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AN ACT relating to public schools; continuing special education reimbursement-based funding subject to specified modifications; establishing a statewide design team for student assessment review and education accountability; continuing funding model component studies for regional cost, at-risk students and small schools; modifying reading assessment and intervention program funding; delaying implementation of classified staff adjustment; providing specified technical modifications; imposing related duties upon the state superintendent of public instruction and establishing advisory groups to assist with education information and reporting; providing for development of funding model guide; modifying charter school provisions as specified; requiring a review of fundina administration and maintenance; providing assistance for full-day kindergarten programs; providing appropriations and authorizing positions; and providing for effective dates.

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

[SECTION 1. SPECIAL EDUCATION]

**Section 101.** W.S. 21-2-202(a) by creating new paragraphs (xxiii) through (xxv) and 21-13-321 by creating a new subsection (f) are amended to read:

#### 21-2-202. Duties of the state superintendent.

(a) In addition to any other duties assigned by law, the state superintendent shall:

(xxiii) Establish statewide guidelines for adequate special education staffing levels, to be used in

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assessing special education programs and services provided by school districts;

(xxiv) Monitor school district special education identification and service delivery practices, assess the appropriateness of district variations in services provided or the delivery of services and assist districts in developing alternatives to service delivery as necessary;

education programs based upon student performance and develop procedures to monitor student progress over time.

# 21-13-321. Special education; adjustment to foundation program formula.

(f) In addition to subsection (d) of this section, the state department of education shall assess school district special education staffing levels based upon staffing guidelines established pursuant to 21-2-202(a)(xxiii), and report on the adequacy of staffing levels to the joint education interim committee. School districts shall report staffing and other necessary information to the department in accordance with department rules and regulations and shall provide written explanation to the department justifying district special education staffing levels. Based upon information collected under this subsection and following review, the department shall include within its report to the joint education interim committee as required under subsection (d) of this section, recommendations for improving appropriate special education program and service delivery within the state.

**Section 102.** W.S. 21-13-321(c) is repealed.

Section 103.

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- (a) At least once every five (5) years, the state department of education shall establish a process to review the adequacy of the staffing guidelines established under W.S. 21-2-202(a) (xxiii), as created under section 101 of this act. The schedule for the review process shall as nearly as possible coincide with the periodic reconfiguration of the education resource block grant model.
- (b) The state department shall conduct a study to implement a regionalized approach for the provision of special education programs and services as recommended by consultants performing the November 2002 special education studies, specifically identifying a feasible structure to ensure the provision of adequate services to special needs student populations as required by the statewide uniform educational program under W.S. 21-9-101. Special emphasis shall be given to the unique circumstances faced by school districts in locating, acquiring and retaining special education service providers. On or before October 1, 2003, the department shall report findings and recommendations developed under this subsection to the joint education interim committee.

[SECTION 2. STUDENT ASSESSMENT/EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY]

### Section 201.

- (a) A statewide task force is created to:
- (i) Conduct a review of the statewide assessment system established under W.S. 21-2-304 (a) (v). The assessment system shall measure student progress based upon the uniform educational program established under W.S. 21-9-101 and measurable, academic student performance

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standards imposed by law and by rule and regulation of the state board of education. The assessment system shall be reviewed and modified if deemed necessary to improve teaching and learning within the state and foster school improvement. The assessment system shall include openended testing such as constructed-response, extended-response and performance-based tasks, shall be aligned to the statewide education program standards and measure year-to-year changes in individual student achievement and school performance, as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

- (ii) Investigate, assemble and necessary accountability processes and systems to assist efforts in addressing education accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), while maintaining uniformity and quality of the statewide education program standards and state student content and performance standards as required under W.S. 21-2-304. Recommendations under this paragraph shall specify a plan to implement sufficient accountability processes and systems to enable the implementation of rewards and sanctions as specified by the federal NCLB Act based on the educational performance and progress of each school district and each school within a district.
- (b) The statewide task force created under subsection(a) of this section shall be comprised of the following:
- (i) One (1) member who is a school district superintendent appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction;
- (ii) One (1) member who is a secondary school principal from a Wyoming school district appointed by the Wyoming association of secondary school principals;

