

Wyoming Assessment Task Force

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Briefing for the Wyoming Select and Joint
Education Committees



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Statewide Assessment Review

Section 6.

(a) The state board shall conduct a review and evaluation of the statewide assessment system established by W.S. 21-2-304(a)(v) which not only fulfills the requirements of the **statewide education accountability system** prescribed under W.S. 21-2-204 and complies with statewide assessment and accreditation requirements imposed upon the state board under W.S. 21-2-304, but **strives for a high quality, rigorous and effective assessment adhering to principles of sound education policy and test measurement, with due consideration given to cost, testing time requirements for students and assessment burdens placed upon school districts.** The study shall **review assessment options available to the state and shall recommend an approach for the state in continuance of a statewide assessment system** required by law. In implementing this subsection, the following apply:

Composition of Task Force

(i) The state board shall assemble a task force to assist with the assessment review and evaluation. The task force shall be comprised of representatives of small and large school districts and schools from all geographic regions of the state and shall at minimum include representatives from district and school administration, school district assessment and curriculum program administrators, elementary and secondary school teachers, school district board members, state higher education representatives, member of the Wyoming business community and parents of children enrolled in Wyoming public schools;

Task Force Members (see attached list)

- 26 members select from a fairly large pool of applicants in the following categories:
 - School board members (2) and Superintendents (2)
 - Curriculum/assessment directors (4)
 - Principals (3)
 - Teachers--secondary (2) and elementary (2) and Special populations (1)
 - Post-secondary education (2)
 - Parents (2)
 - Business (2)
 - Other (4)

Facilitating Task Force

(iii) As authorized under section 7(b) of this act, the legislative service office, through acquired **professional consulting expertise**, and the **department of education**, shall assist the state board in its review and evaluation required by this subsection;

Charge to Task Force

- (iv) On or before October 15, 2015, the state board shall report to the joint education interim committee and the select committee on findings and recommendations developed from its review and evaluation conducted under this subsection. **In addition to recommending an approach for the future statewide assessment system, recommendations shall provide necessary mechanisms and processes to support the transition from the statewide assessment system** existing on the effective date of this act to the student assessment developed and recommended under this subsection.

Task Force Structure

- Center for Assessment and WDE have worked closely to develop a structure for supporting the Task Force in meeting their charge
- Three (3) in-person meetings, two (2) of which are one-day meetings and one (1) is two days
- Three, ½ day webinar meetings
- Center and WDE will prepare materials and activities for each meeting and drafting sections of the final report for each meeting

Grounding and Touchstones

- The first Task Force meeting (June 1) was intended to:
 - Ground members in an understanding of the different types of assessment as well as various technical issues associated with assessment design, use, and validation
 - Have members wrestle with what they really want from an assessment and/or assessment system
 - Assessment design is a good example of striving for optimization under often significant constraints and requirements

Goals for the Final Report

- Obviously reflect the deliberations and recommendations of the Task Force
- Similar to the 2012 accountability report, be written to support legislation and/or amendments to statutes
- Provide a solid framework for WDE in drafting an RFP or RFPs for Wyoming's subsequent assessment system
- Questions? Comments?