

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.

10

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

12

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

1

2

ARTICLE 5

3

TEACHER EDUCATION K-8 PUBLIC LAB SCHOOL

4

5

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

6

**purpose.**

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8

(a) There is created a public lab school to teach

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kindergarten through grade eight (8) to accomplish the

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following purposes:

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(i) Promote developmentally appropriate

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differentiated instruction that is model learner-centered

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for students;

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16

(ii) Serves as a teacher education institution

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and educational learning site for pre-service teachers of

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all levels;

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(iii) Identifies best teaching practices that

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can be utilized in public schools statewide.

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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(c).

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;

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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.

16

17           (b) The members of the governing board created by  
18 subsection (a) of this section shall receive compensation,  
19 per diem and mileage for actual time spent in performance  
20 of their duties and traveling expenses while in attendance  
21 and going to and from board meetings in the same manner and  
22 amount as members of the Wyoming legislature.

23

1           (c) The governing board may negotiate and contract  
2 with the resident school district or the University of  
3 Wyoming, or any third party for the use of a school  
4 building and grounds, the operation and maintenance  
5 thereof, and the provision of any service, activity or  
6 undertaking that the public lab school established pursuant  
7 to W.S. 21-17-501 is required to perform in order to carry  
8 out the educational program. Any services for which the  
9 governing board contracts for as provided for under this  
10 subsection shall be pursuant to a written contract. If the  
11 contract is with the resident school district or the  
12 University of Wyoming, the services shall be provided by  
13 the resident school district at an incremental cost.

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15           (d) The governing board shall have standing to sue  
16 and be sued in its own name for the enforcement of any  
17 contract created pursuant to this section.

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19           (e) The governing board shall be responsible for the  
20 operation of the public lab school established pursuant to  
21 W.S. 21-17-501 including, but not limited to, preparation  
22 of a budget, contracting for services and personnel  
23 matters.

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2 (f) The governing board, in consultation with the  
3 University of Wyoming, shall determine educational  
4 placements of students enrolled at the University of  
5 Wyoming including, but not limited to, students enrolled in  
6 teaching programs, in the public lab school established  
7 pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501.

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9 (g) Not later than September 1, 2025, and each  
10 September 1 every year thereafter, the governing board  
11 shall report to the joint education interim committee on  
12 the implementation and administration of the public lab  
13 school established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501. The report  
14 shall include at minimum:

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16 (i) Student achievement data;

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18 (ii) Enrollment;

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20 (iii) The level of engagement with the  
21 University of Wyoming's college of education in student  
22 teacher placement;

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

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4           (v) Proposed statutory modifications.

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6           **21-17-503. Admission to the public lab school;**  
7 **operation; curriculum.**

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

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

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17           (ii) Meet the state uniform educational program  
18 standards imposed upon public schools by W.S. 21-9-101 and  
19 21-9-102 and the uniform state student content and  
20 performance standards prescribed by the state board of  
21 education under W.S. 21-2-304, including compliance with  
22 requirements under the statewide assessment system pursuant  
23 to W.S. 21-2-304(a)(v).



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2 (b) The public lab school established pursuant to  
3 W.S. 21-17-501 may operate free from specified school  
4 district policies and state regulations. The governing  
5 board established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-502 may waive  
6 requirements imposed by the resident school district,  
7 without seeking approval of the state board of education  
8 established pursuant to W.S. 21-2-301. The state board may  
9 waive state statutory requirements or rules promulgated by  
10 the state board, except that the state board shall not  
11 waive any statute or rule relating to the assessments or  
12 standards required to be administered. Upon request of the  
13 governing board, the state board shall provide summaries of  
14 such regulations and policies to use in preparing a request  
15 for a waiver from state regulations. The state department  
16 of education established pursuant to W.S. 21-2-104 shall  
17 prepare the summary of state regulations within existing  
18 appropriations. Any waiver of the resident school district  
19 regulations made pursuant to this subsection shall be for  
20 the period of the operation of the public lab school  
21 established pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501, except that a  
22 waiver of state statutes or regulations by the state board  
23 shall be subject to review every two (2) years and may be

1 revoked if the waiver is deemed no longer necessary by the  
2 state board. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to  
3 exempt the public lab school established pursuant to W.S.  
4 21-17-501 from:

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

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10 (ii) The student assessment and accountability  
11 requirements applicable to other public schools;

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13 (iii) The public records act and public meeting  
14 requirements applicable to public schools and school  
15 districts and any federal or state privacy laws applicable  
16 to public schools or school districts.

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18 (c) Admission to the public lab school established  
19 pursuant to W.S. 21-17-501 shall be open to all students  
20 residing within the resident school district to the extent  
21 there is capacity within the applicable grade level at the  
22 school. Capacity of the school shall be as determined by  
23 the state construction department established pursuant to

1 W.S. 9-2-3001, but in no event shall not exceed two hundred  
2 (200) students. If the total number of students applying  
3 for enrollment exceeds the capacity of the public lab  
4 school, then the school shall hold a blind lottery to  
5 determine enrollment, except students enrolled in the  
6 school the previous year shall be granted a seat, and  
7 students with a sibling enrolled in the school shall be  
8 given an enrollment preference.

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10 **21-17-504. Funding for the K-8 public lab school.**

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

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