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## Wyoming Department of Education

### WDE Recalibration Data Quality Project Update

The WDE project to prepare for recalibration of the school funding model is well underway. WDE is responsible for providing accurate and timely data in September to allow calculations of school funding based on the new model that is under development now. Following the finalization of legislation and acceptance of the new model, WDE will update the data gathering and reporting systems, and provide training to the district staff on the changes and new reporting requirements.

#### Activities so far:

The Finance unit has hired three AWEC employees to assist in data evaluation, system documentation and training on the new model. They have been learning the data elements and the reports and systems and systems to collect the data. They worked on the documentation of the new reports and the preparation for the year end training for business managers. They also attended the year end training for the business managers that was held in Casper June 6 and 7 and met many of the local district business managers.

The Data unit has hired one AWEC employee as a data base administrator to assist with the data collection and assessment for the current model. This position will also assist in the modification of the data collection system for changes generated by the new model.

The Data unit and Finance unit staff have worked together to provide extensive data reports to Picus and Associates, the LSO recalibration firm. A secure web site was established to provide access to data and maintain the history of data reviewed by the contractor. The data unit is also upgrading the data analysis software that will be used to validate data as it is loaded to the state wide data collection framework. This upgrade will assist in the analysis of data and shorten the timeframe required to certify data as correct.

ESP Solutions Group, the contractor selected by WDE to conduct the district level data quality reviews has completed the visits to each district. Individual reports and action plans for each district are being finalized, as well as a summary report on the data quality issues statewide. Scheduling of return visits to present the report and discuss data quality issues with each district will be done when the reports are finished and have been reviewed by WDE staff.

Picus and Associates, the LSO recalibration firm, has conducted three Professional Judgment Panel (PJP) meetings around the state to gather input of levels of resources needed and new elements to include in the recalibrated model.

Upcoming activities:

Meetings are scheduled in July and August with Picus and Assoc. and the Select Committee on School Finance to continue to evaluate the process of enhancing the current model to meet future educational needs. Following the complete evaluation of the model and recommendations for changes, legislation will be prepared by LSO to go through the next legislative session for formal approval of the recalibrated model.

When the changes to the model have been finalized and legislation passed, WDE will document the changes and work to update the current data bases, reports and processed to ensure that the districts receive the support needed to begin operating with the new model requirements. New training will be prepared and presented on how the model calculates, the changes to reports and data elements, and the effect on funding to be expected based on the new model calculations.

The recalibration process will be ongoing throughout the next year as the model is updated, and then the effect of the updates are documented, systems are updated and training is provided to all stakeholders to operate effectively with the new model.