



STATE of WYOMING LEGISLATURE

Memorandum

DATE March 17, 2026

TO Members, Management Council

FROM Senator Wendy Schuler, Co-chairwoman
Representative Ocean Andrew, Co-chairman

SUBJECT 2026 Interim Topics Proposed for the Joint Education Interim Committee

The Joint Education Interim Committee (Committee) met on March 6, 2026, to discuss proposed interim study topics. This memorandum represents the Committee's proposed priorities for the 2026 interim. If approved, the Committee intends to study these topics in three, two-day meetings and one half-day virtual meeting, prior to the 2027 General Session.

2026 INTERIM TOPICS

Priority #1 – Educational Basket of Goods (10 hours)

The Committee will study the educational basket of goods and how it relates to the uniform student content and performance standards established by the State Board of Education. This study will include reviewing life skills contained under the common core of skills and ensuring students are ready for post-high school pathways. The Committee will also study if the statewide student assessment accurately measures the educational basket of goods and how to ensure Wyoming's scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress do not drop between fourth and eighth grade. The Committee will consider the requirement for school districts to provide gifted and talented instruction and evaluate the consistency and efficacy of those programs.

The Committee, in accordance with W.S. 21-13-309(o) and (u), will also review information necessary to make its recommendation on an external cost adjustment to the education resource block grant model for school year 2027-2028. The Committee will meet jointly with the Joint Appropriations Committee to receive required reports and information under W.S. 21-13-309(u).

Priority #2 – Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Programs (6 hours)

The Committee will study how the community colleges and the University of Wyoming (UW) are preparing students for post-secondary education and the workforce through dual and concurrent enrollment programs. The Committee will receive information regarding the agreements between the school districts and colleges and UW, the allocation of funding between the post-secondary institutions and districts, including revenue from boards of cooperative educational services, what courses are offered, participation rates, and the opportunities for students across the state to participate in these programs.

Priority #3 – Virtual Education (6 hours)

The Committee will study virtual education programs in the state, including how they are funded, how students are counted within the districts' average daily membership, and how students are reported in assessment and accountability systems.

Priority #4 – State Administrative Review (10 hours)

The Committee will study how the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), the Wyoming State Board of Education, Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board, and the Professional Teaching Standards Board work together for public education in the state. The Committee will consider administrative efficiencies and statutory changes, if necessary.

Priority #5 – Artificial Intelligence in Education (4 hours)

The Committee will study artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on schools. The Committee will consider proactive approaches to AI in the classroom and current guidance from the WDE, if any. The Committee will focus on AI initiatives and opportunities, policy guidance, workforce readiness, privacy and security, professional development and innovation.

Priority #6 – School Discipline (2 hours)

The Committee will continue study of this topic, including review of 2026 House Bill 65, K-12 public school discipline, sponsored by the Committee during the 2026 Budget Session. The Committee will study federal law, Wyoming Statutes, WDE rules, and local school district policies regarding school discipline, the use of restraints and seclusion, and how to best provide the least restrictive educational environment for students pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Committee will also study other states' laws and the effect of school discipline on students.

Meeting Schedule and Budget

The Committee requests the standard budget to accomplish this work and hold the following meetings:

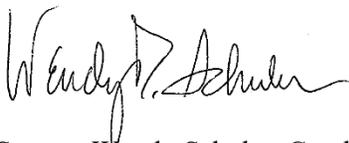
Meeting 1: June 1-2, 2026 (Casper)

Meeting 2: August 12-13, 2026 (Casper)

Meeting 3: September 15, 2026 (Virtual)

Meeting 4: November 17-18, 2026 (Cheyenne)

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. We look forward to discussing these proposed topics with the members of Management Council.



Senator Wendy Schuler, Co-chairman



Representative Ocean Andrew, Co-chairman