

WDE FACT SHEET

Implementing the Newly Adopted Wyoming Content & Performance Standards (WYCPS)

2023 Wyoming Content & Performance Standards (WYCPS)

The State Board of Education (SBE) passed a [Resolution](#) to reduce the number of student learning standards to provide a more focused set of standards that allows “schools to have greater flexibility and time to pursue innovation and community collaboration.” Districts are expected to provide students with deep learning of the Content Standards and multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in the Performance Standards. You can find the standards for the six (6) new/updated content areas, which were adopted in [Ch. 10 Rules on Standards](#) on July 17, 2024, linked below. These standards will be implemented in the district’s curriculum, instruction, and assessment system by the designated school year. The other four (4) content areas will be fully reviewed by 2027; see [Standards Review Timeline](#).

To be Implemented by the Start of School Year 2025-2026

- [2023 Science WYCPS](#) will replace the [2021 edition](#).
- [2023 Math WYCPS](#) will replace the [2021 edition](#).

To be Implemented by the Start of School Year 2026-2027

- [2023 Computer Science](#) will replace the [2021 edition](#).
- [2023 Physical Education WYCPS](#) will replace the [2014 edition](#).
- [2023 Health and Safety WYCPS](#) will replace the [2012 edition](#).
- [2023 F&PA WYCPS](#) will replace the [2013 edition](#).

The 2023 WYCPS with PLDs (Performance Level Descriptors) are included in the list of standards documents under the appropriate content area on the [Content & Performance Standards page](#). These documents were created to reflect the current, reduced editions of the standards, with the PLDs where there are Performance Standards (PS). For Math, Science, and Computer Science, no edits or changes were made to the text of the standards; however, the number of standards was reduced. For Science K-2 and Computer Science K-2 and 3-5, the PS were removed, and therefore so were the associated PLDs. An excel workbook with all 10 content areas can also be found on the aforementioned webpage.

For more information on Standards, please contact Barb Marquer, Standards Supervisor, at 307-777-5506 or barb.marquer@wyo.gov.

SBE Guidance Memo on the Ch. 10 Implementation

[SBE Guidance Memo on Ch. 10 Implementation](#)

For more information on the work of the State Board of Education, please contact Diana Clapp, Ed.D, SBE Coordinator, at 307-851-3478 or diana.clapp@wyo.gov.

Important Information Related to the Standards Definitions in Chapter 10

“Content Standards” are the content knowledge and skills students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of the grade level or grade band. Content Standards are the state standards and cannot be further prioritized at the local level. All students must receive instruction on every content standard unless designated as an elective in the table in Chapter 10 Sec. 3 rules (also seen below).

“Performance Standards” are the standards all students are expected to learn and be assessed on through the district assessment system by the end of the grade level or grade band. These specify the degree of understanding or demonstration of the knowledge or skills at the proficient level, describing how good is good enough. Per W.S. 21-3-110(a), local school boards are responsible for capturing levels of performance on the performance standards through “each” district’s assessment system. Students will be provided multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency, and students will receive appropriate and targeted support for student success. Uniformity on student performance comes through the state-provided performance level descriptors (PLDs) for each content standard. The “Proficient PLD” is the performance standard. “Elective” when describing Content Standards means all students must be offered the opportunity to take content area instruction within the indicated grade level or grade band. Elective content must be offered to all students who elect to take the content area coursework or program. Districts may choose how to offer elective coursework, but all Content and Performance Standards must be included in the series of courses or the educational program.

The State Board of Education determined the expectations for the Wyoming Content & Performance Standards. The table below (seen in Ch. 10 Rules) outlines the content areas, by grade band, that have Content Standards only (taught but not required to be assessed in the District Assessment System) compared to those that have Content & Performance Standards (must be taught and assessed in the District Assessment System). It also identifies those areas that are Elective.

2024 State-Level Requirements for the Wyoming Content & Performance Standards

Gr.	Math	Science	Health & Safety	PE	Fine & Performing Arts	Computer Science
K-2	Content & Performance Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards
3-5	Content & Performance Standards	Content & Performance Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards
6-8	Content & Performance Standards	Content & Performance Standards	Content Standards	Content Standards	Content & Performance Standards Elective	Content & Performance Standards Elective
9-12	Content & Performance Standards	Content & Performance Standards	Content & Performance Standards	Content & Performance Standards	Content & Performance Standards Elective	Content & Performance Standards Elective

For more information on Standards and Extended Standards, please contact Barb Marquer, Standards Supervisor, at 307-777-5506 or barb.marquer@wyo.gov.

Extended Standards (WYES)

The Math and Science Extended Standards were reviewed in the summer of 2024 and are expected to be out for public comment toward the end of the 2024-25 school year.

The Wyoming Extended Standards define the essential knowledge and skills that allow students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to achieve high academic expectations and to access the general academic curriculum. The current [Extended Standards](#) are linked to the grade-level Wyoming Content and Performance Standards for the three assessed areas (ELA, Math, Science). The Extended Standards provide a common set of goals and expectations for all students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in Wyoming, approximately 1% of students. Student learning on the Extended Standards is assessed with the WY-ALT assessments.