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- (iii) One (1) member who is an elementary school principal from a Wyoming school district appointed by the Wyoming association of elementary school principals;
- (iv) One (1) member who is a teacher in a Wyoming school district appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction;
- (v) One (1) member who is a special education program or service instructor and provider for children with disabilities appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction;
- (vi) One (1) member who is serving as a trustee on a Wyoming school district board of trustees appointed by the Wyoming school boards association;
- (vii) One (1) member serving on the Wyoming state board of education elected by the board as representative;
- (viii) One (1) member who is a school district curriculum director appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction;
- (ix) One (1) member appointed by the governor to represent private business;
- (x) One (1) member of the Wyoming senate appointed by the president of the senate;
- (xi) One (1) member of the Wyoming house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; and

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- (xii) Two (2) members who are parents of school children appointed by the governor.
- (c) Appointments specified under subsection (b) of this section shall be made by not later than April 1, 2003.
- (d) Recommendations developed under paragraph (a)(ii) of this section shall:
- (i) Integrate federal and state accountability requirements which shall be based upon the statewide student assessment system established under W.S. 21-2-304(a)(v), statewide education program standards and student content and performance standards;
- (ii) Develop a system of rewards and sanctions applicable to all schools and school districts which is consistent with school accountability and school improvement provisions specified by the federal NCLB Act and which requires corrective action for those schools not meeting established progress levels;
- (iii) Specify a level for and measure annual progress of schools and school districts, including all schools receiving state assistance;
- (iv) Be developed in sufficient time for implementation in the 2004-2005 school year.
- (e) On or before August 1, 2003, the statewide task force shall report its findings and recommendations developed under this section to the joint education interim committee. Following its review and approval, the committee shall present recommendations including any necessary enabling legislation, to the legislature at the 2004 budget session.

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(f) For school year 2003-2004 and prior to implementation of the recommendations developed under paragraph (a)(ii) of this section for implementation during school year 2004-2005, and as necessary to comply with the federal NCLB Act, the state department of education shall, in consultation with the task force established by this section, establish a transitional plan to provide a temporary system of rewards and sanctions for all schools and school districts. Prior to implementation, the transitional plan shall be presented to the joint education interim committee on or before October 1, 2003. The transitional plan shall terminate upon expiration of the 2003-2004 school year.

**Section 202.** Rewards and sanctions imposed under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 shall apply only to those schools receiving federal Title I funds until the processes and systems developed under section 201 of this act are implemented and operational.

[SECTION 3. REGIONAL COST ADJUSTMENT]

#### Section 301.

(a) Based upon study findings contained within the November 2002 report on the regional cost adjustment to the education resource block grant model, a copy of which is on file with the legislative service office, and conducted in accordance with 2002 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 76, Section 13, the division of economic analysis, department of administration and information, shall report to the joint education interim committee on final recommendations for an instrument to measure regional cost differences in Wyoming. Recommendations shall define a rigorous statistical adjustment that considers and accounts for

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salary demands in all regions of the state and shall minimize incentives for discretionary actions by school districts to impact adjustment estimations. The report shall be submitted to the joint education interim committee on or before October 1, 2003.

(b) Following receipt of the report required under subsection (a) of this section, the joint education interim committee shall submit recommendations and enabling legislation to the legislature which implement a regional cost adjustment to the education resource block grant model for school year 2004-2005 and each school year thereafter. Recommendations shall be submitted under this subsection in sufficient time for consideration by the legislature during the 2004 budget session.

[SECTION 4. AT-RISK ADJUSTMENT]

#### Section 401.

(a) For purposes of refining the identification and funding of services to students at risk as reflected in the at-risk adjustment to the education resource block grant model under W.S. 21-13-332, the state department education shall collect and analyze information necessary accurately reflect mobility or other similar equivalent measure as a refinement to the use of the unduplicated count of student participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program and limited English speaking program as current statutory proxies for at-risk student identification under the adjustment. Following the collection and analysis of data, recommendations shall be developed on the use of mobility or other similar or equivalent measure in supplementing or weighting the existing statutory at-risk adjustment proxies. On or before October 1, 2003, the department shall report

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findings and recommendations developed under this subsection to the joint education interim committee.

