



WYOMING

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State Board to Discuss Next Steps in Standards Adoption Process

CHEYENNE – Developing a plan for standards adoption in four content areas will be the focus of the Wyoming State Board of Education meeting at the McMurry Training Center (2220 Bryan Stock Trail) in Casper, April 11. The meeting is scheduled to run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Prior to its discussion on standards, the State Board of Education will hear a preview of the April 25 Joint Education Committee meeting, and receive a supervisory committee report.

To access meeting materials and an agenda, click here:

<https://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/board/4-11-2014-meeting-packet.pdf>

The State Board will then debate standards adoption in the content areas of social studies, physical education/health, as well as career and vocational education. The focus will then shift to discussing the process for science standards adoption.

In the State of Wyoming there are nine content areas, which have their own set of standards. The content areas are math, English language arts, health, fine and performing arts, foreign language, physical education, social studies, career/vocational education, and science. The State Board of Education reviews recommendations made by the standard review committees in each content area and approves standards in each content area every five years. The Governor then signs the new standards into law after a 45-day review period by his office.

The latest science standards adoption effort is well into its second year—a standards review committee first met to discuss new standards for two days in Casper, June 18-19, 2012. After meeting another four days over the following year, the 39-member standards review committee, made up of Wyoming teachers, administrators, parents, and professors, made a standards recommendation to the State Board of Education on Oct. 8, 2013.

The State Board decided not to take action on standards in any of the four content areas it is currently reviewing during their October meeting, wanting sufficient time to review the standards documents. The Board met on Nov. 5, 2013 to discuss those documents, and hear from those in attendance. The Board asked the Wyoming Department of Education's (WDE) Standards and Accountability Division to crosswalk the state's current standards with the proposed standards; to perform analysis on the impact of the new standards on teachers and students; and to provide a communication plan to inform the public of the new standards once the new standards were adopted.

The WDE's Standards and Accountability Division presented the requested information during the State Board meeting on Jan. 24, 2014. The Standards and Accountability Division also collected feedback on all the draft standards through its website from August 2013 to March 2014, receiving 496 responses in total (280 responses relating to the draft science standards, 86 for the draft career/vocational education standards, 71 for the draft social studies standards, and 59 responses relating to the draft physical education standards).

The State Board of Education met via teleconference on Monday, March 24 to discuss the ramifications of the 2014 legislative session. The Board received a brief legislative update from State Board Coordinator Dr. Paige Fenton Hughes, as well as a legal opinion about a footnote in the budget regarding examination of the Next Generation Science Standards from Assistant Attorney General Mackenzie Williams. The Board then engaged in lengthy discussions regarding options for adoption of science standards, but took no official action.