

WDE FAQ

Standards for Parents *updated 8/15/2021*

What Are Content Standards?

Content Standards, aka Standards, define what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade level in every subject. They explain the knowledge, concepts, and skills that students should acquire at each grade level. Standards do not define all that can or should be taught; they simply outline end-of-year expectations. For example: In science, a student should be able to develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal dispersing seeds or pollinating plants by the end of 2nd grade.

What Are Performance Standards?

Performance Standards are the standards all students are expected to learn and be assessed on through the district assessment system. They specify the specific degree of understanding or demonstration of the knowledge and/or skill for a particular content standard. As such, they use clear action verbs and describe “how good is good enough.” Districts are expected to give students multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency on the Performance Standards and provide appropriate supports for student success.

What Are Extended Standards?

The Wyoming Extended Standards are aligned to the Wyoming Content Standards. These extensions were designed to make the Standards more accessible to students with significant cognitive disabilities while maintaining the rigor and high expectations of the Standards. The Extended Standards ensure all students with cognitive disabilities are provided with multiple ways to learn and demonstrate knowledge.

Which Subjects Are Tied to State Standards?

In Wyoming, there are currently ten content areas: Science, Mathematics, English Language Arts, Health, Fine & Performing Arts, Physical Education, Social Studies, Career & Vocational Education, Foreign Language, and Computer Science. Each content area has its own set of standards. The Wyoming Department of Education has a [Wyoming Content and Performance Standards](#) page, wherein the Standards are also available as a Microsoft Excel file.

Who Has Authority Over Wyoming’s Standards?

The State Board of Education (SBE) is charged with reviewing and approving the state standards.

How Often Are the Content Standards Reviewed in Wyoming?

The state standards are reviewed every nine years at a minimum. The SBE-approved [Standards Review Timeline](#), the [Standards Implementation Timeline](#), and other information can be found on the [WDE Standards](#) page.

What is the Process to Change or Adopt New Standards in Wyoming?

When the standards in a content area are up for review, the SBE convenes a committee comprised of Wyoming teachers, leaders, post-secondary educators, parents, and business and community members. This committee reviews the standards and makes proposed changes to be presented to the Board. Following

a 45-day public review, the SBE can ask for further review, decide to make changes based on public and educator input, or vote to move the standards forward, which triggers a 45-day public comment period. After considering all public comments, the SBE votes on whether to recommend the proposed standards to the Governor, who then has 75 days to review and sign them.

Who Has Authority Over Implementation of State Standards in Wyoming?

The SBE determines the school year by which new standards are to be fully implemented, but local school boards, district and building administrators, and teachers determine how they will be implemented. This includes curriculum choices and instructional methods.

What is Curriculum?

Curriculum refers to the methods and materials used to deliver instruction related to the standards. This includes locally approved textbooks, worksheets, lab kits, novels, software programs, and other materials used by teachers.

Who Has Authority Over Curriculum and Instruction in Wyoming?

Local school boards, district and building administrators, and teachers make decisions related to curriculum and instruction. Neither the State of Wyoming nor the federal government has the authority to make these decisions for school districts.