

# 2018 EDUCATION SNAPSHOT

## MISSION

Create opportunities for students to keep Wyoming strong

## VISION

To significantly increase the percentage of Wyoming students that are College, Career, and Military Ready

**WYOMING**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Jillian Balow**

Superintendent of Public Instruction

**EDU.WYOMING.GOV**





## ACT RESULTS

Grade 11

Subject	2016	2017	2018
English	19.1	18.6	18.4
Math	19.7	19.5	19.3
Reading	20.5	20.2	19.9
Science	20.4	20.0	19.8
Composite	20.0	19.7	19.5

Minimum composite score required for  
Hathaway Scholarship eligibility: 17.0

**7,248**  
TEACHERS

**\$60,574.06**  
AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY



**483**

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

## POINTS OF PRIDE

- ★ Wyoming was ranked seventh in the nation in Education Week's 22nd annual report card. Quality Counts 2018 gave Wyoming an overall score of 81.8 out of 100 points and a grade of B-minus. Wyoming was scored the highest among western states and above the nation's overall grade of C.
- ★ State Superintendent Jillian Balow was honored as the 2017 State Policy Maker of the Year by the State Educational Technology Directors Association.
- ★ Governor Matt Mead signed and approved an update to the Social Studies standards to include Native American history, culture, and contemporary contributions.
- ★ Results from the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the Nation's Report Card, or NAEP, show that Wyoming's fourth- and eighth-grade students continue to outperform national average test scores in reading and math. No state performed above Wyoming's average NAEP score in grade four math.
- ★ Sara Reed, a kindergarten teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School in Campbell #1, was named Wyoming's 2018 Teacher of the Year.
- ★ Shannon Hill, a Health and Physical Education teacher at Thermopolis Middle School in Hot Springs #1, received a 2017 Milken Family Foundation Education Award, the first Wyoming recipient since 2008.
- ★ Wyoming's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act was approved by the U.S. Department of Education on January 16, 2018.
- ★ The Wyoming Academic Bowl team of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students qualified for Nationals for a fourth consecutive year.
- ★ The WDE launched a K-20 statewide learning management system for online course delivery in partnership with UW, five Wyoming community colleges, and 25 school districts.

# WY-TOPP

Wyoming students took a new statewide assessment during the 2017-18 school year called the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress, or WY-TOPP. WY-TOPP had some key differences from PAWS including:

- Taken online instead of with paper and pencil.
- More item types including multiple choice and written response.
- Adaptive, meaning students answer questions from a bank depending on how well they do on the test as they take it.
- Later testing window in April and May instead of March.
- Teachers have the option to access free interim and modular tests for grades K-10.

In addition to the end-of-year summative assessment, school districts also had access to interim and modular assessments that can be given at various intervals throughout the year to help teachers know how well their students are doing. Every school district took advantage of these additional tools during the 2017-18 school year.



## 2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Burlington Elementary School, Big Horn #1  
Woodland Park Elementary School, Sheridan #2  
Sheridan Junior High School, Sheridan #2

## 2017 NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

Sagebrush Elementary School, Sheridan #2



**169** WYOMING  
STUDENTS EARNED  
CONGRESSIONAL  
AWARDS, INCLUDING  
**56** GOLD MEDAL  
AWARDS

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Wyoming has made adjustments to the way it measures schools. The rating categories are the same, but the methods used for determining those ratings have changed. Student results on statewide testing, growth on statewide tests, and growth by the lowest performing students will continue to be used. Graduation rates and college preparedness will also continue to be some of the measures for high schools. Now, the progress of students learning English will also be taken into consideration, as well as how well students are prepared for careers or the military.

School Performance Ratings will be available November 1, 2018.



## BOOT UP WYOMING 2022

Superintendent Balow's three-year initiative to update state law to include computer science was passed by the Legislature in 2018. A computer science course may now count as a science course in high school graduation requirements, and may count as either a science course or an "additional math" course in the Hathaway Success Curriculum. Standards must also be developed, approved, and fully implemented at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

Boot Up Wyoming 2022 is an initiative to implement computer science in all Wyoming schools by focusing on three key areas:

- Cost and needs analysis
- Teacher training
- Development of statewide standards

A computer science standards review committee began meeting in June 2018 to develop Wyoming's statewide computer science standards. The committee includes educators, community members, parents, and industry partners from Apple, Microsoft, code.org, and Gannett Peak Technical Services.



**37.76%**

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE  
FREE AND REDUCED  
MEALS

