



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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August 18, 2017

Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I am pleased to submit Wyoming's consolidated state plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to you.

This plan was driven by stakeholder input to ensure that it builds on Wyoming's strengths and puts students' priorities first. Over the past year and a half, the Wyoming Department of Education held fourteen public meetings, consulted with dozens of individual stakeholders, received 135 formal public comments, and had 550 participants in online surveys. Additionally, we formally consulted with both the Arapaho and Shoshone tribes.

We heard about the many strengths and challenges that exist in our schools. We heard that the best decisions for our students are made here in Wyoming, and that success looks different for every student. We heard that preparation for careers is just as important as preparation for college, and that schools must work to create opportunities for every student. While the stakeholder input we received helped derive the attached plan, it was the beginning of ongoing consultation that will continue beyond implementation.

With your approval, we look forward to putting this plan into action and continuing to create opportunities for students to keep Wyoming strong. Thank you for your thoughtful review and careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Jillian Balow
Superintendent of Public Instruction

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING



2323 Carey Avenue
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

August 16, 2017

The Honorable Jillian Balow
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Wyoming
2300 Capitol Ave
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Superintendent Balow,

Federal education funds intended to supplement state efforts, and are directed to schools and students with the greatest economic and learning challenges. The "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) is the most recent effort to encourage school improvement in the use of these funds. ESSA is an improvement over previous federal attempts to promote improvement, but still has significant requirements the states must address.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), in cooperation with the State Board and multiple stakeholders across the state, has worked to streamline ESSA requirements with the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA). I continue to believe the WAEA represents the most meaningful approach to school improvement. WAEA reflects our state's priorities.

I have reviewed the Wyoming ESSA plan you propose for submission to the United States Department of Education. I support your effort to align the WAEA and ESSA plans. There are some necessary differences between the two plans. The federal plan is directed to the use of federal funds for targeted student populations, while state plan addresses all schools. Thank you for the courtesy you have extended to me and my staff in the development of the ESSA plan.

I appreciate the hard work of WDE staff and others to create a plan that addresses Wyoming specific needs within the context of ESSA. The plan is just a start. The hard work of improving schools and supporting students continues. I trust Wyoming schools will meet and exceed the goals that have been established in this plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Mead".

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:dp

WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



CONSOLIDATED STATE PLAN FOR THE
EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

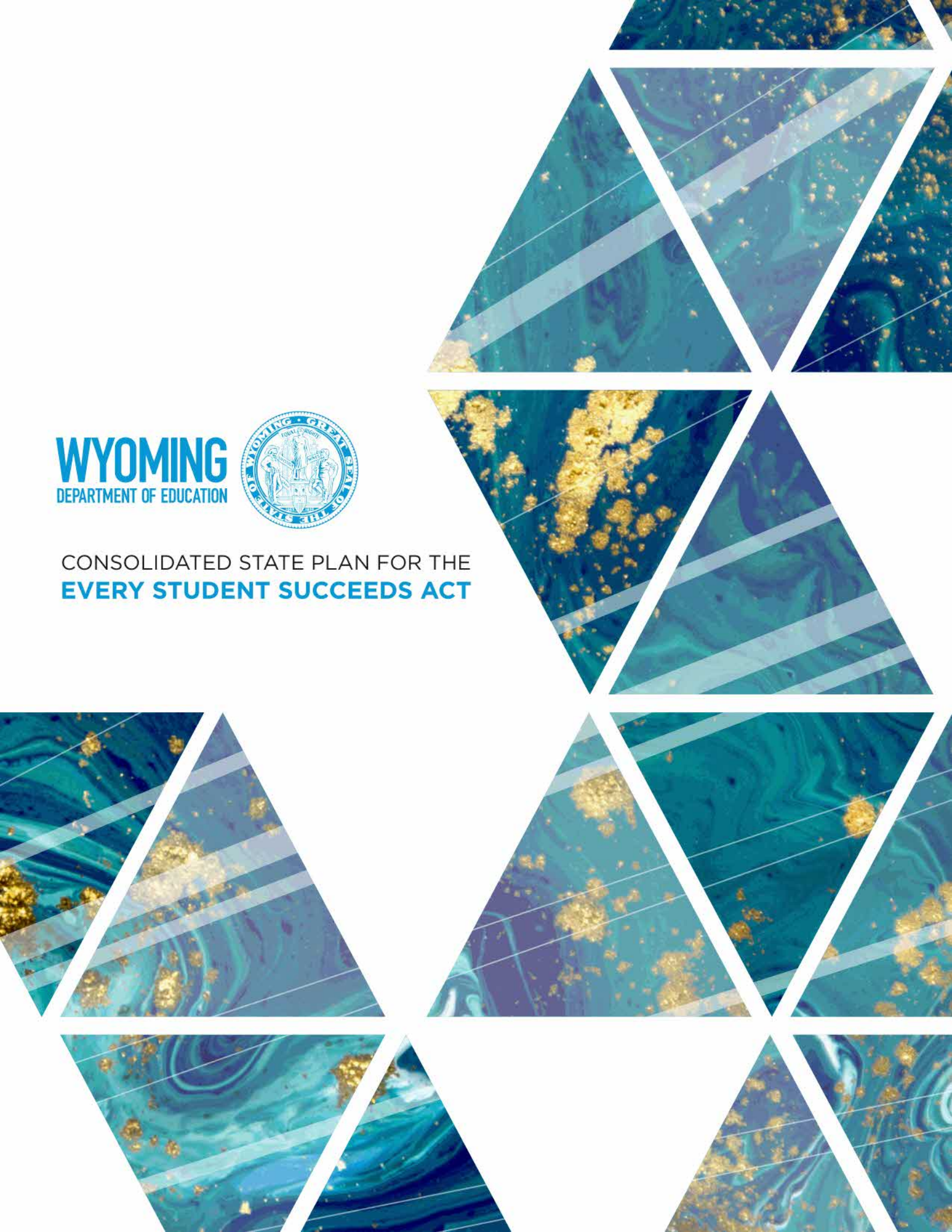


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<p>By signing this document, I assure that: To the best of my knowledge and belief, all information and data included in this plan are true and correct. The SEA will submit a comprehensive set of assurances at a date and time established by the Secretary, including the assurances in ESEA section 8304. Consistent with ESEA section 8302(b)(3), the SEA will meet the requirements of ESEA sections 1117 and 8501 regarding the participation of private school children and teachers.</p>	
Authorized SEA Representative (Printed Name) Jillian Balow	Telephone: 307-777-7675
Signature of Authorized SEA Representative (b)(6) 	Date: 8-17-2017
Governor (Printed Name)  Matthew H. Mead	Date SEA provided plan to the Governor under ESEA section 8540: July 3, 2017
Signature of Governor 	Date: 8/18/17

