



WYOMING SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

School Board Memo

Week of November 6, 2017

WSBA Annual Conference

We look forward to seeing everyone from around the state gathered together at the WSBA Annual Conference next week. Please note that the conference bags will have materials for the Wyoming Educational Fair inside so please take a look and bring the information with you to the exhibits on Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. The agenda on the website has been updated, please click [here](#). Safe travel to Casper!!

Legislative Meetings

Joint Education Interim Committee will meet on November 14, 2017 at UW Casper College at 8:30 a.m. [Agenda](#) [Pre-Meeting Materials Index](#)

Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration will meet November 29-December 1, 2017 at the Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission in Casper. [Meeting Notice](#)

Joint Appropriations Committee will meet during the first two weeks of December, 2017 and the second and third weeks of January, 2018 in Cheyenne. A formal meeting notice will be available at a later date.

Joint Revenue Interim Committee will meet on December 4-5, 2017. A formal meeting notice will be available at a later date.

CTE Courses Increase On-time Graduation Rates

[Education Week](#) (10/31, Gewertz) reports on a study published in the American Educational Research Journal conducted at the University of California at Santa Barbara finding that “career and technical education classes in high school increases students’ odds of graduating on time, but doesn’t improve their chances of enrolling in college.” The researchers also found that students who took CTE courses reduced their “chances of dropping out” and that “each yearlong career and technical

education course students took sometime during high school boosted their chances of on-time graduation by 1.6 percent,” but “had no effect on whether students went to college right after high school.” [Diverse Education](#) (10/31, Abdul-Alim) reports high school seniors “were 2.1 percent more likely to graduate and 1.8 percent less likely to drop out for each CTE course they took.” Yet, it also found that “taking CTE courses during freshman and sophomore years had only a small impact on on-time graduation and dropout rates.”

Science Fairs

[Education Week](#)'s (11/6) “Curriculum Matters” blog examines whether science fairs do in fact “help to improve student achievement or interest in science.” With the help of a four-year National Science Foundation informal science learning grant, Education Development Center co-director Abigail Levy is leading a study “analyzing a national survey and case studies of more than a dozen schools for clues about how the fairs might help pay dividends for students.” Levy and her team whittled down a sample of 1,200 middle schools “representing a range of geographies and demographics” to 168 schools. The researchers first realized that middle school science fairs vary “from place to place, in terms of whether they’re mandatory or not, and whether they have a central or a peripheral place in what students are studying in science.” In the next phase of their study, the researchers hope to clarify some ambiguity unveiled in the first phase, and “will also try to explore cost-effectiveness.”

News Articles

Does your district have news worthy of statewide interest? If so, please email your news articles to wsba@wsba-wy.org. The articles will be included in the next weekly WSBA Memo.

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