

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0033

Expanded opportunity pilot program.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hammons, Craft, Jaggi,
McOmie and Wallis and Senator(s) Anderson,
J., Coe, Massie and Von Flatern

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public education; establishing a grant
2 program funding pilot projects during the 2009-2010
3 academic year that provide innovative education delivery to
4 students at-risk of dropping out of high school prior to
5 graduation; delegating program administration to the
6 Wyoming community college commission; imposing reporting
7 requirements upon grant recipients; providing an
8 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.**

13

14 (a) One hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000.00)
15 is appropriated from the public school foundation program
16 account to the Wyoming community college commission to be

1 expended for the expanded opportunity pilot program
2 established and authorized under this section. This
3 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the
4 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010.

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6 (b) The expanded opportunity pilot program is
7 established under this section to provide programs targeted
8 at reducing high school drop-out rates through a
9 collaborative effort between Wyoming community colleges and
10 Wyoming public high schools situated within the colleges'
11 defined service area. Programs eligible for grant awards
12 under this section shall consist of the following programs
13 which comply with requirements and criteria established by
14 the commission in consultation with the department of
15 education:

16
17 (i) Concurrent and dual high school-community
18 college enrollment education programs targeted at students
19 identified as gifted and talented and at-risk of dropping
20 out of high school;

21
22 (ii) Concurrent and dual high school-community
23 college enrollment career-technical education programs

1 targeted at students identified as at-risk of dropping out
2 of high school;

3
4 (iii) Innovative delivery of education programs
5 through coordinated electronic system technology or at
6 times beyond regular school hours or sessions which
7 facilitate students attempting to complete necessary course
8 work fulfilling high school graduation requirements;

9
10 (iv) Programs providing basic educational
11 requirements necessary for entry into and success in post-
12 secondary level academic and career-technical education
13 programs which target participation by identified student
14 populations at-risk of dropping out of high school;

15
16 (v) Additional innovative programs providing
17 educational opportunities to identified at-risk students
18 through combined high school-community college
19 collaborative efforts.

20
21 (c) The commission shall provide sufficient
22 notification to community colleges and school districts of
23 the grant program established under this section and shall
24 develop requirements and criteria governing program

1 administration in sufficient time to enable program
2 application by July 1, 2009. Program requirements and
3 criteria shall in addition to application procedures and
4 required program components and content, prescribe uniform
5 methodology for identification of students at-risk of
6 dropping out of high school prior to graduation. Although
7 eligible programs are targeted to student populations at-
8 risk of dropping out of high school, the commission shall
9 not exclusively limit enrollment in an eligible program to
10 at-risk students only.

11

12 (d) Each Wyoming community college may apply to the
13 commission for a grant award under this section on a form,
14 in a manner and within a time period specified by the
15 commission, which shall be applied to expanded opportunity
16 programs offered during the 2009-2010 academic year.
17 Applications shall identify each qualified high school
18 participating in the program and shall at minimum include a
19 description of the proposed expanded opportunity program,
20 the specialized student population to which the program is
21 targeted, an outline of the necessary steps in college-high
22 school collaboration and a summary of the program
23 components and educational strategies to be employed.

24

1 (e) From the amount appropriated under subsection (a)
2 of this section, the commission shall award expanded
3 opportunity program grants among applications filed under
4 this section by not later than August 15, 2009. Each grant
5 awarded to any one (1) qualifying program shall not exceed
6 fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), which shall be
7 distributed by the commission to selected applicants on or
8 before August 31, 2009, to enable program delivery during
9 the 2009-2010 academic year.

10
11 (f) In addition to subsection (e) of this section,
12 the commission may expend up to ten thousand dollars
13 (\$10,000.00) for administering this section, including the
14 acquisition of contractual services necessary to draft
15 program requirements and criteria and to develop uniform
16 methodology for use in the identification of students at-
17 risk of dropping out of high school prior to graduation.

18
19 (g) Each recipient college shall report by July 1,
20 2010, to the commission on expenditures of grant awards
21 distributed under this section together with information on
22 the expanded opportunity program provided under the award,
23 the program strategies employed and the impact of the
24 program on at-risk student populations and an evaluation of

1 the effectiveness of the program on reducing high school
2 drop-out rates. Not later than August 1, 2010, the
3 commission shall compile the reports and present the
4 compilation to the joint education interim committee
5 together with recommendations pertaining to program
6 continuation and funding.

7

8 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
9 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
10 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
11 Constitution.

12

13 (END)