

# Wyoming Community College Commission

2020 Carey Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cheyenne WY 82002

*Commissioners*

Mr. Don Bryant, Worland  
 Ms. Lois Distad, Casper  
 Mr. Jack Russell, Cody  
 Ms. Ann Chambers Noble, Cora  
 Mr. Larry Atwell, Cheyenne  
 Mr. Steve Skordas, Rawlins  
 Dr. Jack States, Lander



*Exofficio*  
 Governor Dave Freudenthal  
 State Superintendent Dr. Jim McBride  
 Executive Director  
 Dr. James O. Rose

Phone: 307-777-7763  
 Fax: 307-777-6567  
[www.communitycolleges.wy.edu](http://www.communitycolleges.wy.edu)

**To:** Governor Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming State Legislature  
**From:** Amy Brockel  
**Date:** 09/26/08  
**Re:** Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program (TSLRP)  
 Annual Report as per Wyoming Statute 21-7-601(n)

**OVERVIEW:**

Wyoming statute 21-7-601 created the Wyoming Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program (TSLRP) in order to address the state’s current and future shortage of qualified teachers in the areas of mathematics, science, special education and foreign language. Through the TSLRP program, Wyoming residents or graduates of Wyoming high schools who meet the following requirements may be eligible to receive a TSLRP loan to help pay the unmet financial need of attendance in that program:

- Enrolled, in good standing, as at least a junior at the University of Wyoming,
- Majoring in a teacher education program leading to certification as a special education, foreign language, mathematics or science teacher, and

Loans are repaid by working as a certified teacher in Wyoming in one of the four specified areas.

**SUMMARY:** The program’s first year of operation was from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The tables below report only on the third year of operation from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

GROUP 2		
Reporting for 2007-2008 Academic Year		
Biennial Legislative Appropriation: \$400,000 (\$380,000 for student loans & \$20,000 for loan servicing fees) \$200,000 per academic year		
Number of Students	Average Award	Total Awarded
17 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year students, started Fall 06 & most graduate in Spring 09)	\$5,468	\$92,954

GROUP 3		
Reporting for 2007-2008 Academic Year		
Biennial Legislative Appropriation: \$400,000 (\$380,000 for student loans & \$20,000 for loan servicing fees) \$200,000 per academic year		
Number of Students	Average Award	Total Awarded
24 (1st year students, started Fall 07 & most graduate in Spring 09)	\$5,250	\$126,000

<b>TSLRP Students' Area of Study</b> (includes all students June 2005-July 2008)				
	<b>Math</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Special Education</b>	<b>Foreign Language</b>
<b>Group 1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Group 2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Group 3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>

\*The Foreign Language area of study was added by the 2007 legislature. The students enrolled in the Foreign Language area of study began in the Spring of 2007.

**TSLRP OUTCOMES:**

The students receiving TSLRP loans have a minimum of one and maximum of three years of study before graduation. Therefore, the program's first full group to graduate was in the spring semester of 2007. The 6/30/08 report from Western States Learning Corporation, the contracted loan servicing agency, reflects the status of groups 1, 2 & 3.

**Report Provided by Professional Teachers Standards Board:**

<b>TSLRP STUDENT OUTCOMES</b> ( Western States Learning Corporation, summary report, 6/30/08)		
<b>Paid in Full by Working</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Currently Employed in Wyoming to Repay the Loan</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Graduated and Obtaining Certification</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Dropped program and are Repaying Loan Directly</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Paid in full cash</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Defaulted</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Still enrolled at UW</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Total teaching students assisted by TSLRP program</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100%</b>

The University of Wyoming has reported that the Math and Special Education departments have seen an increase in the number of students enrolled in the teacher education program since the implementation of the Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program. The Professional Teachings Standards Board issues Exception Authorizations (EA) to those individuals who have extensive training or experience in a particular discipline when a certified teacher is not available. Based on the number of EA's issued in 2007-2008 school year, it appears the decrease in the number of EA's in special education may have been positively impacted due to the TSLRP legislation.

There are a number of teaching positions, 3.6% in total, that were filled by teachers during the 2007-2008 school year, who are not fully certified in both core and non-core content areas. Teachers may have up to a total of three Exception Authorizations (up to a total of three years to obtain full certification). Many of the EA's issued are to teachers employed in local school districts who need to obtain a second or third endorsement due to the district's need to assign this teacher to a course outside their endorsement area. This is most often seen in small districts. That being said the PSTB makes the following recommendations to the Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program:

1. Continue the TSLRP for students majoring in the areas of Foreign (World) languages, Special Education, Math, and Science.
2. Expand the TSLRP to include English as a Second Language (ESL), Reading, and Library Media.
3. Expand the TSLRP to support currently certified teachers in Wyoming, employed by local school districts, to add additional endorsements to their initial certification in the areas of Foreign (World) Languages, Special Education, Math, Science, English as a Second Language (ESL) Reading and Library Media.

**Report and recommendations prepared by Dr. Connie Pollard, Professional Teaching Standards Board**