

SENATE FILE NO. SF0126

Establishment of a K-8 public lab school.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Rothfuss, Biteman, Brennan, Crum
and Schuler and Representative(s) Andrew,
Chestek, Johnson, Provenza, Sherwood and
Singh

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; providing definitions;
2 requiring a kindergarten through grade eight (8) public lab
3 school; specifying the purpose of the public lab school;
4 creating a governing board; specifying membership of the
5 governing board; specifying duties of the governing board;
6 specifying enrollment requirements and preferences;
7 specifying funding; requiring reporting; specifying the
8 first year of enrollment; and providing for an effective
9 date.

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

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13 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-17-501 through 21-17-504 are
14 created to read:

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ARTICLE 5

TEACHER EDUCATION K-8 PUBLIC LAB SCHOOL

21-17-501. Creation of a K-8 public lab school;
purpose.

(a) There is created a public lab school to teach
kindergarten through grade eight (8) to accomplish the
following purposes:

(i) Promote developmentally appropriate
differentiated instruction that is model learner-centered
for students;

(ii) Serves as a teacher education institution
and educational learning site for pre-service teachers of
all levels;

(iii) Identifies best teaching practices that
can be utilized in public schools statewide.

1 (b) The public lab school established pursuant to
2 subsection (a) of this section shall be a coordinated
3 effort between the University of Wyoming and the resident
4 school district. For purposes of this article, "resident
5 school district" means the public school district that is
6 located where the University of Wyoming's main campus is
7 located.

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9 (c) The public lab school established pursuant to
10 subsection (a) of this section shall be an independent
11 public school within the resident school district and shall
12 be accountable to the governing board established pursuant
13 to W.S. 21-17-502 for purposes of ensuring compliance with
14 applicable laws and the requirements of the state
15 constitution.

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17 (d) The public lab school established pursuant to
18 subsection (a) of this section shall be located on the main
19 campus of the University of Wyoming. Any contract executed
20 between the governing body, established by W.S.
21 21-17-502(a), and the University of Wyoming shall be
22 subject to the provisions of W.S. 21-17-502(b).

23

1 **21-17-502. Creation of a governing board; membership;**
2 **duties.**

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4 (a) There is created a governing board to consist of
5 seven (7) voting members and one (1) ex-officio, nonvoting
6 member to govern the operation of the public lab school
7 established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501. The governing board
8 shall consist of the following eight (8) members:

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10 (i) One (1) member that serves on the resident
11 school district's board of trustees;

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13 (ii) The superintendent of the resident school
14 district, or his designee;

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16 (iii) The dean of the University of Wyoming's
17 college of education, or his designee;

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19 (iv) One (1) member appointed by the dean of the
20 University of Wyoming's college of education;

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22 (v) The superintendent of public instruction, or
23 his designee;

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2 (vi) One (1) teacher that instructs or will
3 instruct at the public lab school established pursuant to
4 W.S. 21-17-501 selected by the teachers that teach at the
5 public lab school;

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7 (vii) One (1) parent of a student that attends
8 or will attend the public lab school established pursuant
9 to W.S. 21-17-501 selected by the parents of students that
10 attend the public lab school;

11

12 (viii) The principal of the public lab school
13 established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501, who shall serve as
14 the chair of the governing board and as an ex-officio
15 member and shall not have the right to vote.

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17 (b) The governing board may negotiate and contract
18 with the resident school district or the University of
19 Wyoming, or any third party for the use of a school
20 building and grounds, the operation and maintenance
21 thereof, and the provision of any service, activity or
22 undertaking that the public lab school established pursuant
23 to W.S. 21-17-501 is required to perform in order to carry

1 out the educational program. Any services for which the
2 governing board contracts for as provided for under this
3 subsection shall be pursuant to a written contract. If the
4 contract is with the resident school district or the
5 University of Wyoming, the services shall be provided by
6 the resident school district or the University of Wyoming
7 at an incremental cost.

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9 (c) The governing board shall have standing to sue
10 and be sued in its own name for the enforcement of any
11 contract created pursuant to this section.

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13 (d) The governing board shall be responsible for the
14 operation of the public lab school established pursuant to
15 W.S. 21-17-501 including, but not limited to, preparation
16 of a budget, contracting for services and personnel
17 matters.

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19 (e) The governing board, in consultation with the
20 University of Wyoming, shall determine educational
21 placements of students enrolled at the University of
22 Wyoming including, but not limited to, students enrolled in

1 teaching programs, in the public lab school established
2 pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501.