In addition to subsection (a) of this section, the state department shall design a grant program to be made available to districts for funding costs associated with summer school intervention and remediation programs The grant program shall be separate for children at-risk. from funds received by districts under the education resource block grant model, shall be available to districts upon application to and review by the department and shall be implemented in sufficient time to provide funds for offered during the 2004 programs summer Application procedures, program criteria, eligibility requirements and grant limitations shall be specified in the submitted program design. The department shall report to the joint education interim committee on the established program design and recommended program funding levels by October 1, 2003.

[SECTION 5. SMALL SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT]

#### Section 501.

In accordance with 2002 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 76, Section 10, the joint education interim committee shall continue the comprehensive study of the small school adjustment to the education resource block grant model. Based upon school level data, visitations and discussions with educational representatives of small schools located in small districts and small schools located in districts not qualifying as a small district, the study shall establish multiple model prototypes for small schools. In addition, the study shall:

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- (i) Include in model prototype development use of expert groups knowledgeable in education program requirements and economy of scale and remoteness issues faced by small schools, as assembled by consultants to determine necessary model components and resources for provision of the required uniform educational program within small schools;
- (ii) Review the educational resource block grant model to ensure adjustments, components and other considerations within the model pertaining to or addressing small school economy of scale and remoteness issues are considered in prototype development and are not duplicated;
- (iii) Address collocation issues pertaining to the identification of small schools and the determination of resources necessary to provide education programs.
- (b) Study findings and recommendations developed under subsection (a) of this section assembled for review by the joint education interim committee shall be reported to the committee on or before October 1, 2003.
- (c) Based upon information and findings generated by the study required by subsection (a) of this section, the joint education interim committee shall develop and submit recommendations on the small school adjustment to the 2004 budget session of the legislature. Recommendations shall include necessary enabling legislation and necessary modifications to the education resource block grant model.

[SECTION 6. READING ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM]

Section 601.

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- (a) Prior to implementation of a cost-based adjustment to the education resource block grant model required under 2002 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 76, Section 7, additional funding is provided under subsection (b) of this section for the reading assessment and intervention program established under W.S. 21-3-401. The joint education interim committee shall continue necessary study for development of a cost-based adjustment to the model for consideration by the 2004 legislature.
- (b) School year 2003-2004 distributions by the state department of education from the general fund to school districts for reading assessment and intervention programs under W.S. 21-3-401 shall be the greater of the following:
- (i) The kindergarten through grade two (2) average daily membership (ADM) for school year 2002-2003 for each district multiplied by one hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$167.00), with each kindergarten ADM equal to one (1) full ADM; or
  - (ii) Forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00).

[SECTION 7. ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL PROVISIONS]

**Section 701.** W.S. 21-13-309 by creating a new subsection (t), 21-13-323(d) and 21-13-332(b)(iv) are amended to read:

# 21-13-309. Determination of amount to be included in foundation program for each district.

(t) Not less than once every five (5) years, the legislature shall provide for the reevaluation of the education resource block grant model to determine if

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modifications are necessary to ensure it remains cost-based in light of changing conditions and modifications to law.

- 21-13-323. Teacher seniority; administrator responsibility, education and experience; classified personnel experience; adjustment to foundation program formula.
- (d) Commencing with school year 2003-2004-2004, the experience level of classified personnel shall pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309(n)(vii), be adjusted for each district based upon any net increase or decrease in the average experience profile for each classification of classified personnel as defined under paragraph (a) (iii) of this section. For school year  $\frac{2003-2004}{2004-2005}$  and each school year thereafter, the average experience profile for each classified employee classification shall be compared the average district experience profile for that employment classification during the 2001-2002 school year, and any net increase or decrease for that classification shall result in an adjustment in accordance with the adjustment factor prescribed within the education resource block grant model.

