

ACCREDITATION CRITERIA ALIGNED TO WYOMING STATUTE

1. **District Board.** Oversight and governance for the district is provided by an elected board of trustees that determines the district purpose and goals, operates in an ethical manner, maintains up-to-date, publicly available policies and documents, and employs and evaluates a superintendent who serves as the chief administrator for the district.
 - a. The district board operates in accordance with laws regarding school districts in general, open meeting laws, and the Wyoming Ethics and Disclosures Act. W.S.21-3-101—131; W.S.9-13-101—109; W.S. 16-4-401-408
 - b. The district purpose and goals are generally aligned to the goals of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA). W.S.21-2-204(b)
 - c. The district board maintains up-to-date board of trustees' policies, rules, and regulations, promulgated in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act. W.S.16-3-103
 - d. The district hires a superintendent as the chief administrative officer for the district. W.S.21-3-111(a)(vi)(A)

2. **District Leadership.** District administrators, including principals, manage district operations and provide instructional guidance. District administrators are evaluated in a manner consistent with Wyoming statute and regulations. The district superintendent or their representative provides assistance with school improvement planning and resource allocation for schools that need improvement.
 - a. The district uses district revenues to offer the Common Core of Knowledge and Skills and to meet State Board accreditation requirements. W.S.21-13-310; W.S.21-2-304(a)(ii)
 - b. All district practices and structures support the ongoing improvement of instruction which must be a focus of the system. Accountability Framework, Pg. 71
 - c. The district superintendent hires principals and other district administrators W.S.21-3-111(a)(vi)(B)
 - d. The district superintendent evaluates leaders in accordance with state regulations W.S. 21-2-304(b)(xvi); W.S. 21-3-110 (a)(xxx); W.S.21-2-204(h)(v&vii)
 - e. The district superintendent provides district representative(s) to assist schools identified as partially meeting and not meeting expectations through the Wyoming Accountability in Education act W.S.21-2-204(h)(vii)
 - f. The district superintendent annually provides to the WDE a review of the design and implementation of the district leader evaluation system if the district has schools identified as partially meeting and not meeting expectations. W.S.21-2-204(h)(v&vii)

3. School Leadership. Principals provide administrative management and instructional leadership, including the evaluation of teachers and other instructional staff in accordance with Wyoming regulations for the school(s) to which they are assigned.

- a. Principals provide administrative management and instructional leadership for the school(s) to which they are assigned. W.S. 21-3-111(a)(vi)(B)
- b. Principals know what quality instruction looks like and use that knowledge to support the ongoing improvement of instruction (Accountability Framework, pg. 70)
- c. Principals evaluate the performance of initial and continuing contract teachers in accordance with W.S.21-2-110(a)(xvii-xix)
- d. The performance evaluation system includes reasonable opportunity for state and district provision of mentoring and other professional development activities made available to teachers performing unsatisfactorily, which are designed to improve instruction and student achievement W.S.21-2-304(b)(xv)

4. Stakeholder Communication and Input. The district and all schools within the district communicate with and solicit input and feedback from stakeholders, and use the input to improve district and school processes.

- a. Responsibility for school and district success is shared among educators, parents, students, communities, and all policy makers. (Accountability Framework, Pg. 18)

5. Employment and Certification. All personnel are hired and evaluated in accordance with Wyoming statute and district policies.

- a. Teachers are employed in accordance with the Wyoming Teacher Employment Law. W.S.21-7-101-113
- b. The Professional Teaching Standards Board has issued certificates with necessary endorsements covering specific assignment(s) to each professional staff member. The assignment of staff member shall be in accordance with the certificates and endorsements as specified in the certification regulations set by the Professional Teaching Standards Board. W.S.21-7-303(a); W.S.21-7-304; W.S.21-2-802
- c. The district and schools support the continued development of novice teachers with high quality mentoring and induction systems for new teachers and leaders. Accountability Framework, pg. 68
- d. Oversight and supervision is provided for other personnel. W.S.21-3-111(E)
- e. Health Services/Bloodborne Pathogens. 29 CFR 1910 and 1030 in OSHA Publication 3127
- f. Anti-Suicide. W.S.21-3-110 (a)(xxxiii)
- g. Seclusion and Restraint. W.S.21-3-110 (a)(xxxi)

