourth administration of the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP) are now available [online](#). For the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP) and the Wyoming Alternate Assessment (WY-ALT), results indicate areas of growth in proficiency rates at individual grade levels within each content area. Overall student proficiency rates decreased in English Language Arts (ELA) by 0.80%, increased in Math by 0.30%, and decreased in Science by 0.10% compared to the results for 2021.

School Board Member Training Points

The WSBA office will compile points for school board members to present awards at the 2022 WSBA Annual Conference through the end of September. If board members have attended events that might count as training points (other than WSBA sponsored workshops/meetings) please let the WSBA office know in the next few weeks by emailing wsba@wsba-wy.org. Thank you!

Daniels Fund Scholarships

The Daniels Fund has announced that Wyoming high school seniors can apply to become a 2023 Daniels Scholar and get up to \$100,000 toward a college degree. The Daniels Fund awarded scholarships to 41 Wyoming students who graduated in the 2021–22 school year and has provided over \$235 million in scholarships to Wyoming students since 2000. Students interested in the opportunity can apply at DanielsFund.org/Scholarships. The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Saturday, October 15, 2022.

2022 Governor's Mental Health Summit

Encompassing a holistic approach, Governor Gordon, alongside members of the Legislative and Judicial branches, is set to discuss the state of mental health in Wyoming during the 2022 Governor's Mental Health Summit on October 11, 2022 in Casper. Bringing together various perspectives from community partners, private providers and state leaders, panel discussions will highlight current efforts and the development of a common agenda for addressing mental health and substance abuse in Wyoming. The keynote speaker, Dr. Rob Anda, developer of the Adverse Childhood Experiences research and founder of ACE Interface, will lead a panel discussion highlighting the importance of establishing trauma-responsive communities. With support from the Hughes Charitable Foundation and Align, the summit is free of charge and open to anyone with an interest in learning how we can collectively move forward to improve mental health for all Wyoming residents. Attendees are requested to register at <https://bit.ly/governors-mh-summit>.

2022 Wyoming Suicide Prevention Symposium

As Wyoming deals with the nation's highest suicide rate, the Wyoming Department of Health is asking teachers, law enforcement representatives, clinicians, loss survivors and community members to consider attending the **2022 Wyoming Suicide Prevention Symposium** in Cheyenne. The two-day symposium is **free** to attend and will begin at 8 a.m. Monday, September 26th at the Little America Resort. The upcoming symposium aims to explore what can be done to help Wyoming communities prevent suicide and will include discussion of trends, substance use and suicide loss. Please click [here](#) for more information and registration.

WSBA Regional Meetings

Here is a [link](#) to the schedule for the 2022 WSBA Regional Meetings (aka Fall Round-Up). A light supper will be provided from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will conclude at 7:30 p.m. Please fill out [this short registration form](#) to ensure each host site has an accurate count of who will be attending.

Request for Input on University of Wyoming's New Strategic Plan

The University of Wyoming seeking feedback from Wyoming school board members on the [University's strategic planning process](#). As a key stakeholder group, school board members have insight into the role the University can play and the benefits they can provide for graduates of Wyoming high schools. We encourage you, as school board members, to complete the [survey](#) and weigh in as UW works on their strategic plan. Feedback can also be provided by [email](#), A 45-55 minute Zoom session or conference call with your board to discuss your take on the plan's high-level direction or a 45-55 minute in-person consultation with your board. The deadline to provide feedback to the plan is **September 30, 2022**.

Public Comment for Chapter 44 Rules – Special Education

Chapter 44 is necessary to establish the requirements for allowable special education expenditures for students with disabilities. Districts report these expenditures and claim reimbursement using the WDE401 Special Education Reimbursement collection. Allowable expenditures are limited to the actual costs of providing education to students with disabilities and the necessary support and services that are required by federal law and included in a child's Individual Education Program (IEP). Updates to Chapter 44 are proposed to resolve questions that arose in applying the rules and to further refine descriptions of what district expenses are reimbursable. The rules are necessary to maintain the integrity of the school finance system. The comment window is open from August 15, 2022 to October 4, 2022. Submit a public comment, review the Statement of Reasons and the rule changes [here](#) or [here](#). A public hearing will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 via Zoom; register for the public hearing [here](#).

Call for Resolutions

The 2022 WSBA Annual Delegate Assembly will be held Wednesday, November 16th at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper. At this meeting member school district voting delegates will set WSBA Legislative and Position platforms for the 2023 and 2024 Legislative Sessions. If your board wishes to submit one or more resolutions for consideration by the entire WSBA membership, it must be received at the WSBA Office on or before **Monday, October 3, 2022**. Resolutions may be submitted by regular mail or by email to bfarmer.wy@gmail.com. Additional details can be found [here](#).

Golden Bell and Champion of Education

The WSBA Board of Directors is now accepting nominations from school boards for its Golden Bell and Champion of Education awards. Information about each of these awards, including the links for each nomination form, can be found [here](#). Nominations are due **Monday, October 3, 2022**.

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, **Long Building Technologies** – www.long.com, **PFM Asset Management LLC** – www.pfm.com, **Pine Cove Consulting** – www.pinecc.com, **Software Unlimited, Inc.** – www.su-inc.com

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