



Wyoming Department of Education

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Introduction

Just as Wyoming's towering mountain peaks offer a panoramic view that spans vast distances, connecting communities and landscapes from every corner of the state, Component 9 of the Wyoming Language and Literacy Plan (WLLP) provides a broad and unified vision for improving literacy outcomes. Like the mountain peaks that offer a broad perspective on the land below, Component 9 offers educators a clear, elevated view of the resources and tools required to elevate literacy instruction across Wyoming. The collaborative nature of the WLLP mirrors the way the mountain ranges connect diverse regions—ensuring that, just as no community is left behind by the mountain vistas, no educator is without access to the high-quality materials and support necessary to achieve the collective goal of statewide literacy improvement.

Purpose

Component 9 of the WLLP is dedicated to equipping LEAs with the resources and tools necessary for the successful implementation of the state's literacy initiatives. It emphasizes the importance of gathering, curating, and developing high-quality, evidence-based materials that align with the goals and activities outlined in the plan. In doing so, the The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) ensures that educators and administrators across Wyoming have access to the tools they need to address the diverse literacy needs of their students. This collaborative approach ensures that educators and administrators across Wyoming have access to the tools they need to address the diverse literacy needs of their students. By fostering partnerships, the WDE and LEAs work together to shape and implement high-quality literacy practices.

Within Component 9, the WDE plays a pivotal role in curating and developing these resources, ensuring that they are easily accessible to all LEAs. This includes professional learning templates, instructional rubrics, and other tools designed to support effective literacy practices. Effective dissemination strategies are emphasized to guarantee that these resources are shared widely and efficiently, enabling LEAs to implement the WLLP with the necessary support. This comprehensive support system provides LEAs with the tools, resources, and guidance needed to implement effective educational practices and achieve significant improvements in student outcomes. The WDE empowers LEAs with detailed guidance on policy compliance, ongoing professional development, and support for data-driven decision-making, allowing them to confidently navigate educational standards and initiatives.

This robust system of support not only equips LEAs with the necessary resources but also fosters an ongoing partnership between the WDE and LEAs to ensure continued success in implementing literacy practices and meeting educational goals. The WDE's role extends beyond simply providing materials; it includes offering detailed guidance on policy compliance, supporting professional learning, and helping WDE interpret and apply state and federal expectations. Through consistent collaboration, the WDE ensures that LEAs are not only aligned with literacy priorities but are also empowered to lead meaningful, evidence-based instructional improvements. This comprehensive approach strengthens systemwide capacity and builds sustainability by embedding supports that are responsive, relevant, and results-oriented.

Ongoing professional development is a key component of this support, empowering educators with the skills and knowledge necessary to apply evidence-based practices effectively. Additionally, the WDE provides critical support for data-driven decision-making, helping LEAs assess and respond to the diverse needs of their students. This collaborative approach ensures that the WDE and LEAs are aligned in their efforts, working together to elevate student literacy outcomes across the state.

Providing Support: WDE to LEAs

Types of Support

Guidance and Policy Clarification

Clear guidance documents, policy briefs, and FAQs to assist LEAs in understanding and complying with state and federal regulations, including interpreting relevant legislation.

Professional Development

Ongoing learning opportunities, such as sessions, webinars, and online courses, focused on curriculum development, instructional strategies, and the implementation of HQIM and HQIP.

Data and Accountability Support

Assistance with collecting, analyzing, and using data to inform decision-making, alongside training on data interpretation and support for local accountability planning.

Funding Guidance and Management

Technical support for managing state and federal funding streams, including assistance with grant writing, budget planning, and compliance monitoring.

Curriculum and Instructional Support

Development and dissemination of curricular frameworks, model lesson plans, instructional resources aligned with state standards, and coaching services to support effective implementation.

Compliance Monitoring and Support

Technical assistance to ensure compliance with education laws, including audits and guidance.

Technology Integration and Support

Resources and training for integrating technology into classrooms and administrative practices, including support for digital learning and cybersecurity.