**12,949**

STUDENTS RECEIVE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
SERVICES

**3,174**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
LEARNERS

**1,815**

HOMELESS STUDENTS

**\$15,624.21**

PER PUPIL GUARANTEE IN  
FUNDING MODEL

**\$1,468,146,239**

2017-18 SCHOOL FOUNDATION  
BLOCK GRANT

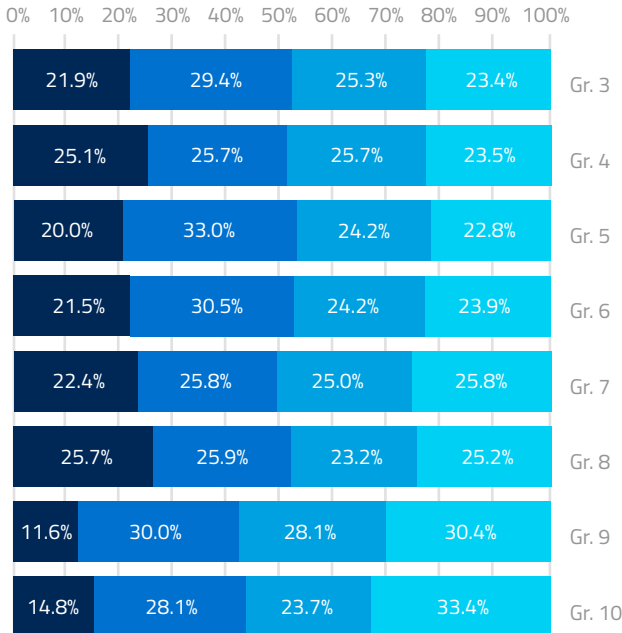


# 2017-18 WY-TOPP RESULTS

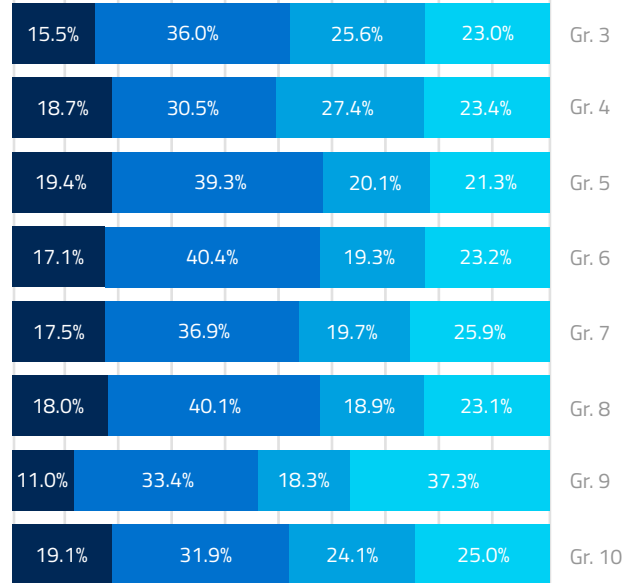
**92,976**  
STUDENTS

■ Advanced ■ Proficient ■ Basic ■ Below Basic

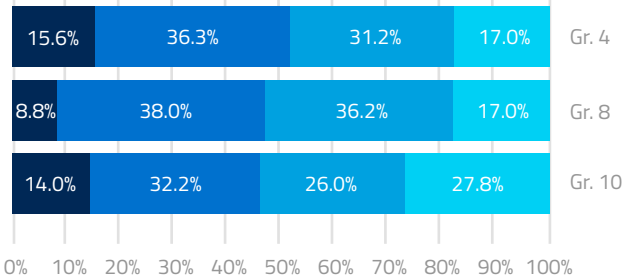
## MATHEMATICS



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



## SCIENCE



Percent of Students at each Performance Level



**17,423**

STUDENTS TOOK A CAREER  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE



**80.2%**

GRADUATION RATE



**\$14,354,090**

AWARDED IN HATHAWAY  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**5,800**

HATHAWAY SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS



# SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Citizens of Wyoming,

Work at the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) revolves around our mission to create opportunities for students to keep Wyoming strong. Whether students go to college, a career, or the military, we are making sure they are prepared. To that end, the following are our top priorities.

This year marked further budget reductions for education. I work tirelessly to keep cuts as far from classrooms as possible, and to find state-level efficiencies wherever possible. Fortunately, the WDE has realized millions in annual savings by implementing WY-TOPP, bringing the accreditation process in-house, and scrupulously evaluating our processes and priorities. As directed by the Legislature, we are carefully reviewing rules and regulations for transportation and special education funding.

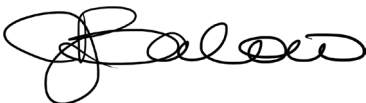
Tragic events nationwide have renewed our focus on school safety. In August, Cheyenne hosted one of four listening sessions for the Federal Commission on School Safety. The WDE and the School Facilities Division held a School Safety and Security Summit the following day. Several USED staff attended and heard Wyoming's concerns firsthand.

As changes have been made to the measures used for school accountability, the WDE is ramping up school support efforts. Most of our schools do well on their own, or with minimal guidance from the WDE. For schools that are struggling, we are developing a guidebook regarding supports and interventions that can help them improve based on five pillars of school effectiveness. These supports encourage everyone to come to the table to find the best solutions for their community and school.

When Governor Matt Mead signed 2018 SEA0048 to implement computer science in all Wyoming schools by 2022, the WDE launched Boot Up Wyoming 2022, setting up a leapfrog moment for Wyoming education. WDE staff visited all 48 school districts to gauge the landscape, answer questions, and gather information on needs and potential stumbling blocks.

Partnerships continue to be one of our strengths, as demonstrated by Governor Mead's Executive Educational Attainment Council, whose goal is to increase the education level of Wyoming's workforce and meet the demands of emerging industries. Proactive workforce development conversations serve our students well, ensuring they can benefit from a dynamic economy.

Wyoming schools are working hard to help students thrive in our ever-changing world. It is my greatest privilege to serve them and the people in this great state.



**Dicky Shanor**  
Chief of Staff

**Shelley Hamel**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Megan Degenfelder**  
Chief Policy Officer

**Dianne Bailey**  
Chief Operations Officer