

Wyoming Boys' School

September, 2020

The Wyoming Boys' School (WBS) in Worland, WY is a state correctional facility for minors adjudicated as juvenile delinquents under Title 14. The WBS serves court-ordered, male juvenile delinquents aged twelve (12) to twenty-one (21) years and has a biennial budget of \$17.2M¹. The facility has a bed capacity of one hundred (100 beds), and a staffed bed capacity of eighty (80).²

Table 1. WBS Metrics, 19-20 Biennium

Bed Capacity	Staffed Beds	Average Monthly Census	Average Age	Average Length of Stay	Number of Admissions	Number of Discharges
100	80	66	16 years	233	196	201

Statutory Authority

W.S. § 25-1-201 establishes the WBS; its purpose and operation are governed by W.S. § 25-3-101 through -106, which specifies the “reformatory” nature of the facility; and W.S. § 9-2-2006 and W.S. § 9-2-2104 place the WBS under the authority of the Director of the Department of Family Services (DFS). W.S. § 14-6-231, 14-6-251 through -252, and 7-13-101 specify the sanction levels at which juvenile offenders may be court-ordered to the WBS.

Programming

The WBS offers cognitive-behavioral group learning sessions to address criminogenic behavior patterns in male juvenile delinquents. The most prevalent diagnosis of WBS clients is conduct disorder - “a repetitive and persistent pattern of behavior in which the basic rights of others or major age-appropriate societal norms or rules are violated.” Common behavioral issues include defiance, oppositionality, aggression, violence, school truancy, disrespect, drug/alcohol abuse, theft, and property destruction.

To address these behavior issues, group learning sessions include evidence-based interventions such as: Balanced and Restorative Justice, Truthought, Cognitive Self-change, Criminal Thinking, Personal and Social Skills Development, Victim Awareness, Family Systems, Healthy Relationships, Independent Living Skills and Transition Planning, Emotional and Anger Management, Physical Training, psycho-educational substance abuse, and trauma informed or emotional-based therapies.

¹ The biennial budget presented here includes the Governor’s Step 2 budget reductions. The previous BFY2021 budget for the WBS was \$17.7M.

² While the WBS has one hundred (100) physical beds, it only has the positions to safely staff eighty (80) of those beds. It is typical for facilities to have more physical beds than staffed beds.

In addition to group learning sessions, WBS has an agreement of partnership with Cloud Peak Counselling Center to provide four full-time mental health therapists, a part-time Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and a part-time Psychologist to provide psychiatric assessment, medication management, Level 2.1 substance abuse services, and individual, group, and family counselling as appropriate for each client's needs.

Education

WBS is fully accredited through the Wyoming Department of Educational and Advanced Education for grades six through twelve and all educational credits transfer to all public schools in Wyoming and beyond. The school calendar is similar to that of the public schools, including summer school. Students follow academic requirements to meet grade level credits, graduation or High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) certification. Each full-day class serves twelve to sixteen students and operates in-person or, as necessary, in a fully virtual learning environment.

Vocational opportunities are explored and implemented as deemed appropriate, based upon the student's needs and availability. This is viewed as an earned opportunity. Students must demonstrate academic, programmatic, and behavioral success prior to being granted vocational opportunities.

Physical Plant

The WBS sits on approximately 38 operational acres. Facility infrastructure includes:

- Four (4) dormitories with a maximum capacity of twenty-five (25) students each. Each dormitory includes a kitchen, dining area, laundry facilities, conference room, and visitation area;
- The Education Complex, opened in 2016, includes offices, classrooms, a library, technology room, and a gymnasium for residents;
- The Administration Building houses the business office, nursing department, examination room, and security;
- Several buildings to house operational functions, including a maintenance shop, parking garage, and storage buildings; and,
- Two (2) on-campus residences for the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent to ensure 24/7/365 presence of administration on-campus.

Staffing

The WBS has 94 full-time positions, detailed below. With the current number of positions, the WBS can safely staff eighty (80) of the one hundred (100) available beds.

- Six (6) administrative staff providing facility oversight and direction, business and accounting functions, human resources, policy and procedure, maintenance of administrative and client records, and communication with the courts and other partners.
 - One (1) Superintendent (EXMT01);
 - One (1) Deputy Superintendent (SOSP12);
 - One (1) Executive Assistant (BAAS06);

- One (1) Office Assistant (BAAS03);
- One (1) Business Office Coordinator (BABO08); and,
- One (1) Accountant (FIAC07).
- Fifty-five (55) dormitory staff providing around-the-clock direct care and supervision of residents.
 - Four (4) Dormitory Directors (SOCW09 and SOSPI0);
 - Eight (8) Youth Service Supervisors (SOYS09);
 - Twenty-eight (28) Youth Service Specialists (SOYS06) on day shift; and,
 - Fifteen (15) Youth Service Aides (SOYS03) on night shift.
- Thirteen (13) education staff providing required instructional services and coordinating with each resident's home school district to assist either in transition back to the community or completion of their high school diploma or high school equivalency test (HiSET) certificate.
 - One (1) Principal (ETCT11);
 - One (1) Office Assistant (BAAS03);
 - One (1) Teacher's Aide (ETCT05); and,
 - Ten (10) Certified Teachers (ETCT09).
- Twelve (12) security staff providing around-the-clock security and safety measures and responding to emergency and safety-related situations.
 - One (1) Security Director (SOSP10);
 - Two (2) Youth Services Supervisors (SOYS09);
 - One (1) Admissions Coordinator (SOCW08);
 - Five (5) Youth Services Security Officers (SOYS04); and,
 - Three (3) Security Night Shift Officers (SOYS03).
- Three (3) Nursing Staff attending to the general medical needs of residents between the hours of seven am and eight pm, seven days per week. The WBS contracts with a physician, dentist, and optometrist to provide care on-site, and provides secure transportation to off-site community providers when higher levels of care are needed.
 - One (1) Senior Nursing Director (HSNU10); and,
 - Two (2) Nurses (HSNU08).
- Five (5) Maintenance Staff responsible for oversight of all buildings and grounds operations and maintenance.
 - One (1) Maintenance Supervisor (TDST08); and,
 - Four (4) Skilled Trade Specialists (TDST06).

Minimum dormitory staffing levels³ include:

- One (1) Dormitory Director (SOCW09 or SOSPI0);
- One (1) Youth Service Supervisor (SOYS09);
- A staff-to-client ratio of 1:6 or 1:8 during the day; and,
- A staff-to-client ratio of 1:16 during the night.

³ Staff-to-client ratios include all staff physically working in the building.