School Improvement Support

Targeted support for underperforming schools, including the state Transformation Network, systems coaches, instructional coaching partners, turnaround strategies, and additional resources for school transformation.

Collaboration and Networking Opportunities

Facilitation of regional meetings, conferences, and communities of practice to foster collaboration among LEAs and share best practices.

Family and Community Engagement Support

Resources and strategies to strengthen family and community engagement, including communication tools and training on effective engagement practices.

To effectively support LEAs in implementing literacy initiatives and achieving state goals, the WDE provides a comprehensive range of services that span multiple areas of need. This support includes guidance and policy clarification, ensuring that LEAs understand and comply with state and federal

regulations, and offering professional development opportunities to enhance educators' skills in curriculum development and instructional strategies. Data and accountability support is provided through training on data interpretation and assistance in developing local accountability plans. The WDE also offers guidance on funding management, curriculum and instructional support, and compliance monitoring to ensure that LEAs are well-equipped to meet the necessary standards and regulations. Additionally, the WDE fosters collaboration through networking opportunities and provides resources for family and community engagement, all of which contribute to the successful implementation of literacy strategies and the continuous improvement of student outcomes across the state.

Key Partnership Actions

To foster a unified and effective approach to literacy improvement across Wyoming, the WDE emphasizes the importance of alignment, clear communication, and continuous growth. By engaging in purposeful actions, LEAs can ensure that the state's literacy initiatives are successfully implemented and tailored to local needs. The WDE is committed to supporting LEAs through guidance, resources, and collaborative efforts that promote sustained progress. To assist in this process, LEAs are encouraged to take proactive steps that will drive alignment with the WLLP while also focusing on local priorities. This collective effort will contribute to a stronger, more effective literacy framework across the state.

To enhance alignment, communication, and continuous improvement efforts, the WDE strongly encourages LEAs to consider several key actions. The first step is to develop a local literacy plan that translates the goals of the WLLP into actionable steps. Research indicates that local adaptation of state-level goals leads to more successful outcomes when educational plans are tailored to the unique needs of each community (Hough, 2016). By creating this plan, LEAs ensure that their efforts are aligned with the state's broader priorities while addressing specific local challenges. It is important to collaborate with the WDE throughout this process to streamline implementation and ensure that staff are supported. This partnership strengthens the alignment between local and state goals, promoting the most effective and efficient use of resources.

Next, LEAs should establish a clear dissemination plan to effectively communicate the WLLP to school leaders and educators. A clear, consistent communication strategy is essential for successful implementation. Research by Durlak and DuPre (2008) emphasizes that the dissemination of evidence-based practices with fidelity requires coordinated messaging that ensures all stakeholders have a uniform understanding of the plan's goals and procedures. Working closely with WDE during this process ensures consistency in messaging across the state, fostering a shared understanding and commitment to the plan. A well-structured dissemination plan will help school leaders and educators grasp the importance of the WLLP, ensuring its effective execution at the local level. LEAs are encouraged to reach out and make full use of the technical assistance available through WDE, ensuring that they are fully supported in this process.

Maintaining open communication with WDE is essential for continuous improvement. LEAs are encouraged to provide regular feedback throughout the implementation process, especially by sharing successes and challenges from the classroom. This feedback is invaluable, as it ensures that

those directly involved in the implementation—teachers and educators—are heard and supported. Additionally, LEAs should work with WDE to establish procedures for consistent data collection, analysis, and reporting. Involving educators in the data analysis process helps refine instructional practices and supports the ongoing improvement of the literacy plan. This collaborative approach helps ensure that the plan continues to meet the needs of students and educators alike.

The partnership between LEAs and WDE is designed to provide ongoing support and guidance in implementing the WLLP effectively. Both local and state-level continuous improvement efforts will be emphasized, with LEAs adapting the plan to meet their specific needs while aligning with the broader goals of the WLLP. WDE is committed to providing resources, tools, and regular progress reviews to assist LEAs in tracking and refining their strategies, ensuring the plan remains flexible and responsive to evolving needs.

