

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0011

Distance education task force.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the study of distance education for  
2 informing recalibration of the education resource block  
3 grant model; establishing a task force; establishing  
4 duties; requiring reporting; providing an appropriation;  
5 and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) For the purposes of informing the 2015  
12 recalibration of the education resource block grant model  
13 required by W.S 21-13-309(t), there is created a fourteen  
14 (14) member task force on distance education, chaired by  
15 the state superintendent of public instruction, consisting  
16 of the following members:

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2 (i) The two (2) chairmen of the joint interim  
3 education committee;

4

5 (ii) Not later than March 31, 2015, the state  
6 superintendent of public instruction shall appoint the  
7 following members to the task force:

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9 (A) One (1) member of the state board of  
10 education;

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12 (B) One (1) member employed by the  
13 University of Wyoming or one (1) of the seven (7) community  
14 colleges;

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16 (C) One (1) school district superintendent  
17 from a school district administering distance education  
18 programs;

19

20 (D) Two (2) program directors of distance  
21 education programs;

22

23 (E) One (1) distance education teacher;

1

2 (F) One (1) curriculum coordinator;

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4 (G) One (1) school district technology  
5 director;

6

7 (J) One (1) representative from the  
8 department of enterprise technology;

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10 (K) Two (2) parents of a student or  
11 students enrolled in a distance education program;

12

13 (M) One (1) student enrolled in a distance  
14 education program.

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16 (b) The task force shall review distance education  
17 programs provided by or in cooperation with Wyoming school  
18 districts to students in grades kindergarten through twelve  
19 (12). The review shall include programs provided under  
20 W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxi), 21-13-330, 21-20-201 and programs  
21 using resources provided by the education resource block  
22 grant model. The taskforce shall compile a report  
23 containing recommendations for the following:

1

2 (i) Programmatic requirements for the delivery  
3 of quality distance education programs statewide that  
4 provide equal access and opportunity for all students  
5 enrolled in a Wyoming school district;

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7 (ii) Guidance to ensure compliance with  
8 statewide education standards and student assessment and  
9 accountability requirements under W.S. 21-2-202, 21-2-204,  
10 21-2-304 and 21-9-101, including but not limited to data  
11 collection requirements;

12

13 (iii) In consultation with the professional  
14 teaching standards board, professional certification  
15 requirements for distance education instructors;

16

17 (iv) A review of distance education that can be  
18 used to provide greater transparency in accounting for  
19 administering distance education program;

20

21 (v) Requirements for partnership agreements, if  
22 necessary, for school districts electing to collaborate in  
23 the delivery of a distance education program.

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2           **Section 2.** Commencing June 15, 2015, the department  
3 shall provide monthly progress reports on the work of the  
4 task force to the legislative service office. The  
5 legislative service office shall provide the reports to the  
6 appropriate legislative committees to ensure the progress  
7 reports are incorporated into the 2015 block grant model  
8 recalibration process. Not later than October 15, 2015,  
9 the department shall provide a final report documenting the  
10 recommendations of the taskforce to the legislative service  
11 office for distribution to the appropriate legislative  
12 committee.

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14           **Section 3.** There is appropriated from the school  
15 foundation program account to the department of education,  
16 up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for the period  
17 beginning on the effective date of this act and ending June  
18 30, 2016. This appropriation shall be expended only for  
19 administrative costs necessary to support the work of the  
20 distance education taskforce established under section 1 of  
21 this act.

22

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

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6

(END)