



STANDARDS & ASSESSMENT 101

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WYOMING EDUCATION SYSTEM

State Standards

Define what should be taught to students across the state.



Curriculum

Schools choose how to teach the state standards and select materials and resources.



Assessments

District and State Assessments (WY-TOPP & WY-ALT) assess student learning on state standards.



Accountability

State Assessment results determine School Performance Ratings (SPR).

Targeted Support

Schools identified as struggling receive dedicated assistance to increase student and school performance.

- Statewide professional development
- District accreditation support
- School improvement planning & monitoring
- Onsite technical support



STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING

- **The Basket of Goods:** Per State Statute, the Common Core of Knowledge and Common Core of Skills are embedded within the State Standards and define what should be included in the district's curriculum and instruction.
- **Focus Areas:** The curriculum should also emphasize reading, writing, and math in grades 1-8.
- **Equity of Opportunity:** All students have the "opportunity" to learn all content areas defined by the State Standards.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensures students on IEPs and 504 Plans are provided the opportunity to learn the common core prescribed in the standards.



WYOMING'S STANDARDS - 10 CONTENT AREAS

**English Language
Arts (ELA)**

Math

Science

Social Studies

**Physical
Education**

Health & Safety

**Fine &
Performing Arts**

**World Languages
& Cultures**

Career & Technical Education

Computer Science



STANDARDS: WHAT ARE THEY & WHO DOES WHAT?

- **Standards** are what all students should know and be able to do; they prepare students for college and career success and to live a life that contributes to the local and global community.
- **Schools and districts** decide the curriculum and instruction—how the standards are implemented and taught and what instructional materials are used.
- **A Standards Review Committee**, comprised of educators (PreK-college), parents, business, and community members, creates the standards.
- **The State Board of Education (SBE)** approves the standards after multiple rounds of public input.



STATE STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT AND INPUT

Standards Review/Development Process: The process usually takes 9-18 months with another 4-6 months for input and rules promulgation.

The process includes 4 phases and 3 opportunities for public and educator input:

- **Initial Input:** Before a standards review committee convenes, the public describes what they want the committee to know as they start their work.
- **Informal Input:** After proposed standards are drafted, input is gathered, and the SBE reviews it for concerns before proceeding to rules promulgation.
- **Public Input:** The official input collected during promulgation of Ch. 10 Rules on Standards.



AFTER STANDARDS ADOPTION

District Implementation (typically 3 years):

- Districts design curriculum maps aligned to the state standards and select appropriate resources for instruction.
- Districts assess the standards in their classroom and district assessment system.

State Assessments:

- The State Standards are assessed on the Statewide Assessments to “measure individual student performance and progress” per statute. [W.S. 21-2-303(a)(v)(A)]
 - Used to enhance district- or school-level teaching and learning.
 - Support school improvement efforts.
 - Provide data for accountability ensuring the effectiveness of schools, programs, and staff.



STATE ASSESSMENTS, INCLUDING WY-TOPP

Statewide Assessment System: Per W.S. 21-2-304(a)(v), the system, which includes the WY-TOPP and WY-ALT summative assessments, must:

- **Fairness:** Be fair and unbiased.
- **Validity:** Ensure valid year-to-year comparisons.
- **Interim Options:** Include optional interim assessments.
- **Transparency:** Produce results that are reliable and transparent.
- **Efficiency:** Take < 1% of pupil-teacher contact time (~9-11 hours).



STATE ASSESSMENTS IN WYOMING

WY-TOPP

General education state summative. Taken by 99% of students.

- **ELA & Math:** Grades 3–10
- **Writing:** Grades 5, 7, 9
- **Science:** Grades 4, 8, 10

WY-ALT

Alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Taken by ~1% of students.

- **ELA & Math:** Grades 3–10
- **Science:** Grades 4, 8, 10

ACCESS / ALT-ACCESS

Assesses English Learners (ELs) progress in English Language Proficiency.

- Assesses WIDA Standards aligned to State Standards.



STATE ASSESSMENTS IN WYOMING

ACT

College readiness exam

- State pays for every junior to test.
- Fall Senior Retake offered and paid by state.

WorkKeys

Career readiness exam

- Optional to students.
- State pays for participation in junior or senior year.

NAEP

"The Nation's Report Card"

- Sample of WY schools and students participate; last test 2026.
- Test Reading and Math in grades 4 & 8.



ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT

Assessment Vendor WY Educators WDE Content Experts

1
Assessment Vendor
Content Specialists
Create New Items.

2
WDE Content Specialists
Review New Items and
Communicates Feedback to
Vendor.

3
Assessment Vendor
Revises Items.

4
WY Educator Committee
Reviews Assessment
Items for Standards
Alignment and Fairness.

5
WDE Reviews Educator
Committee
Recommendations and
Communicates Final Item
Revisions to Vendor.

6
Assessment Vendor
Applies Revisions.

7
Items are Field Tested
(does not impact student
scores).

8
WY Educator Committee
Reviews Items for Rubric
Validation & Range-
Finding (scoring).

9
Assessment Vendor
Scores and Analyzes Field
Tested Items.

10
WY Educator Committee
Reviews Item Data and
Checks for Flagged
Concerns.

11
WDE Reviews Committee
Comments and
Communicates Final Item
Determinations to Vendor.

12
Surviving Items are Added
to the Operational Bank
for Testing.



HOW IT ALL CONNECTS

Assessment Results

- State & Federal Accountability.
- Evaluate local programs.
- State Report Card.

State Assessment

Development overlaps with District Implementation, 3 years to create items, field test, and operationalize.

Standards Review Process

Takes 12-24 months for committee work, stakeholder input, and adoption.

District Implementation

Per W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iv) Districts are given 3 school years to implement new standards into Curriculum, Instruction, and District Assessments.



YOUR STUDENT'S DATA

Assessment & Progress

- **State Summative Assessments:** A snapshot of a single point in time for the whole year.
- **District/School Data:** Can focus on short or long periods of learning.
- **Teacher Observations:** Provide additional data points of student ability.
- **Holistic View:** All data points work together for an accurate picture of progress.
- **School Improvement:** Data helps guide curriculum adjustments and improvement efforts.

WY-TOPP Student Reports

- State gives reports to Districts, who deliver to parents in the Fall.
- Reports provide a performance snapshot from the state test.

The Bigger Picture

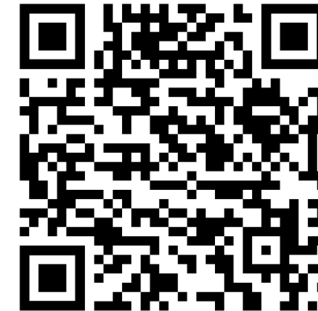
Ask your student's teacher how the state results compare with their child's daily/regular classwork to understand their full potential.



QUESTIONS?



For more information on **WY-TOPP** follow the QR code.



For more information on the **Data** follow the QR code.

