

Chapter 6
District and School Accreditation

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The proposed revisions to the Chapter 6 rules are intended to define the expectations for state accreditation and provide detail as to the process by which Wyoming school districts and the schools within districts are annually accredited by the Wyoming State Board of Education.

The Chapter 6 rules were last adopted in 2005 and are inclusive of several components of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001, “No Child Left Behind” or NCLB. These components became outdated with the passage of the 2015 revision titled the “Every Student Succeeds Act” or ESSA. While the 2005 rules detail the requirements for accreditation and the consequences for reduced accreditation level, there is no explanation of the accreditation *process* for schools or districts.

In addition, changes in Wyoming statute since 2005 create changes that must be included in the Accreditation rules. Based on current laws, the major focus of accreditation is the district, rather than individual schools. Consequently, the first necessary modification is to change the Chapter 6 title from “School Accreditation” to “District and School Accreditation.”

By meeting the regulations set forth in the proposed rules, Wyoming districts ensure that processes are in place to meet statutory requirements intended to improve student learning and ensure equity of opportunity to learn.