

Wyoming School-University Partnership

Constitution of the Wyoming School-University Partnership

The Wyoming School-University Partnership is made up of member organizations engaged in education in the state of Wyoming. These organizations, and the individuals within them, collaborate to achieve educational goals that cannot be achieved alone.

The Wyoming School-University Partnership, founded in 1986, was one of the original settings of the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER).

The Partnership focuses on teacher and leader development through partnership among PK-12 schools, higher education, and other education stakeholders. This focus is designed to support prospective and current teachers and educational leaders as they make Wyoming and the world a better place to live and learn.

This constitution outlines information about the Partnership's purpose, member organizations, structure, and responsibilities.

Purpose:

We exist to cultivate a dynamic and innovative partnership that elevates the quality of teaching and learning across Wyoming's entire public education system.

Member Organizations

The Wyoming School-University Partnership consists of member organizations, including Wyoming public school districts, the University of Wyoming's College of Arts & Sciences, the University of Wyoming's College of Education, the Wyoming Department of Education, Wyoming community colleges, the Wyoming Education Association, the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board, and other Wyoming education-related organizations. Additional member organizations may be invited to join with agreement by the Wyoming School-University Partnership Governing Board. Each of these organizations has a vote on governing board matters.

Structure

Partnership Governing Board

Each member organization has representation on the Wyoming School-University Partnership Governing Board, which makes policy decisions, oversees financial affairs, and provides guidance to an executive director. Each member organization is entitled to one vote.

The Governing Board may choose to establish short-term or long-term task forces or committees to work on particular issues as they arise.

Executive Committee and Officers

The executive committee is composed of the chairperson, chair-elect, immediate past chair, the College of Education representative, the College of Arts & Sciences representative, and a representative from Wyoming community colleges.

The Governing Board chooses a chair-elect, two years prior to the candidate taking office. After taking office, the chairperson collaborates with the executive director to organize board and executive committee meetings, set the agenda for the meetings, and manage the affairs of the Partnership. The chair, chair-elect, and the past chair each serve a two-year term, beginning at the summer meeting. The chair may be selected from any member organization within the Partnership. In the event that the chair, chair-elect, or immediate past chair is unable to fulfill their responsibilities and/or elected term(s), the Executive Committee will appoint, from among the membership, someone to fulfill the remainder of that member, or members' term(s). If the college representatives are unable to fulfill their responsibilities, the executive director will work with leadership within the respective college to appoint a new member to the executive committee.

Chair elect selection will take place at the spring meeting prior to the end of the chair's term. At the spring meeting the chair will issue a call for nominations for a chair-elect following parliamentary procedure. Once nominations are collected, a vote will be taken by the chair. The candidate with the highest number of affirmative votes will be chosen as chair elect and will assume the duties of the office at the summer meeting.

The executive committee conducts a yearly evaluation of the Wyoming School-University Partnership and/or the executive director, makes recommendations to the Governing Board and advises the executive director.

Partnership Administration

The business of the Partnership is facilitated by an executive director with administrative support.

An executive director is appointed by the Governing Board and is a faculty or staff member in the College of Education at UW. The executive director reports to the Governing Board for all aspects of the job description, serves as an ex officio member of the board, and facilitates the work of the board. The term of the appointment is at the discretion of the Governing Board. Office space for the Partnership is provided by the College of Education at the University of Wyoming. Partnership funds are used to provide all other operating expenses.

Voting

Members may cast votes for Partnership initiatives, programs, budget, constitution, executive committee members, and other business either in person, by proxy/representative, or electronically. If the Governing Board elects to use electronic voting all votes must be submitted and accounted for within 7 days of the vote being sent out. The executive committee will determine which issues may be voted on electronically.

For in-person meetings all motions will pass by a 2/3 majority of those in attendance. For electronic voting all motions will pass by a 2/3 majority of membership.

Budget

In January of each year, the executive director presents to the Governing Board an annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1 to June 30. Revenues in the operating budget consist of yearly dues from member organizations, as well as in-kind contributions. In addition to the operating budget, specific project budgets may be established to support the work of the Partnership for designated initiatives. Efforts to secure additional funds from external funding sources may be made by the executive director and Governing Board members.

Responsibilities of Member Institutions

Members of the Partnership participate in the formulation of Partnership policies and practices and agree to abide by those policies and practices. In addition, each member organization has the opportunity to be involved in all Partnership activities, to have access to all publications, reports, and other materials developed. In order to qualify for membership, each member organization agrees to support the Partnership by

- Committing to active involvement in the Partnership, including payment of annual dues;
- Ensuring representation to attend scheduled meetings;
- Releasing staff to attend appropriate Partnership meetings and to give leadership to designated programs of the Partnership;
- Communicating information about the Partnership to members of their own organizations;
- Participating in national meetings and/or symposia; and
- Engaging in a process of critical inquiry directed at crucial problems.

Amending the Constitution

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Board.