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4 (f) Not later than September 1, 2025, and each
5 September 1 every year thereafter, the governing board
6 shall report to the joint education interim committee on
7 the implementation and administration of the public lab
8 school established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501. The report
9 shall include at minimum:

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11 (i) Student achievement data;

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13 (ii) Enrollment;

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15 (iii) The level of engagement with the
16 University of Wyoming's college of education in student
17 teacher placement;

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19 (iv) The impact of the school on the University
20 of Wyoming's teaching program;

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22 (v) Proposed statutory modifications.

23

1 **21-17-503. Admission to the public lab school;**
2 **operation; curriculum.**

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4 (a) The public lab school established pursuant to
5 W.S. 21-17-501 shall:

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7 (i) Be authorized to offer any educational
8 program that may be offered by a school district
9 established pursuant to W.S. 21-3-101 through 21-3-104
10 unless expressly prohibited by state law;

11
12 (ii) Meet the state uniform educational program
13 standards imposed upon public schools by W.S. 21-9-101 and
14 21-9-102 and the uniform state student content and
15 performance standards prescribed by the state board of
16 education under W.S. 21-2-304, including compliance with
17 requirements under the statewide assessment system pursuant
18 to W.S. 21-2-304(a)(v).

19
20 (b) The public lab school established pursuant to
21 W.S. 21-17-501 may operate free from specified school
22 district policies and state regulations. The governing
23 board established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-502 may waive

1 requirements imposed by the resident school district,
2 without seeking approval of the state board of education
3 established pursuant to W.S. 21-2-301. The state board may
4 waive state statutory requirements or rules promulgated by
5 the state board, except that the state board shall not
6 waive any statute or rule relating to the assessments or
7 standards required to be administered. Upon request of the
8 governing board, the state board shall provide summaries of
9 such regulations and policies to use in preparing a request
10 for a waiver from state regulations. The state department
11 of education established pursuant to W.S. 21-2-104 shall
12 prepare the summary of state regulations within existing
13 appropriations. Any waiver of the resident school district
14 regulations made pursuant to this subsection shall be for
15 the period of the operation of the public lab school
16 established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501, except that a
17 waiver of state statutes or regulations by the state board
18 shall be subject to review every two (2) years and may be
19 revoked if the waiver is deemed no longer necessary by the
20 state board. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to
21 exempt the public lab school established pursuant to W.S.
22 21-17-501 from:

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1 (i) Any civil rights, health or safety
2 requirements applicable to other public schools in the
3 state except as specifically provided in this article;

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5 (ii) The student assessment and accountability
6 requirements applicable to other public schools;

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8 (iii) The public records act and public meeting
9 requirements applicable to public schools and school
10 districts and any federal or state privacy laws applicable
11 to public schools or school districts.

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13 (c) Admission to the public lab school established
14 pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501 shall be open to all students
15 residing within the resident school district to the extent
16 there is capacity within the applicable grade level at the
17 school. Capacity of the school shall be as determined by
18 the state construction department established pursuant to
19 W.S. 9-2-3001, but in no event shall not exceed two hundred
20 (200) students. If the total number of students applying
21 for enrollment exceeds the capacity of the public lab
22 school, then the school shall hold a blind lottery to
23 determine enrollment, except students enrolled in the

1 school the previous year shall be granted a seat, and
2 students with a sibling enrolled in the school shall be
3 given an enrollment preference.

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5 **21-17-504. Funding for the K-8 public lab school.**

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7 The public lab school established pursuant to W.S.
8 21-17-501 shall be funded through the education resource
9 block grant model as defined by W.S. 21-13-101(a)(xiv) as a
10 kindergarten through grade eight (8) public school within
11 the resident school district. Payment shall be made to the
12 public lab school by the resident school district as
13 provided under W.S. 21-3-314(c), unless the resident
14 district and the governing board of the public lab school
15 mutually agree in writing to fund the public lab school in
16 an alternative manner.

17

18 **Section 2.**

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20 (a) The public lab school established pursuant to
21 W.S. 21-17-501 shall accept students and commence
22 operations, not later than school year 2025-2026.

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1 (b) The governing board shall begin negotiations upon
2 the effective date of this section to reach any agreements
3 necessary with the resident school district and the
4 University of Wyoming to begin operation of the public lab
5 school established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501.

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7 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
8 public lab school established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501,
9 as created by section 1 of this act, shall not be
10 considered a new school by the department of education for
11 purposes of generating resources under W.S. 21-17-504, as
12 created by section 1 of this act, or for the purposes of
13 the foundation program as defined by W.S. 21-13-101(a)(v).
14 To generate the necessary resources to fund the public lab
15 school for school year 2025-2026, the department of
16 education shall utilize the data and information from the
17 University of Wyoming Lab School from school year 2024-2025
18 to determine the necessary resources under W.S.
19 21-13-101(a)(v).

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1 **Section 3.** 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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(END)