- 6. Professional Development.** The district professional development plan is designed to increase the capacity, collaboration, and collective efficacy of instructional staff and leaders to improve the instructional core. Professional development is regularly conducted, is relevant to daily work and content areas, and involves active work among colleagues.
- a. Professional development is designed to improve teacher and leader effectiveness. W.S.21-2-204(b)(vii)
 - b. Professional development is focused on improving the instructional core (Teaching, Content, Active Learning). Accountability Framework, pg. 16
- 7. State Assessment and Accountability.** All schools in the district administer Wyoming statewide assessments and receive a school performance rating annually in accordance with the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA).
- a. All schools administer the required state assessments and receive a school performance rating through the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act. W.S.21-2-204(c)(ii-iv)
 - b. The district adheres to the statewide education accountability system as a component of accreditation W.S.21-2-304(a)(ii)
- 8. School Improvement and Support.** Schools identified as partially meeting or not meeting expectations assess needs using WAEA indicator data, write improvement goals aligned with the applicable WAEA indicators, develop improvement plans that are annually approved by the district and submitted to the Department, and participate in the Statewide System of Support if requested to do so by the Department.
- a. All schools that are partially meeting and not meeting expectations use an improvement process that evaluates data, and these data are used to identify goals, design interventions and strategies, monitor progress toward goals, and evaluate success toward meeting the goals. W.S.21-2-204(h)(v) and (vi); Accountability Framework, pg. 67
 - b. Schools that are partially meeting and not meeting expectations submit improvement plans to the district and the department annually. W.S.21-2-204(h)(v) and (vi)
 - c. Improvement plans are approved by the district superintendent and plans for not meeting expectations schools are also approved by the district board. W.S.21-2-204(h)(v) and (vi)
 - d. Improvement plans goals are based on a review of the data that contributes to the WAEA school performance level. W.S.21-2-204(h)(v) and (vi)
 - e. Improvement plans are publicly available through internet access. W.S.21-2-204(h)(viii)(A)
 - f. At the request of the WDE, schools participate in the system of support established by the state board per W.S.21-2-204(h)

9. Programs, Standards, and Curriculum. Educational programs in the district are sufficient for all students to meet the uniform Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in all content areas.

- a. Educational programs in the district are sufficient to provide all students the opportunity to receive a proper education as defined in the Wyoming funding model. This includes courses or content in all areas of the common core of knowledge and skills and alignment of the curriculum in these courses or content areas to the Uniform Wyoming Content and Performance Standards. W.S.21-9 -101-102
- b. There is an emphasis on literacy and math in grades 1-8. W.S.21-9 -101(b)(ii)
- c. Schools adhere to these curricular requirements as applicable:
 - i. Hathaway Scholarship Success Curriculum and 8th Grade Unit Of Study. W.S.21-16-1301-1310; W.S.21-20-201
 - ii. Career Technical Education (CTE) Course Sequences. W.S.21-13-309(m)(v)(D)(II)
 - iii. Career Guidance and Career Planning. W.S.21-16-1308(b)(i)(D)
 - iv. Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Agreements. W.S.21-20-201
 - v. Instruction in the U.S. and State Constitutions. W.S.21-9-101(b)(i)(N)
 - vi. Instruction in Foreign Language in Grades K-2. W.S.21-9-101(b)(i)(N)
 - vii. Gifted and Talented. W.S.21-9-101(c)(ii)
 - viii. American Indian Education W.S.21-4-602

10. District Assessment System. Through a balanced student assessment system, the district verifies that Wyoming Content and Performance Standards are taught and assessed in all content areas. Assessment results are used to set goals, make instructional decisions and monitor student progress. The assessment system is continuously refined and updated by the district, and is formally reviewed every five years by the Department. The assessment system may be reviewed more frequently by the Department for districts with schools that are partially meeting or not meeting expectations.

- a. The district has an assessment system used to measure and monitor student performance on the Uniform Content and Performance Standards in all content areas. W.S.21-2-304(a)(iv); W.S.21-3-110(a)(xxiv); W.S.21-3-110 (a)(xxxiv); W.S.21-2-204(b)(iv-v)
- b. The district assessment system is approved through a department review process every five years. W.S.21-2-202(a)(xxxvi); W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iii); W.S.21-3-110 (a)(xxxiv); W.S.21-2-204(h)(vii) (Results are reported to the state board and any deficiencies addressed through the statewide system of support per W.S.21-2-202(a)(xxxvi)). NOTE: The review process currently includes:
 - i. Alignment of assessments to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.
 - ii. Assessment quality and uniform administration across the district.
 - iii. Analysis of data for monitoring student progress on the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards

- c. The district has a process to ensure that the assessment system is aligned with the refined and revised Uniform Content and Performance Standards within three (3) full school years following adoption of revised standards by the state board. W.S.21-2-304(a)(iv)
- d. The district meets all reporting requirements associated with the district assessment system per W.S.21-3-110 (a)(xv), W.S.21-2-304(a)(iv); and W.S.21-3-110(a)(xxiv)

11. Instructional Methods. The district has implemented a coherent instructional system and a shared instructional process or framework that defines high leverage teaching methods instructional staff use to engage students in the subject matter in all content areas across the district.

