



Wyoming Education Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Mead Signs Bill Today Cutting Public Education

(Cheyenne, WY)—March 27, 2018—Governor Mead signed House Bill 0140 into law today implementing cuts for the K-12 funding model of approximately \$8.0 million for fiscal year 2019 and \$19.3 million for fiscal year 2020. The bulk of these cuts will be felt through changes to the funding formulas for Average Daily Membership (ADM) and school groundskeepers, and institution of a cap on special education funding.

The Senate held public education hostage, refusing to pass HB0194, State Funded Capital Construction, which provided hundreds of millions of dollars in statewide construction projects, unless the House gave way to the cuts to public education demanded by the Senate through HB0140.

President Vetter explains, “The Senate has cloaked the cuts in areas that don’t seem to hurt students, but we all know that when the block grant is reduced, services to students are reduced. Any cut to education hurts all students in Wyoming. Considering the immense attack on public education funding that began the session, the end result is nowhere near as bad as it could have been for Wyoming’s schools. For that outcome, we are grateful.”

In a session when Governor Mead wisely noted that quality education is at the core of efforts to diversify and build Wyoming’s economy, cuts to public education seemingly undermine his efforts to get Wyoming back on its feet. The governor’s budget proposal, rejected by the legislature, contained no cuts to public education.

The Wyoming Education Association is both grateful and disappointed in the results of the legislative session. Kathy Vetter, WEA President, said, “We were hopeful that Governor Mead would be able to hold to his initial plan of not cutting education this session. However, with overwhelming pressure and compromise from both the House and the Senate, the Governor still upheld the cuts to education. WEA is grateful for the work of many lawmakers, who have steadfastly fought for public schools. We are disappointed with the rigid approach of some, particularly in the Senate, who refuse to seriously address the real problem of finding a stable funding stream for public education.”

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