



Wyoming Education Association  
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## **National Education Association Releases Annual Rankings and Estimates Report Report Shows Lack of Increase in Salaries for Wyoming's Educators**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CHEYENNE, WY —April 26, 2018— The National Education Association's annual Rankings and Estimates: Rankings of the States 2017 and Estimates of School Statistics 2018 is now available. Wyoming is holding steady in many of its rankings, however the state is beginning to slip in its average teacher salaries.

Although Wyoming's average teacher salary ranking remains unchanged at 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation, Wyoming is ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation for increases in teacher salaries. This means 47 other states provided larger increases to teacher salaries than Wyoming. The 2017-18 national average teacher salary is estimated to be \$60,483. Wyoming's average teacher salary is \$58,578, only a 0.7% increase from last year

Wyoming Education Association President, Kathy Vetter said, "The investment Wyoming makes in public education shows in our consistently high assessment scores and student achievements. The report marks a time when school funding cuts begin to impact our ability to maintain funding for salaries, and thus to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers. Cuts to education now may negatively impact Wyoming's student performance in the future."

Recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test scores shows Wyoming's education continues to be among the best in the nation. Wyoming students ranked first in fourth grade mathematics scores and continue to remain above the national average in fourth and eighth grade reading and mathematics. The results further support the fact that the state must continue to properly fund its public schools.

The Rankings and Estimates report paints a stark picture of public school funding across the nation, underscoring why educators from Arizona to West Virginia are uniting to advocate for the resources and learning conditions needed to help all students succeed.

Vetter continued, "This report proves that Wyoming must be keep pace with other states in the areas of teacher and instructional staff salaries or we too will end up in the same boat as other states in crisis. Wyoming must continue to be competitive in salaries going forward."

The NEA report provides comparative state data and national averages on a host of important public education statistics, teacher salaries, student enrollment, and revenue and expenditures for the most recent school year.

NEA has produced the Rankings and Estimates report for more than 70 years. The complete report can be found at <http://www.nea.org/home/73145.htm>.

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*Technical note: Rankings data come primarily through collaborative efforts with state Departments of Education. Estimates are determined through recognized statistical analysis procedures, as presented in the methodology section of the report.*

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