- a. Teachers provide expertise in their areas of instruction. W.S.21-3-111(vi)(C)
- b. The district uses a shared instructional framework to define instructional expectations that is consistent with the teacher evaluation model. W.S.21-2-110(a)(xvii-xix)
- c. Increased learning and minimizing achievement gaps is accomplished through increased student engagement and improved instruction. Accountability Framework, pg. 70
- d. Instructional quality is improved by increasing the expertise of teachers and leaders which requires more open, public practice. Accountability Framework, pg. 70

12. Learning Supports. Assessment results are used to monitor student progress and assign students in need of intervention to multi-tiered supports. The district is in compliance with all State and Federal Special Education laws. The district addresses the individual learning needs of English learners.

- a. Schools employ a Response-to-Interventions (RTI) or similarly systematic approach for diagnosis, intervention, and monitoring. Accountability Framework, pg. 68; W.S.21-3-401
- b. The district is in compliance with State and Federal laws related to Students with Disabilities. W.S.21-2-202(a)(xviii)
- c. Monitoring and interventions are provided to improve K-3 reading. W.S.21-3-401(a&b)
- d. Instruction is provided for hospitalized and homebound students. W.S.21-4-402 (a-b)
- e. Differentiated instruction within classrooms and additional support services outside of classrooms are provided for targeted instructional areas. Accountability Framework, Pg. 68
- f. "Extra time" opportunities such as after school and summer school enrichment opportunities are provided. Accountability Framework, pg. 68
- g. Schools implement systematic approaches for helping students improve their performance, including (but not limited to) appropriate support and interventions for special education and English language learners. Accountability Framework, pg. 67
- h. Parent engagement is an important dimension of school quality. Accountability Framework, Pg. 23
- i. At least one (1) full-day kindergarten is provided by the district. W.S.21-3-110(a)(xx)

13. At-Risk and Dropout Prevention. The district has an early warning system to identify at-risk students, and has implemented dropout prevention strategies.

- a. At-risk student populations are identified, and data are analyzed to identify individual students at-risk of dropping out of school. W.S.21-13-309(m)(B)(IV)(1)(a-d)

14. School Culture, Climate, and Safety. The district has a plan for promoting positive school culture and learning environments that are safe, orderly, and conducive to learning for all students.

- a. All school(s) comply with the Wyoming Safe School Climate Act prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.
- b. Processes are in place to monitor and improve school climate. (W.S.21-4-311-315)
- c. The district and all schools within the district shall maintain an up-to-date crisis management plan.
- d. The district and all schools adhere to these requirements as applicable:
 - i. Fire and Emergency Drills. W.S.35-9-505(b)
 - ii. Anonymous Reporting. W.S.9-1-603 (a)(ix) and (e), W.S.21-4-314(a)(iv)
 - iii. Expulsion and Discipline for Cause Including Deadly Weapons. W.S.21-4-305-308

15. Student Activities. Students are encouraged to participate in activities, clubs, organizations, field trips, and school-sponsored events that extend learning beyond the classroom. WHSAA sanctioned activities and athletics are made available to all high school-age individuals that reside in the district.

- a. Interscholastic activities are coordinated through and regulated by the Wyoming High School Activities Association.
- b. Interscholastic activities are made available to all school-age individuals who reside in the district. W.S.21-4-506(a)

16. High School Graduation. High school graduates satisfactorily complete coursework that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements established by the State Board.

- a. All students that graduate from high school meet the state board requirements for students to earn a high school diploma as evidenced by course completion and as measured by each district's assessment system. W.S.21-2-304(a)(iii) Chapter 31 Rules and Regulations

17. Technology and Media. District technology includes internet connectivity. Technology, library, and media services meet the research, learning, and information management needs of students and staff.

- a. Internet access is provided in accordance with W.S.9-2-1035(a)(iii)

18. Virtual Education. If virtual education is provided by the district, the virtual courses meet all state requirements in accordance with Chapter 41 Rules and Regulations.

- a. All virtual education programs offered by and through the district meet Wyoming accreditation requirements. (W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxi)(C)) Chapter 41 Rules and Regulations

19. Buildings and Facilities. All schools and other district buildings are constructed and maintained in accordance with Wyoming School Facilities Department guidelines and other regulations that govern the safety and security of Wyoming public buildings.

