



Positive School Climate Grant Application

Grant Period: 2021-2023

Positive School Climate Grant Program

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is helping districts and schools acquire and operate programmatically mature and evidence-based programs or innovative programs with the intent of making the largest possible impact for reducing school bullying and increasing positive school culture and climate. Schools can request funding to specifically improve their school climate. The grant period for this grant opportunity is December 2021 – December 2023. Upon completion of the selection process and award notification, allocations will be posted in December 2021. The funds must be expended by December 30, 2023. In order to keep accurate records and to assist any awarded schools or districts to ensure all funds are expended, the grant will be closed out on November 16, 2023. The requests may take the form of continuing with prior work related to developing a positive school climate, or new initiatives with the same objective.

Application Requirements

The application must describe:

1. How funding will be utilized (max. 55 points)
2. Estimated itemized expenditures (max. 25 points)
3. Expected Outcomes (max. 15 points)

To be considered for funding, complete and submit the three application requirements in a narrative format by *October 5, 2021*.

Eligibility Requirements

Any Wyoming school or district may apply. It is necessary to have a grant administrator such as a teacher or staff member who is responsible for carrying out or overseeing the actual work of the grant.

Important Grant Expectations for Recipients

1. The grant administrator will update the WDE quarterly beginning in February 2022 about the work being completed with the grant funds and must detail the expenditure used in each quarterly report.
2. Grant recipients are expected to spend the full amount of the grant.
3. If actual grant expenditures are lower than the approved amount by the end of the school year, then the district is automatically authorized to extend expenditures up to the amount originally requested. The expenditures must be spent on activities or programming that align with what was originally awarded in the grant application.

During the Grant Period and At the End of the Grant Period

Districts will be reimbursed annually for an updated accounting of the originally awarded grant amount by submitting the following:

1. Single itemized district invoice.
2. Grant "to date" summary report. Both are due together by October, 2022.

At the end of the Grant Period, districts will be reimbursed for the remaining portion of the originally approved grant amount by submitting two items:

1. The final single itemized district invoice with previous invoice entries included; and
2. Final grant summary report. Both are due together by December, 2023.

Each grant summary report shall include the following items:

1. Program name, district, grant administrator, and contact information.
2. At least one metric used in the grant and how the metric value(s) changed over the time the program was in effect (examples: discipline referrals, class disruptions, fights, etc.).
3. An evaluation of the program. At a minimum, the evaluation should compare the actual outcomes to the intended outcomes and expected benefits from the grant application.

Email the reimbursement request, invoice, and grant summary report to Jo Ann Numoto at jo-ann.numoto@wyo.gov.

Application period timeline for 2021-2023 Grant Recipients

September 7-October 5, 2021: Program application period

February 2022: Recipients check-in with the WDE on grant progress and costs

Timeline for 2021-2023 Grant Application

September 7, 2021-October 5, 2021: Grant application period

October 7, 2021-November 2, 2021: Grant applications reviewed

November 9, 2021: Award letters mailed

January 2022 - December 2023: Program operation period

February 2022: Recipients check-in with WDE on grant progress and costs

QUARTERLY progress and cost check-ins/reports dates:

May 12, 2022; August 18, 2022; November 17, 2022; February 16, 2023; May 18, 2023; August 17, 2023; November 16, 2023

Between November and December 2023 is a month's leeway for unforeseen circumstances that will need addressing and possible modification of the original grant application. The close-out date is November 16, 2023. Funds need to be obligated by December 15, 2023 and spent by December 30, 2023.

Reimbursement will be made within forty-five days after the final submission and report.

Scoring Rubric:

The rubric describes how the grant application will be scored. Higher scores are awarded first. Awards continue downward until the funding runs out. Adjustments can be made for extended efforts put into the grant application.

Each submitted application will be evaluated according to the target areas shown below:

1. How funding will be utilized (Max. 55 points)

Target: Answer relates to the needs of students and addresses the particular climate problem the school or district is experiencing. The long-term goals of the school or district should be addressed.

Reasoning should be provided, relevant statistics used.

Grant administrator is listed including name, title, phone, and email address (max. 5 points)

2. Estimated itemized expenditures (max. 25 points)

Target: Answer relates to an explanation of how funding will effectively be used along with a basic line-by-line list of expected expenditures. This might include, but not limited to: books, materials, travel costs, training fees, speaker fees, reimbursed time for school staff, printing costs. Proposed expenses indirectly related to the mission of the program including food or tee shirts may or may not be approved depending on the grant request load for any given year.

3. Expected Outcomes (max. 15 points)

Target: Answer relates to a complete list of direct or indirect net results, positive consequences, or end products that are designed or expected.

The total possible points are 100. The scoring of applications is done using an independent group of evaluators. Since the purpose of the grant is to maximize school climate statewide, the evaluators reserve the right to take into account geographic dispersal in the case of close scores.

