



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

Jillian Balow
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dicky Shanor
Chief of Staff

Brent Bacon
Chief Academic Officer

Lisa Weigel
Chief Policy Officer

Dianne Bailey
Chief Operations Officer

Cheyenne Office
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor
2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-2060
Phone: (307) 777-7675
Fax: (307) 777-6234

Riverton Office
320 West Main
Riverton, WY 82501
Phone: (307) 857-9250
Fax: (307) 857-9256

On the Web
edu.wyoming.gov
wyomingmeasuresup.com

MEMORANDUM NO. 2016-093

TO: School District Superintendents
Special Education Directors
Child Development Center Directors

FROM: Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: August 15, 2016

SUBJECT: Special Education Personnel Shortage Tuition Reimbursement

WDE OFFERING SPECIAL EDUCATION PERSONNEL TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Division of Individual Learning is offering a tuition reimbursement program to address the shortage of special education teachers and related service providers in the state. This shortage affects Wyoming's local education agencies, including school districts and child development centers. The WDE will award stipends to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that demonstrate a long-term special education or related service vacancy. Each stipend will be used for tuition reimbursement to a selected candidate for hire. Under this Memorandum, the WDE, recipient LEA, and Participant candidate enter into a partnership for a minimum of two years. Ten stipends will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The LEA will receive a stipend totaling \$12,000 on behalf of the Participant who has accepted employment. The LEA will deliver the stipend to the Participant as reimbursement in the amount of \$12,000 of the tuition costs associated with the completion of the Participant's professional training and certification program.

To be eligible, an LEA must demonstrate that they have a long-term vacancy for a full-time special education teacher or related service provider, and that it has remained unfilled for 12 or more months. The LEA must also demonstrate that they have made adequate efforts to advertise and recruit qualified candidates for this vacancy.

The Participant must have obtained Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) certification or other Wyoming professional board licensure as a Special Education Teacher (including Teacher of Exceptional Children, Exceptional Specialist, or Early Childhood/Special Education Teacher), School Psychologist, Speech-Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, or Educational Interpreter for Deaf/HOH. Additionally, the Participant must have been hired to provide special education or related services to students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

To receive a Memorandum from the WDE, contact Kodi Gerhold at kodi.gerhold@wyo.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Billie Wortham, Individual Learning Consultant, at 307-857-9252 or billie.wortham@wyo.gov.