



Wyoming Education Association

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Cuts to Education: The Impacts to Education and the State of Wyoming

This last legislative session statements were made that cuts to education could be made without impacting the classroom or our educators. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, not only would cuts to education hurt our students and our educators but they would have drastic negative implications for the state’s overall economy.

What we know:

- **Most Wyoming citizens do not want to see cuts to K-12¹**
- **Education funding pays for quality educators.**
- **High quality educators have the greatest impacts on student performance²**
- **Cuts to education reduce the number of quality educators and will have direct impacts on student performance.**

Cuts to education not only impact our students and our classrooms, but they have substantial implications for local and state economies as well. Without those middle-class dollars from teachers’ salaries that are reinvested in the economy through spending, the state of Wyoming will lose additional tax revenue creating a “double-whammy” effect for local economies and the state

¹ Godby, Rob & Peterson, Mark. Feb. 2021. “Wyoming Residents Preferences Among State Budget Choices.” University of Wyoming. Retrieved from <http://www.uwyo.edu/ser/research/centers-of-excellence/energy-regulation-policy/files/wyo-residents-pref-state-budget.pdf>

² Terada, Youki. February 4th, 2019. “Understanding a Teacher’s Long-term Impact.” Edutopia. Retrieved from <https://www.edutopia.org/article/understanding-teachers-long-term-impact>

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- **\$100 million in cuts to education equates to a projection of:**³
 - **1,880 jobs lost in a single year; 2,400 jobs lost over a 9 yr. period.**
 - **A loss of population by over 1000 in a single year and over 5000 in a 9 yr. period.**
 - **\$120 million lost in personal income in a single yr.; \$235 million over a 9 yr. period.**
 - **\$136 million lost in GDP in a single yr; over \$160 million lost in GDP over a 9 yr. period.**

In fact, cuts to state budgets are not an effective evidence-based approach to resolving economic downturns. Evidence from the 2008 Great Recession has shown that states that cut their budgets in response to economic downturns have higher unemployment, experience more job loss, and languish economically compared to those states that increase their budgets.⁴

At the same time, those states that took active steps to keep public sector workers such as teachers employed maintained their private sector employment levels and those states saw faster job growth and recovered more than a year and a half faster than states that cut budgets. ⁵

It time to start demanding evidence based solutions for our state that prioritize our students and the future of Wyoming!

³ NEA & REMI. 2021. "Education Jobs in Wyoming: An Asset to the Community and the Economy." NEA & REMI.

⁴ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. 2020, April 12. "Chart Book: Tracking the Post-Great Recession Economy." <https://www.cbpp.org/research/economy/chart-book-tracking-the-post-great-recession-economy>

⁵ Cooper, David. 2020, May 27. "Without federal aid, many state and local governments could make the same budget cuts that hampered the last economic recovery." Economic Policy Institute. <https://www.epi.org/blog/without-federal-aid-many-state-and-local-governments-could-make-the-same-budget-cuts-that-hampered-the-last-economic-recovery/>

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