1. How funding will be utilized (max. 55 points)

Campbell County School District #1 will utilize funds to support our HOPE Squads within the schools in their quest to reduce youth suicide through education, training, and peer intervention. Suicide rates in Wyoming are consistently higher than the average US ratings and are increasing. Wyoming holds the third highest suicide rate in the nation. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-44 in Wyoming. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, April, 2021, suicide is the 7th leading cause of death in Wyoming, and nearly 70 percent of our communities lack an adequate number of mental health providers.

Our Prevention Needs Assessment provides the following student data:

Seriously considered suicide:

<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>
18.7%	21.23%

Attempted Suicide one or more times:

<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>
10.4%	13%

Our youth are reporting higher incidents of considering/attempting suicide.

Campbell County School District continues to work toward help/support for all students by facilitating HOPE Squads within our schools. Self-esteem, academic achievement, safe schools, family, and school connectedness are all protective factors against suicide. Campbell County School District facilitates acceptance for students seeking help and is working toward creating safe and non-threatening environments for all students.

We currently have HOPE Squads at three of our high schools and middle schools, and at six of our elementary schools.

The district plans to add HOPE Squads to at least one additional elementary this year. These are groups of peer nominated students who work to be the “eyes and ears of the school”. They are chosen by their peers because of their exemplary listening skills, trustworthiness, and non-judgemental attitude. These students meet once a week with a trained advisor to work through modules provided through the HOPE4UTAH organization. This training includes Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training, which is an evidence-based suicide prevention program. They work to build positive relationships with peers. Their goal is identifying, protecting and assisting suicidal students at the middle to high school level. The elementary focuses on identifying, protecting and assisting students who may be bullied or isolated. Both levels welcome students to school regularly. In the words of one of our 5th grade members, “Sometimes all someone needs is a smile in the morning to make their day”.

Creating community awareness and support of HOPE Squad efforts is a future goal of our squads. HOPE Squads will build strong relationships with local mental health agencies and communities while educating students, parents, and school staff about available community mental health resources. HOPE Squads will work to change the school culture regarding suicide by reducing stigmas about suicide and mental health.

Suicidal students will immediately be referred to an adult. HOPE Squad students will work through ten evidence based modules of training each year. Annual training for advisors is available each year along with a suicide prevention conference for both advisors and students. Pre/ post evaluations are performed each year by both advisors and students. HOPE4Utah regularly provides new and improved curriculum and support materials.

2. Estimated itemized expenditures (max. 25 points)

Category:	Description	Justification	Cost
Training			
New Advisors	X4 (\$300 each)	required	\$1200
Supplies			
Curriculum	4th year	required	\$1000
	3rd year	required	\$3000
	2nd year	required	\$3000
	1st year	required	\$9000
Printing/Postage/Etc.			
HOPE T-Shirts	student/advisor T-shirts with HOPE logo	Recognition in the school	\$1500
HOPE Banner	X3 (banner explains goals, identifies student members, sometimes signed as a pledge of kindness)	Exposure in the school	\$105
Activities	As described above	Promote positive school culture	\$1000
Total Requested Funding			\$19,805

Advisors: All HOPE Squad advisors will be trained QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainers and certified HOPE Squad advisors through the HOPE4Utah organization. Guidelines, training, and procedures will regularly be provided for HOPE Squad Advisors and members to assist them when encountering at risk students.

Curriculum: Powerpoints, worksheets, QPR training, etc. is provided to certified advisors. Modules are updated regularly at no extra charge. After the 4th year there is a \$500 annual fee for each following year.

HOPE T-shirts: Recognition of HOPE Squad members is essential to peer mentorship. Each squad creates a video presented at the beginning of the year to all students to introduce the HOPE Squad members. Students need the additional reminder of who the members are by the wearing of their HOPE T-shirts.



Banners: HOPE Squads hang a banner in their school for everyone to sign encouraging kindness and for everyone to recognize that there is always hope and if they need help someone will be there for them.

Activities include: random acts of kindness, HOPE week, hosting "hot chocolate with the admin", Zombie Fun Run, Mittens for Those in Need, creating banners for the community with messages of HOPE, forming ceramic "lifesavers" with messages of HOPE, "chalking the walk" for mental health awareness. We also participated in substance abuse awareness last year.

Campbell County School District will absorb the costs that will result in addition to the awarded grant amount.

3. Expected Outcomes (max. 15 points)

Our goals:

Campbell County School District Schools will have an improved sense of safety and security. With HOPE Squad students reaching out to students in need, students will have an increased sense of belonging. Positive role modeling by HOPE Squad students will encourage healthy lifestyle choices and reduce risky behaviors. Positive relationships and leadership skills will be built amongst the student body. Academic performance will improve and discipline incidents will decrease. A sense of community and connectedness will exist. Improved cultural awareness and acceptance overall will result.