

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0003

Support for rural schools.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Sherwood, Andrew, Harshman  
and Strock and Senator(s) Crum, Gierau,  
Hutchings and Pearson

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION in support of rural schools in Wyoming.

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3 WHEREAS, rural schools in Wyoming have been integral to  
4 educating our children and are important for keeping rural  
5 ranch families together, promoting social cohesion and  
6 preserving community identity; and

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8 WHEREAS, our agriculture producers and ranchers play a key  
9 role in Wyoming's economy by feeding families, helping  
10 neighbors and preserving our heritage; and

11

12 WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of Wyoming's constitution  
13 guarantees that all children in Wyoming have the right to a  
14 free public education, stating "The legislature shall provide

1 for the establishment and maintenance of a complete and  
2 uniform system of public instruction, embracing free  
3 elementary schools of every needed kind and grade, a  
4 university with such technical and professional departments  
5 as the public good may require and the means of the state  
6 allow, and such other institutions as may be necessary"; and  
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8 WHEREAS, The Wyoming Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the  
9 constitutional mandate to finance a high quality and  
10 equitable education for every Wyoming student; and

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12 WHEREAS, Wyoming has fifteen (15) schools with three (3) rooms  
13 or less that educate one hundred two (102) students in grades  
14 K-8 throughout twelve (12) different school districts in  
15 Wyoming.

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17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE  
18 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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20 **Section 1.** That the members of the Wyoming Legislature  
21 find that our constitution requires equal access to education  
22 delivered from free elementary schools, regardless of size  
23 and location.

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2           **Section 2.** That the members of the Wyoming Legislature  
3 acknowledge the rural nature of our state, the historic use  
4 of rural schools and the need to financially support the  
5 establishment and maintenance of rural schools in Wyoming.

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7           **Section 3.** That the members of the Wyoming Legislature  
8 commit to ensuring rural and isolated families do not have to  
9 fight to gain access to an education for their children and  
10 that keeping families together and providing them with a  
11 complete and uniform system of public instruction is in the  
12 public's best interest.

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14           **Section 4.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
15 transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of  
16 Education for distribution to all school districts in  
17 Wyoming.

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19

(END)