



# **A Primer Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES)**

Joe Schaffer, President

Laramie County Community College

Presented to the ACSD#1 Board of Trustees

June 14, 2017





# What is a BOCES?

Wyoming Statute 21-20-101 through 21-20-111 “Boards of Cooperative Educational Services Act”

- The purpose of this act is to provide a method whereby school districts and community college districts or any combination may work together and cooperate to provide educational services, ... *when the services can be more effectively provided through a cooperative effort* (emphasis added).



# What is a BOCES?

A BOCES provides school districts and community college districts the ability to provide education that includes but not limited to:

- transferable academic classes
- vocational-technical classes
- adult education
- services for children with disabilities and
- other services that can be more effectively provided through a cooperative effort.



# BOCES Governance

- The boards of trustees agreeing to participate in BOCES shall appoint members of the participating boards of trustees to the BOCES.
  - No less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members (unless there are more than nine (9) districts participating).
  - Each participating board of trustees/district shall have at least one (1) member appointed to the BOCES.
- The terms of office of each of the members of the BOCES shall be coterminous with their respective terms upon their boards of trustees.
- As the terms of office expire, or as vacancies occur, new members of the BOCES shall be appointed by the board of trustees of the participating district.



# BOCES Funding

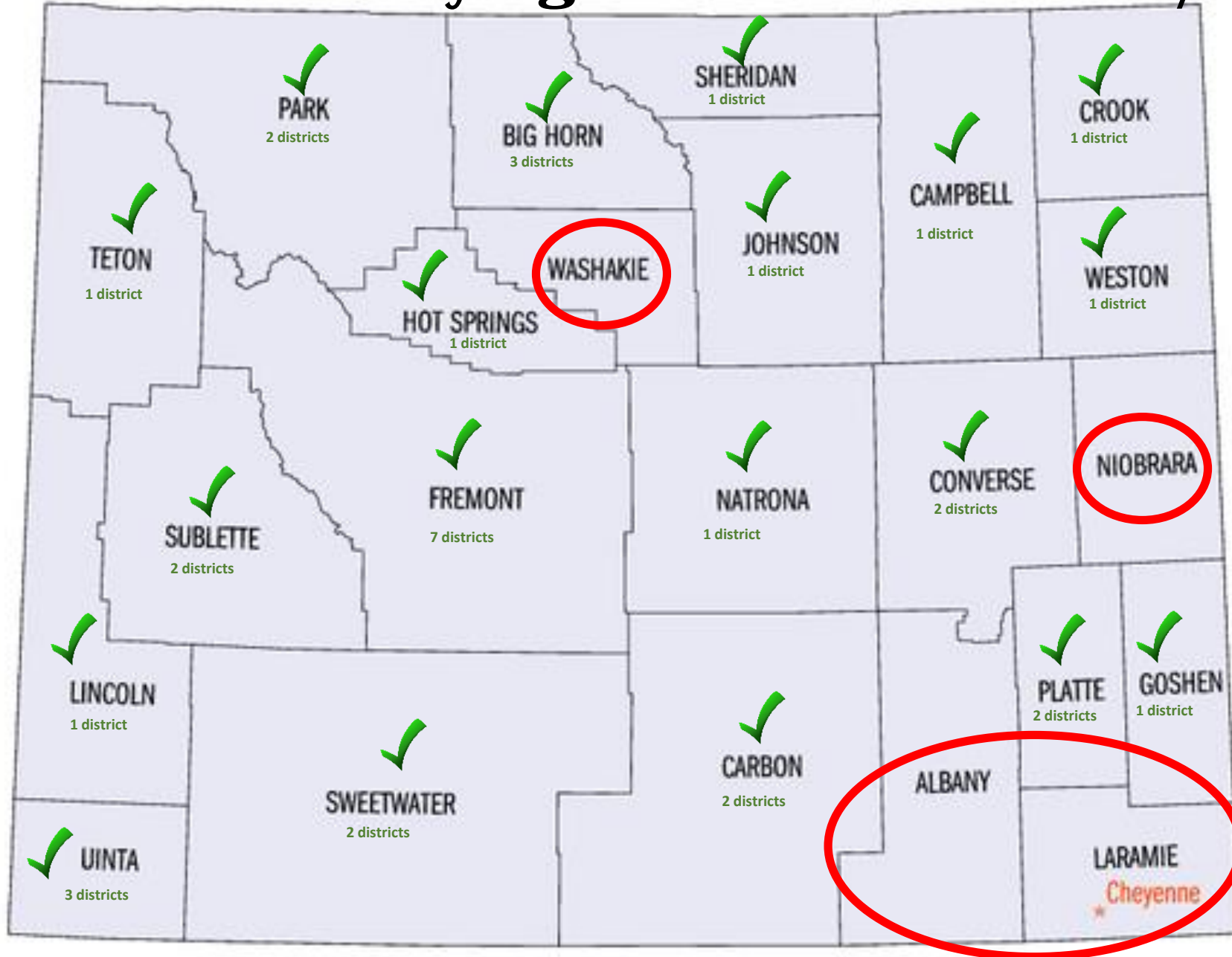
- K12 school districts in the BOCES may levy up to 1/2 mill as a special school district tax.
  - The levy shall raise only the necessary funds to meet the financial requirements of programs and services offered;
  - Tax may be imposed by the vote of the district board (up to ½ mill); and
  - Additional levy's may be imposed, but requires public vote.
- Post-secondary institutions in the BOCES may impose an additional special school district levy not to exceed one half (1/2) mill on the assessed value of the member districts.
- If asking for more than ½ mill then must go out to vote within the BOCES member districts.