# 21-13-332. At-risk students; adjustment to foundation program formula.

- (b) The adjustment under this section shall be computed for each district that has a significant concentration level of at-risk students at any school within the district determined as follows:
- (iv) If the student count component of the atrisk adjustment computed under paragraph (b)(iii) of this section for any school within a district is above the statewide average as determined under paragraph (b)(i) of

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this section, the proportionate percentage student count above the statewide average shall be multiplied by the corresponding factor weight assigned to that concentration level under the education resource block grant model. The factor weight for the highest concentration level of atrisk students in any school for any school year shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the statewide consolidated dollar per ADM amount for that the prior school year as computed in accordance with the education resource block grant model;

#### Section 702.

- (a) The state superintendent of public instruction shall appoint necessary advisory groups to assist the state department of education with establishing policies and procedures governing education information reporting and collection, including the development of data collection instruments, use and description of data within education reports, and other data needs, requirements and issues. The advisory groups required under subsection (b) of this section shall be established not later than April 1, 2003. On or before October 1, 2003, the state superintendent shall report to the joint education interim committee on education information policies and procedures and on recommendations for future education information reporting and the use of advisory groups in this process.
- (b) In addition to the school data advisory group established under W.S. 21-2-203(d), advisory groups shall be established in the following data areas:
  - (i) Student data/demographics;
  - (ii) Certified and classified personnel;

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#### (iii) Technology.

**Section 703.** In codifying the law, the legislative service office shall aggregate increases and decreases to the dollar amount per average daily membership (ADM) in W.S. 21-13-309(m)(ii) contained in any bill enacted into law during the 2003 legislative session, so that W.S. 21-13-309(m)(ii) reflects a single dollar amount per ADM for each school level.

### [SECTION 8. SCHOOL FINANCE GUIDE]

Section 801. The state department of education shall develop a fundamental comprehensive guide to the education resource block grant model, providing detailed explanation and itemization of model prototypes. The state department shall consult with the legislative service office in developing the guide, and shall periodically report to the joint education interim committee on the design and preliminary development of the guide. The final report on the comprehensive guide shall be submitted to the joint education interim committee not later than October 1, 2003.

#### [SECTION 9. CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENTS]

**Section 901.** W.S. 21-3-303(b), 21-3-307(a) by creating a new paragraph (xxii) and 21-3-314(a)(ii) and by creating a new paragraph (iv) and (e) are amended to read:

### 21-3-303. Charter school prohibitions.

(b) No charter shall be granted under this article if it is determined that its sole purpose is to avoid consolidation or closure of any school or district. For purposes of this subsection, consolidation or closure

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applies regardless of grade configuration, building
location or school or district name.

### 21-3-307. Charter application; contents.

(a) The charter school application shall be a proposed agreement and shall include:

providing evidence of charter school viability following the first three (3) years of charter school operation.

## 21-3-314. Students counted among district ADM; determination of charter school funding.

- (a) Each student attending a charter school shall be counted among the average daily membership of the school district in which the school is located. Average daily membership of the school district shall for purposes of charter school membership, be calculated as follows:
- (ii) In the second year and all subsequent years and except as otherwise provided under paragraph (iv) of this subsection, the average daily membership of the charter school shall be counted only among the average daily membership of the school district;
- (iv) In the second and third year of charter school operation, any increase in the average daily membership of a charter school resulting from the sixty (60) day recalculation for that school on the date specified by W.S. 21-13-309(q)(i) shall be multiplied by the foundation amount for that district as computed under W.S. 21-13-309(p). The increase in foundation funds received by the district under this paragraph shall be applied by the district to that charter school in

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## $\underline{\text{determining funding under subsections}}$ (c) and (d) of this section.

(e) In lieu of paragraph (a) (iv) and subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the district and the charter school applicant may by mutual agreement fund the charter school through a specific budget for the charter school.

[SECTION 10. MODEL ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE REVIEW]

#### Section 1001.

- The joint education interim committee shall conduct a review of the administration and maintenance of the education resource block grant model. The interim study shall include a review of existing resources used by and available to the state for model administration and maintenance and an evaluation of the personnel resources necessary to maintain the model and to provide necessary litigation support for the model, including expert testimony on behalf of the model. Based upon this and evaluation, the study shall recommendations for the most effective administration structure for model maintenance and the appropriate state executive or legislative agency for placement of model administration.
- (b) Recommendations developed under subsection (a) of this section shall be reported to the management council and the joint appropriations committee not later that December 1, 2003. Recommendations shall include necessary enabling legislation.

[SECTION 11. FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN ASSISTANCE]

Section 1101.