For more information on Standards and Extended Standards, please contact Barb Marquer, Standards Supervisor, at 307-777-5506 or barb.marquer@wyo.gov.

Statewide Assessment System

The 2023 Wyoming Content and Performance Standards (WYCPS) for Math and Science will be assessed in the 2025-26 school year during the WY-TOPP spring 2026 administration.

The updated WY-TOPP Math and Science Blueprints, found on the [Assessment Blueprints page](#), will inform you of the standards assessed on the state WY-TOPP tests. These blueprints show both the current blueprint for the 2024-25 school year and the updated (new) blueprint for the 2025-26 school year. This may also be used as a crosswalk for districts as we transition from one blueprint to another.

With the reduction of standards, we will no longer have enough standards/items to produce domain-specific scores. Starting with the 2025-26 school year, the results of the WY-TOPP Math and Science assessments will be a single score and performance level for each content area.

The Math WY-TOPP tests will be reduced by approximately 12 items for grade 3 and by 15 items for grades 4-8 each.

The Science WY-TOPP tests in grades 8 and 10 will continue to consist of six (6) cluster items and 12 standalone items. For grade 4 Science, there will be eight (8) cluster items. Since there are only six (6) standards to be assessed and federal requirements expect us to assess the depth and breadth of the state standards, all standards will be assessed in this grade. This includes adding two standards to the WY-TOPP blueprint that were not previously assessed in grade 4. For grades 8 and 10, three (3) standards will be added to the blueprint for each grade.

For more information on the Statewide Assessment System, please contact Rebecca Velikaneye, Assessment Supervisor, at 307-777-6804 or rebecca.velikaneye@wyo.gov.

Cut Scores

In the summer of 2026, following the first administration of the test using the new blueprints, an educator panel will review items and make recommendations on the achievement standards which determine where the cuts are made (aka cut scores). At this time, it is unknown whether the cut scores will change, but it is known there is enough of a change to the test and blueprints to warrant a cut-score review.

For more information on the Statewide Assessment System, please contact Rebecca Velikaneye, Assessment Supervisor, at 307-777-6804 or rebecca.velikaneye@wyo.gov.

Accountability and School Performance Ratings

The WDE created [short training videos](#) for accountability and school performance purposes.

Following the assessment standard setting in the summer of 2026, there may need to be changes made to the Achievement indicator for accountability.

For more information on Accountability and School Performance Ratings, please contact Jennifer LaHiff, Accountability Supervisor, at 307-777-8752 or jennifer.lahiff@wyo.gov.

Accreditation

Wyoming Statutes 21-3-110 (a)(xv) and 21-3-110 (a)(xxiv) require the District Assessment System (DAS) to be aligned with the WYCPS and WYES.

The DAS review is a part of the district and school accreditation process and will take place in the following ways:

- DAS assurances are received annually by the district by November 1.
- DAS plan is submitted annually by the district.
- DAS is reviewed on-site every 5 years by the Accreditation Team.

The DAS must be aligned to the state standards within three full years of the State Board approving a standard. W.S. 21-2-304 (a)(iv) states that districts shall ensure that their aligned DAS produces student performance levels relative to the state standards. (Chapter 31, Sec. 5 (b)(i)) and (Chapter 31, Sec. 5 (b)(i)(A)).

For more information on Accreditation, please contact Chelsie Oaks, Accreditation and Support Supervisor, at 307-777-8676 or chelsie.oaks@wyo.gov.

District Assessment System (DAS)

New District Assessment Guidebook: The DAS must be aligned to the state standards by the implementation date set by the SBE and published on the front page of the standards document. The adoption of the 2023 WYCPS has prioritized the student learning standards at the state level. Districts should closely review their DAS so that all Content Standards are taught in all content areas and Performance Standards are assessed in all relevant grade levels or grade bands. (Refer to Definitions and Table on pages 2-3). Within each district's assessment system, districts capture levels of performance on the standards as required by W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxiv).

The DAS should be updated to ensure that the 2023 WYCPS for Math and Science are fully implemented by the start of the 2025-2026 school year. For the 2023 WYCPS in Physical Education, Health & Safety, Computer Science, and Fine & Performing Arts, districts will need to fully implement the WYCPS by the start of the 2026-27 school year.

For more information on the District Assessment System, please contact Chelsie Oaks at 777-8676 or chelsie.oaks@wyo.gov or Micah Becker at 307-777-8505 or micah.becker@wyo.gov.

Graduation Rules (Ch. 31)

Districts SIS will begin identifying progress toward graduation on the reduced standards with the freshman class of 2025-26.

Hathaway Success Curriculum

There is no change to the program; however, schools may need to re-evaluate their Hathaway Success Curriculum to ensure it is aligned with these standards.

The 2023 Standards for Math and for Science encompass three years of content.

For more information on Hathaway Success Curriculum, contact Bradley Barker, Hathaway Scholarship Consultant, at 307-777-6226 or bradley.barker@wyo.gov.