

WORKING DRAFT

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Distance education task force.

Sponsored by: HDRAFT

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public schools; requiring the state
 2 superintendent of public instruction to study and develop
 3 recommendations on distance education programs;
 4 establishing a task force; imposing reporting requirements;
 5 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
 6 date.

7

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

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) The state superintendent of public
 13 instruction shall in consultation with a task force
 14 established for this purpose, develop recommendations on
 15 state oversight, assistance and guidance for the

1 development, operation and funding of distance education
2 programs by school districts as extensions to or a
3 component of public school education programs. For
4 purposes of this section, virtual school programs for
5 grades kindergarten through twelve (12) shall be included
6 as a distance education program. In addition to
7 representatives of the department of education and the
8 state board of education, the task force established by the
9 state superintendent for purposes of this section shall
10 include representatives of school districts, charter
11 schools and parents of school age children. The task force
12 shall consult with and gather information from distance
13 education service providers and school districts offering
14 distance education programs.

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16 (b) The state superintendent, in consultation with
17 the task force assembled under subsection (a) of this
18 section, shall in the review of distance education program
19 oversight, development and funding, develop recommendations
20 on the following:

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22 (i) The assignment of responsibility for
23 distance education program content and student performance,

1 and accountability measures which are attached to the
2 assigned responsibility;

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4 (ii) A process which:

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6 (A) Assures distance education programs
7 provide the required statewide educational program
8 prescribed by W.S. 21-9-101 and 21-9-102(b) in accordance
9 with statewide program standards developed under W.S.
10 21-2-304(a)(iii);

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12 (B) Delegates appropriate supervision of
13 student progress; and

14

15 (C) Addresses student performance
16 requirements under W.S. 21-2-304(a)(v) and the federal No
17 Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

18

19 (iii) The identification of eligible providers
20 of distance education programs and specifically, virtual
21 education programs;

22

23 (iv) A process for the integration of distance
24 education programs into the regular public school education

1 program which equates the relationship to traditional
2 education program delivery and the weight toward achieving
3 student learning goals and statewide educational
4 requirements;

5

6 (v) A funding mechanism which incorporates
7 distance education programs within the Wyoming education
8 resource block grant model.

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10 (c) On or before October 1, 2007, the state
11 superintendent shall report his findings and
12 recommendations developed under this section to the joint
13 education interim committee. Following its review and
14 approval, the committee shall present recommendations
15 including necessary enabling legislation, to the
16 legislature at the 2008 budget session.

17

18 (d) For the period beginning on the effective date of
19 this act and ending on June 30, 2008, fifty thousand
20 dollars (\$50,000.00) is appropriated from the general fund
21 to the state superintendent of public instruction to pay
22 the expenses of necessary staff support, meeting expenses
23 and any consulting expertise required to conduct the study
24 required under this section.

1

2 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
3 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
4 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
5 Constitution.

6

7

(END)