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- (a) Effective for school year 2003-2004, the state department of education shall distribute amounts to school districts for assistance to schools within the district which provide full-day kindergarten programs and which receive federal Title I funds. The state department shall distribute funds made available under subsection (b) of this section such that schools with concentration levels of students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch under the national school lunch program established under 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq., are at or above sixty percent (60%) within that school, as reported on October 2002.
- (b) Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of education for distributions to school districts as provided under subsection (a) of this section.
- (c) School districts receiving assistance under this section shall report expenditures to the department in a manner and at a date specified by the department. The department shall compile the reports and submit the compilation to the joint education interim committee on or before December 1, 2003.
- (d) In addition to subsections (a) through (c) of this section, the state department of education shall review the feasibility of the use of federal funds available to the state under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to fund full day kindergarten programs in Wyoming schools. Based upon its review, the department shall report findings to the joint education interim committee by November 1, 2003.

[SECTION 12. APPROPRIATIONS]

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#### Section 1201.

- (a) Eight hundred seventy-one thousand seventeen dollars (\$871,017.00) is appropriated to the state superintendent of public instruction to implement the special education duties and responsibilities imposed under sections 101 and 103 of this act as follows:
- (i) Three hundred fifty-nine thousand one hundred fifty-one dollars (\$359,151.00) from the general fund, which shall include funding and authorization for three (3) full-time and three (3) part-time positions;
- (ii) Five hundred eleven thousand eight hundred sixty-six dollars (\$511,866.00) from the budget reserve account, which shall include funding and authorization for one (1) full-time and one (1) part-time positions;
- (iii) The state superintendent shall include within the report to the joint appropriations interim committee and the joint education interim committee required by 2002 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 76, Subsection 18(c), the expenditure of funds appropriated under this section, the positions filled and the status of these positions.
- (b) Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) is appropriated from funds made available to the state under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to the state superintendent of public instruction to fund expenses associated with the statewide task force established under section 201 of this act, including funding necessary staff support and consultants to the task force. The state department of education shall provide necessary staff support for the statewide task force.

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- (c) Twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve account to the division of economic analysis, department of administration and information, to conduct the analysis and study necessary for development of recommendations pertaining to the regional cost adjustment required under section 301 of this act.
- (d) Seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve account to the state superintendent of public instruction to conduct necessary study for the development of at-risk identification under the at-risk adjustment and the summer school intervention and remediation program design, as required under section 401 of this act.
- (e) Three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve account to the legislative service office to fund the continuation of the small school study specified under section 501 of this act. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall include funding necessary committee staff support and consultants to the legislature and shall be expended only upon the approval of the management council.
- (f) Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve account to the legislative service office to fund implementation of studies and reports submitted to the joint education interim committee impacting the education resource block grant model. Expenditures shall fund necessary committee staff support and consultants to the legislature, as approved by the management council.
- (g) Six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) is appropriated from the general fund to the state

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superintendent of public instruction for distribution of additional funds to school districts for reading assessment and intervention programs as authorized under section 601(b) of this act.

- (h) Thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve account to the state superintendent of public instruction to pay the expenses of necessary staff support, meeting expenses and any consulting expertise required by the advisory groups to carry out assigned responsibilities imposed under section 702 of this act.
- (j) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve account to the state superintendent of public instruction to develop the school finance guide required under section 801 of this act. Funds appropriated under this subsection may be used to fund consulting expertise and staff support as required by the department of education in developing the required guide.
- (k) Any unexpended, unobligated funds appropriated under this section shall revert to the fund from which they were appropriated effective June 30, 2004.
- (m) Any budget reserve account appropriation under this section shall be considered a one-time appropriation and shall not be included in the standard budget request for the 2005-2006 biennium.

[SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATES]

Section 1301.

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- (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this section, this act is effective July  $1,\ 2003.$
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, sections 103(b), 201, 202, 301 through 501, 702, 703 and 801 through 1201 of this act are effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)

| Speaker of the House               | President of the Senate |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                    |                         |
|                                    |                         |
| Governor                           |                         |
| TIME APPROVED:                     |                         |
| DATE APPROVED:                     |                         |
| I hereby certify that this act ori | ginated in the House.   |
| Chief Clerk                        |                         |