At the state level, WDE will monitor implementation through data-driven insights, offering support and guidance to facilitate best practices. Resources from WDE, including professional learning opportunities, guidance documents, and data analysis frameworks, will assist LEAs in navigating the complexities of implementation. This ongoing process of implementation, assessment, and refinement is intended to be a partnership, where LEAs are supported every step of the way, working together to achieve the shared goals of the WLLP.

WDE will provide LEAs with comprehensive guidance documents, templates for local literacy plans, and access to expert technical assistance. Tailored professional development sessions will build capacity within LEAs, providing educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement high-quality literacy instruction. By making these resources available, WDE aims to ensure that LEAs have the support they need to meet diverse student needs and achieve the ambitious goals of the WLLP. This robust support system is designed to empower LEAs to implement effective educational practices with confidence and clarity.

Furthermore, WDE will continue to offer professional development and support for data-driven decision-making, strengthening the approach to literacy instruction and school improvement across the state. Collaboration, community engagement, and continuous monitoring will remain key priorities to ensure sustained educational success in Wyoming. By providing tailored technical assistance and accessible resources, WDE is committed to supporting LEAs in achieving their literacy goals and driving meaningful improvement in student outcomes statewide. Through this ongoing partnership, WDE and LEAs will work together to make lasting strides in advancing literacy across Wyoming.

Accessing Resources

The WDE District Resource website is designed to be simple to navigate, offering a centralized location for a wide range of resources dedicated to supporting districts and schools across the state. The website will utilize the existing WYEdPro sign-on system, allowing for seamless access for users already familiar with the platform.

Through this centralized online portal, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will have access to essential resources, including training materials, instructional tools, and data management systems. This hub will streamline access to important information, supporting educators and administrators in improving instructional practices and enhancing student outcomes. To keep LEAs informed, the WDE will share regular updates, newsletters, and announcements. These communications will ensure that LEAs remain aware of new resources, professional development opportunities, and policy updates, fostering a system of continuous support and improvement across Wyoming's educational landscape.

Conclusion

The 2024 WLLP stands as a dynamic commitment to the future of Wyoming, emphasizing evidence-based language and literacy instruction that promises to transform the lives of our children and, by extension, the state's future. This plan, grounded in continuous improvement and collaboration, remains adaptable and responsive to the diverse needs of Wyoming's students. Its development has been informed by the collective insights of community leaders, educators, higher education institutions, and the families and caregivers who play a crucial role in a child's educational journey. This collaborative process underscores the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in fostering an equitable, accessible, and impactful culture of language and literacy across the state.

Structured around nine key components, the plan provides a clear roadmap for achieving its ambitious goals. From establishing foundational infrastructure and supportive policies to ensuring continuous alignment with state literacy initiatives, the plan is meticulously designed to give every student the opportunity to develop strong language and literacy skills. By setting SMARTIE goals and leveraging evidence-based instructional frameworks, the plan ensures measurable and effective efforts, driving sustained improvements in student outcomes.

The plan's focus on a seamless language and literacy continuum, from early childhood through grade 12, highlights its commitment to lifelong learning. As the plan is implemented, continuous improvement will be a priority, with regular assessments and updates keeping the plan relevant and effective amid evolving educational landscapes and student needs. This iterative process will enable adjustments and enhancements that align the plan with its goals and the state's broader educational objectives, making it a living document that evolves alongside the needs of Wyoming's students.

The time to act is now, on behalf of our children, the 94,488 students who are the heart of Wyoming's future. Just as the peaks of Wyoming's majestic mountains rise above the plains, reaching for the sky, we must elevate our efforts to ensure that every child reaches their highest potential. These students will be the leaders, innovators, and thinkers who drive Wyoming's prosperity and ensure the vitality of our communities. Their journey toward literacy is not only a personal achievement but also a collective victory, shaping the state's future. By nurturing strong language and literacy skills, we empower them with the tools to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

This responsibility requires collaboration, dedication, and a shared commitment to excellence. By investing in these students today, we are securing a brighter tomorrow for Wyoming, a future rooted in knowledge, innovation, and resilience, ensuring that our state continues to prosper for generations.