- a. All school buildings are constructed and maintained in accordance with Wyoming School Facilities Department guidance.
- b. Students are educated in a safe environment that meets all applicable building, health, safety and environmental codes and standards required by law for all public buildings. (W.S. 21-15-115(a)(i)).
- c. The district adheres to these requirements:
 - i. Display of Flags. W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xii)
 - ii. Pesticide Application. W.S. 35-7-375
 - iii. Facilities Leasing. W.S. 21-15-109 (c)(i)(B) and W.S. 21-15-116 (a)(VI)
 - iv. Hazardous Materials. W.S. 21-3-110 (a)(xxii) and W.S. 21-2-202 (a)(xxii)

20. Student Health. Personnel and processes, including prevention programs, are in place to address the physical and mental health needs of all students enrolled in the district.

- a. Mandatory Immunizations. W.S. 21-4-309
- b. Self-administration of Medication. W.S. 21-4-310
- c. Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (if applicable). W.S. 21-4-316
- d. Use of Protective Eye Devices. W.S. 21-9-203
- e. Guidance regarding the prevention of sports-related concussions per Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussions in Sports from the Wyoming High School Activities Association. W.S. 21-3-110(xxxii)

21. Calendars and Schedules. The number of school days, hours of student teacher contact, alternative calendars, days of observance and mourning, scheduled holidays, and reports of school closure are in accordance with Wyoming statute, rules and regulations.

- a. Minimum Hours of Student/Teacher Contact. Chapter 22 Rules
 - i. Half Day Kindergarten: 450 hours
 - ii. Full Day Kindergarten & Elementary: 900 hours
 - iii. Middle School/Junior High: 1050 hours
 - iv. Secondary: 1100 hours
- b. Minimum Number of Days per Year. W.S.21-4-301 and 21-13-307(a)(ii)

- c. Alternative Calendars. W.S.21-4-301 and 21-13-307(a)(ii)
- d. Days of Observance and Mourning. W.S.8-4-101(c) and W.S.8-4-103-106
- e. Scheduled Holidays. W.S.8-4-101(a)
- f. Reporting Closures to the Department. W.S.21-13-307(a)(ii)

22. Transportation. The district provides student transportation to and from school and provides student transportation for interscholastic activities in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

- a. Student transportation is provided in accordance with W.S.21-3-131

23. Food Services. The district adheres to Wyoming and Federal regulations and guidelines related to the sanitation of food service facilities and the quality and nutritional value of food provided to students. Free and reduced cost meals are provided based on the income of parents or guardians.

- a. Food services offered by schools within the district meet State and Federal regulations for quality and sanitation. (7 CFR Part 210, W.S. §21-2-202 (a)(x) and (xix))

24. Finance and Data. District finances are managed and routinely audited in accordance with Wyoming and Federal regulations, and accurate data are collected and reported to the Department in a timely manner.

- a. District funds are kept as prescribed by the Uniform Municipal Fiscal Procedures Act and Wyoming School Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting Manual. (W.S. §21-2-202(a)(ii))
- b. The district submits all required data and reports in accordance with department requirements. W.S. §21-2-203(c)(i-ix); 21-2-305(a)(ii)
- c. The district meet all Federal financial monitoring requirements and regulations.

25. Student Information Management. Student information, records, identification, attendance calculations, enrollment and transfers are conducted in accordance with statute.

- a. Authority to assess and collect student educational assessment data. W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xiv)
- b. WDE and ETS required to establish criteria for data security and privacy including, but not limited to teacher, student, accountability, and finance data. The act provides for guidelines, compliance standards, audits, breach procedures, data retention, data security, FERPA compliance, prohibition of sale of data, unique student id, and standards to remove personally identifiable information. W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxiv)(A-K)
- c. Requirements for school district data privacy and security with guidelines established by WDE, ETS, Audit, and school districts. Guidelines must include compliance with FERPA including: Authorization and authentication mechanisms; security safeguards; employee training; privacy and security compliance standards; process for managing security breaches; standards for retention and destruction of data. W.S. 21-2-202(a)(xxxvii)(A-E)
- d. Requirement for local boards to adopt and enforce a data privacy and security policy based on guidelines set by the state superintendent. W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxxv)

- e. establishes requirements for psychiatric residential treatment facilities serving Wyoming students to comply with federal FERPA requirements in the storage and transfer of student records. W.S. 21-13-336(g)