# BOCES in Wyoming

- About 20 BOCES/BOCHES centers state-wide. Services vary.
- All are staffed with a minimum of a director/assistant except Eastern Wyoming BOCES (EWC expressed they should be staffed however).
- 9 BOCES are associated with Western Wyoming Community College.
- 36 districts levy. Other sources of income include: Fees for services, tuition, grants and a foundation.
- Casper, Eastern and Central Wyoming Colleges manage funds and levy 1/2 mill as well.
- Other BOCES are fiscally managed by the BOCES and/or school district.
- **SE Wyoming, and ACSD#1, LCSD#1 and LCSD#2 are the only districts whose students do not benefit from a BOCES or BOCHES.**

# WY Counties and Levying Districts in BOCES/BOCHES



(Note: Districts not levying are **not** included in counts. Data as of 2016, <https://portals.edu.wyoming.gov/Reports/Public/wde-reports-2012/finance/stat-1>)





# Process for Establishing a BOCES

1. Two or more boards expressing a desire to provide cooperative educational services. A majority of the members of each board must vote in favor of pursuing a formalized BOCES agreement.
2. An agreement is formalized, specifying the following.
  - The length of term of the agreement
  - The rights, responsibilities and obligations of each participating district
  - The types of services to be rendered
  - The procedure for the establishment of additional services
  - The procedure for the inclusion of additional districts within the cooperative educational services program
  - A method for the amendment and dissolution of the agreement with the consent of each participating district





# Process for Establishing a BOCES

3. The formalized agreement is approved by a majority of each board of trustees voting in favor of the agreement.
4. The locally approved BOCES/BOCHES is submitted to the Wyoming State Board of Education for approval.
5. Board members from each of the boards of trustees are appointed to serve on the BOCES/BOCHES Board.
6. The staffing structure, administration, and funding requirements are determined.
  - Staff hired
  - Levy enacted and implemented



# So What?

- Excellent start to our partnership, and great opportunity to do more.
- Focus and funding will remain the most significant challenges.
- What we could be doing:
  - More CTE certificate programs so students can graduate with an industry certification.
  - A general education block program transferable to UW or LCCC upon high school graduation.
  - Align AP courses with curriculum at LCCC so more of these courses meet college gen ed. requirements.
  - Eliminate limits on the number of dual enrollment courses high school students can take.
  - Develop career academies on the ACSD campuses with partnerships from local industry.
  - Expand transitional advising and career coaching to provide students with comprehensive pathways and degree mapping information.
  - Develop and facilitate internships, job placements, and experiential and service learning opportunities for students within the local community.
  - Provide an alternative experience/schedule to help at-risk students receive their high school diploma and graduate in a timely manner.
  - Professional development for ACSD teachers (e.g. to meet accreditation requirements, etc.).