



Wyoming Department of Education
PRESS RELEASE

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State Board of Education outlines direction for standards

Cheyenne – At a recent meeting, the Wyoming State Board of Education outlined a preamble that details the board’s concern for the future of Wyoming education and what must be considered in the upcoming review of the Wyoming State Standards.

The review of the standards is required by state statute every five years. The next review, under the direction of the State Board of Education, will begin November 2008.

However, at a recent meeting, the members of the board took the opportunity to outline what they believe are some of the issues at hand for education in Wyoming, how they can be addressed and what role the review of the state standards can play in resolving those issues.

In the preamble that will be attached to the new standards, the board states “Children must not only be prepared to enter the work force, they must be prepared to contribute as participants and members of the social and political democracies in which they live.

“We intend to challenge policy makers, educational institutions and the public to examine Wyoming’s educational goals, practices and results,” the preamble continues. “This should be an ongoing dialogue that begins with our review of the Wyoming State Standards, but must not end there.”

The Wyoming Department of Education, under the direction of the board, will facilitate the review of the standards in cooperation with local districts and educators.

The preamble goes on to ask certain questions the board feels are essential to a successful review of the standards, such as how the content standards can facilitate student success in life and if the standards and supporting documents are aligned to the current knowledge of brain and learning development.

“This is not just updating what students need to learn in school,” Dr. Jim Lowham, chairman of the State Board of Education said. “We need to develop a product that is a catalyst for the enrichment of our students to succeed in life and hold discussions on how we can continually improve of our education system in Wyoming.

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“We don’t just want our students to graduate with a degree from a Wyoming high school,” he said. “We want them to have the skills and knowledge to be able to be leaders in careers, life, education and the world.”

The board has labeled the effort “Pathways 2014” and hopes that the initiative and its continuing efforts and dialogue will bring parents, educators, business and community leaders together to help recreate a system of continued success for Wyoming.

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