

TALKING POINTS FOR LEGISLATOR COMMUNICATION (Basic)

- The Joint Education Committee has proposed a change to the way schools are funded.
- Currently, school districts in areas that have a high cost of living like Sublette and Teton counties receive extra funding to offset those costs. This is called the Regional Cost Adjustment (RCA).
- The new legislation would change the ways those calculations are made. It greatly reduces the value of the high cost of housing in the Regional Cost Adjustment calculation based on the “amenities” found in Sublette County. They count being close to Yellowstone as an amenity.
- It doesn’t take into account a lack of access to medical care, shopping, etc.
- Financial experts recommend that you should spend no more than 25%-30% of salary on housing. Given the cost of housing in Sublette County, our teachers are likely to spend 40% or more on housing.
- As a result, both Sublette county school districts would see 4% reductions in their budgets. Sublette County School District 1 would lose over \$650,000 in funding and Sublette County School District 9 would lose nearly \$470,000.
- The result of these reductions will hurt students and cost Wyoming jobs.
- The current Regional Cost Adjustment (RCA) model is equitable and effective. It is not broken! Don’t try to fix it!