

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0135

Preschool program funding.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Lockhart, Meyer
and Wasserburger and Senator(s) Vasey

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; providing assistance to
2 school districts for provision of preschool programs;
3 imposing duties upon the department of education; requiring
4 district reports; providing an appropriation; and providing
5 for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) To provide financial assistance to school
12 districts for the provision of preschool programs, each
13 school district funding and operating a preschool program
14 within district facilities and by district employees shall
15 for school year 2004-2005, receive an amount payable from
16 the school foundation program account determined in

1 accordance with subsection (b) of this section. Preschool
2 programs qualifying for assistance under this section shall
3 operate not less than one-half (1/2) day for five (5) days
4 each week during the regular school year, provide classroom
5 instruction by a program appropriate certified teacher and
6 as condition of student enrollment, require parental
7 involvement in the program for not less than sixteen (16)
8 hours per semester. Preschool assistance under this section
9 shall be used to defray the costs of certified teachers and
10 other program costs, shall be paid by the department of
11 education from amounts within the foundation program
12 account appropriated by the legislature for purposes of
13 this section and shall be in addition to the foundation
14 program amount determined for each district under W.S.
15 21-13-309(p). If there is an insufficient amount within
16 the foundation program account for payments under this
17 section, the department shall make a pro rata reduction in
18 the payments to districts for each preschool student.

19

20 (b) Payments to school districts for preschool
21 programs shall be computed by multiplying the number of
22 students enrolled in a district's preschool program during
23 school year 2004-2005, as reported to the department of
24 education not later than October 1, 2004, by two thousand

1 dollars (\$2,000.00), and shall be distributed to districts
2 on or about the fifteenth day of February, 2005, together
3 with foundation program distributions for school year 2004-
4 2005 under W.S. 21-13-313. Districts shall report
5 preschool enrollment on forms provided by the department
6 for this purpose.

7

8 (c) Each district shall report expenditures to the
9 department in the manner and at the time specified by the
10 department. The department shall compile the reports and
11 submit the compilation to the joint education interim
12 committee.

13

14 (d) For purposes of this section, "preschool program"
15 means a duly licensed and accredited program providing
16 educational services to children ages three (3) through
17 five (5).

18

19 **Section 2.** Twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000.00) is
20 appropriated from the school foundation program account to
21 the department of education for distributions to school
22 districts for preschool programs pursuant to section 1 of
23 this act.

24

1 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2004.

2

3

(END)