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Wyoming Education Association Legislative Update



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Contact [WEA President Kathy Vetter](#)

Contact [Government Relations Director Ken Decaria](#)

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The [Senate Education Committee](#) plans to meet 8 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

The [House Education Committee](#) plans to meet upon adjournment on Mondays and Wednesdays, and at 12 Noon on Fridays.

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[2016 WEA Legislative Update Archives](#)

[2015 WEA Legislative Update Archives](#)

February 22, 2017 -

Notable news of the day -

Guns in K-12 Schools Passes out of Senate Education!

School safety and security (**HB194**) passed out of committee this morning with an amendment regarding specific training for those who would be able to conceal carry, more guidelines for districts to follow, and areas where districts would allow certain staff to conceal carry.

The WEA has always supported the use of School Resource Officers (SROs) as those *highly-trained* professionals to carry firearms in schools.

Contact your Senator immediately, and ask them to VOTE NO ON HB194!

HB236 (School finance-omnibus education funding) Passes out of Senate Education with MORE Cuts!

Yesterday, the Senate Education Committee voted to make even *DEEPER* cuts to HB236 (from approximately \$61 million to \$85 million next year alone).

Contact your Senator now, and ask them to *reinstate the original language of HB236 prior to the cuts made yesterday by the Senate Education Committee*. These cuts would equal approximately \$85 million for the 2017-2018 school year, and \$105 million for the 2018-2019 school year.

These proposed deeper cuts by the Senate Education Committee would mean the loss of hundreds of education jobs in Wyoming. Wyoming students would suffer greatly! Students will receive less one-on-one time; programs and activities would be cut.

Contact your Senator now, and ask them to stop destroying our education system in Wyoming!

Upon adjournment, the House Education Committee is scheduled to discuss SJ9 ([Public School Financing](#)), SF 157 ([Education-continuing contract teacher status](#)), and SF 165 ([School finance-education funding reductions](#)). We'll update you on the status of those bills in tomorrow's update.

Campus Carry Gun Bill Passes Out of Committee -

House Bill 136ENG ([Campus carry](#)) passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and will now head to the Senate for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Please, [contact your Senator now](#), and ask them to vote no on House Bill 136!

One of our biggest concerns with HB136ENG ([Campus carry](#)), specifically, is that, with the University of Wyoming beginning alcohol sales next school year, we see grave dangers with the mixing of alcohol and firearms at UW events.

The Joint Conference Committee has been assigned to the supplemental budget to discuss differences between the House and Senate versions of amendments, and they are meeting tonight upon adjournment. We will have updates on any concurrences in future Legislative Updates, as well as future-scheduled Joint Conference Committees on the budget, and other bills.

Information Regarding Past Education Cuts -

Last year, a Joint Conference Committee (JCC) compromised on a Budget Bill by cutting approximately \$36 million from school districts over the two years from 2016-17 & 2017-18. Beyond those cuts, districts are already losing funding as students move away (out of state/other districts). Furthermore, between 2010 and 2015, *only ONE* External Cost Adjustment (ECA) was given to districts, whereas the current funding model asks for an ECA to be given to districts *every* year.

Education has taken significant cuts over the past five years, and reporting otherwise is simply not true.

Legislative action today -

House Bill 40 ([Education accountability](#)) passed second reading, and will now move to third reading.

House Bill 211 ([Developmental preschool payment calculations-amendments](#)) passed Committee of the Whole, and will now move to second reading.

Senate File 37 ([Education-Hathaway scholarship program-2](#)) passed third reading with an amendment, and will now move to the Senate for concurrence.

Senate Files 44 ([Speech pathology and audiology](#)) passed third reading, and will now go to the Senate for concurrence.

Senate File 67 ([CHIP-program amendments](#)) passed third reading, and will now go to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

Coming up this week -

2/23	8 AM	Senate Corporations is scheduled to meet and discuss HB77 (In-state tuition-AmeriCorps service)
2/23	Noon Recess	Senate Appropriations is scheduled to meet and discuss HB236 (School finance-omnibus education funding)
2/24	9 AM	Senate Education is scheduled to meet and discuss HB126 (Elementary school foreign language requirement)
2/24	Noon Recess	House Education is scheduled to meet
2/24		Last day for third reading on Bills in house of origin

Coming up next week -

2/27	8 AM	Senate Education is scheduled to meet
2/27	Upon Adjournment	House Education is scheduled to meet
2/27		Last day for Committee of the Whole in the second house.
2/28		Last day for second reading in the second house.
3/1		Last day for third reading in the second house.
3/2		Concurrence on Amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports
3/3		Joint Conference

Committee Reports; All
JCC Reports due to Front
Desk by 2:00 p.m.;
ADJOURN by Midnight.

IMPORTANT LINKS TO EDUCATION NEWS

[Quality Counts 2017: State Report Cards Map](#)

[Wyoming Ranked 7th in National Education Quality](#)

[Winter 2016 WEA News Magazine](#)

[Wyoming Education Association Celebrates More Positive Education News](#)

[Wyoming Students Top National Average in Science](#)

[Wyoming K-12 Education Funding Deficit White Paper](#)

[School Finance: Constitutional Duties, Powers, and Approaches](#)

[2015 School Finance Recalibration Report](#)

[Legislative Service Office School Finance Information](#)



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