



## **ACTION ALERT: Attend Jan. 30 public hearing on HB 236 School Finance-Omnibus Education Funding**

This year's Wyoming Legislative Session is pivoting around two issues: 1.) how to maintain funding for K-12 education and 2.) squeezing more cuts out of general state agencies. On the sidelines and rising are dipping more into state savings and raising taxes.

On the education front, the House Education Committee this coming Monday (January 30) will be holding a public hearing on [HB 236 School Finance-Omnibus Education Funding](#). The meeting will take place in the auditorium at East High School, located at 2800 Pershing Blvd. in Cheyenne.

This public hearing begins at 6 PM with a backgrounder on the bill, followed by public comments on the budget cuts, additional revenue (taxes), general statements and finally House Education Committee discussion and voting.

The 53-page bill really is about pretty much staying the course regarding K-12 funding. It sort of freezes spending for the next school year and beyond at current levels. It does this by taking money or raising taxes from a variety of sources.

The big picture for "why the bill" relates to a projected K-12 revenue shortfalls of between \$360 million and \$400 million--every year for at least four years. As well known, the general government in Wyoming already has been cut by 10%, including the community colleges and the university. K-12 has been somewhat immune from cuts for fears about tampering with the approved school funding model and the State's Constitution that references funding education above all else.

A Catch 22 prevails. Our K-12 spending per pupil of \$15,700 ranges anywhere from \$5,000 to \$9,000 more than any of our neighboring states. When the state approved the current funding model 12 years ago, the consultants alluded to great education results to come. That has yet to happen. High school graduation rates, for example, have improved but they lag behind the regional average.

Attend if you can. Education is fundamental to Wyoming's future. A great education system is even more important.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS**

If you cannot attend the public hearing, the legislature is accepting comments on HB 236 School Finance-Omnibus Education Funding through its [online public comment system](#).

**Bill Schilling**  
**President**  
**Wyoming Business Alliance/Wyoming Heritage Foundation**

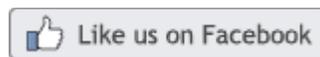
## Wyoming Business Alliance

The Wyoming Business Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization representing the voice of business in the state. It is dedicated to promoting and advocating for a growing economy by connecting business leaders from across Wyoming, representing business interests and issues, and partnering with key business organizations and trade associations. The organization was founded in 1979 as Wyoming Heritage Society and Wyoming Heritage Foundation. Policies for the Wyoming Business Alliance are set by our Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has 45 members who serve for three-year terms, plus 18 leaders from state business and trade organizations. Visit [www.wyomingbusinessalliance.com](http://www.wyomingbusinessalliance.com).



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