

CHAPTER 10
WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
STATEMENT OF REASONS

Pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 21-2-304(a)(iii), the Wyoming State Board of Education must prescribe uniform student content and performance standards for the common core of knowledge specified by Wyo. Stat. § 21-9-101(b)(i).

After careful consideration, and with support from members of the Standards Review Committee and input from school districts and the public at large, the Board proposes revising the following state standards areas: Math, Science, Computer Science, Physical Education (PE), Health & Safety, and Fine & Performing Arts (F&PA).

In October 2022, the State Board of Education (SBE) passed a resolution to reduce the standards load and have educator committees identify a more focused set of standards. Before convening the audit committee, the SBE surveyed the districts on locally prioritized math and science standards. At the same time, the math and science Standards Review Committee (SRC) members were surveyed on standards they selected as priority standards.

An audit of the Math and Science Standards was completed in January 2023. No edits were made to the text of the then currently adopted standards and codes remained as they were to reduce the need to change those in district systems already in place. In February, the focused set of standards were reviewed by the Curriculum Director's Advisory Committee (CDAC) to ensure proper learning progressions were in place and to make any recommendations to the SBE. The proposed Math and Science Standards and CDAC recommendations were presented to the SBE at their February 2023 meeting. The result of the audit was a 61% reduction in K-12 Science Standards and 64% in K-12 Math Standards.

An audit of the Standards for PE, Health, Fine & Performing Arts, and Computer Science was conducted in April-May 2023. The audits stemmed from the following standards documents, of which the first three were the work of a recent Standards Review Committee which were not approved by the SBE. The following documents are found on the WDE [Standards Review page](#).

1. Proposed 2021 PE Standards
2. Proposed 2021 Health Standards
3. Proposed 2022 F&PA Standards
4. Adopted 2020 Computer Science Standards

The SBE also directed the Health Audit Committee to create a suicide prevention standard to be added to the middle school and high school grade bands. The newly proposed set of standards was presented to the SBE at their June 2023 meeting [see [Memo Update on Audit Work](#)]. The SBE voted to proceed with public input and requested public input from the audits be reviewed by the Curriculum Director's Advisory Committee (CDAC) for final recommendations to the SBE. The result of this set of audits was a 76% reduction in Computer Science Standards, 52% in PE, 57% in Health, and 89% in F&PA.

Following the work of the committee for each content area, the Department collected public input through separate online surveys. The Department also hosted virtual public meetings to inform the public and to gather feedback from the public for the Board's consideration when voting whether to adopt the proposed Content and Performance Standards. Informal public input was collected through online surveys for each content area as follows:

1. Math and Science – March 27-April 20, 2023, with 207 responses. [See June 15, 2023 SBE [Memo on Public Input](#) on the Proposed Math and Science Standards.]

2. Computer Science, PE, Health, and F&PA – July 12-September 3, 2023 with 107 responses. [See September 18, 2023 SBE [Memo on Public Input](#) on the Proposed Computer Science, PE, Health, and F&PA Standards.]

At the SBE’s December 21, 2023 meeting, after hearing public testimony and considering the public input collected, the Board voted to propose amending Ch. 10 rules on standards and proceed with the rules promulgation process.

The Department provides additional information during the rules promulgation process to point out to the public what, specifically, is being changed when amendments are proposed. For example, in this case, the Department points out that the six content areas referred to in this Statement are being changed, as seen in the proposed Chapter 10 Rules in Section 3(e)(vii)-(xii).

The Board previously revised the process for compiling public comments to more adequately inform the Board of the nature of the comments and the reasons for either adopting or rejecting the comment. This process includes articulating comments separately even if they were part of a single submission that addressed several topics, grouping substantially identical comments together with a single response, and organizing the comments and responses into comment, discussion, and changes sections. These changes should make it easier to understand the comments received and the agency's response to those comments. Comments received in this rulemaking will be addressed accordingly.

These rules meet the minimum substantive state statutory requirements and are within the Board and Department’s statutory authority. No part of this action should be interpreted as an attempt to dictate curriculum at the local or state level.