

Department of Education

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The Department of Education's mission is to lead, model and support continuous improvement of education for everyone in Wyoming.

The department works as a partner with students, parents, citizens, government and public agencies, industry, education communities and local decision-makers to ensure that all learners have an opportunity to master an ambitious common core of knowledge and skills. It is expected that all those involved in the learning process perform to the best of their abilities; participate as active, healthy citizens and productive workers; and continue to learn throughout life.

The Department of Education understands that it is a service agency. The department serves the people of Wyoming and believes that quality education for the people of Wyoming is at the heart of a strong citizenry and economy and an improved quality of life. Services are supported by the following agency core values.

The department is committed to

- being accountable, responsible, self-directed, productive employees;
- promoting and providing staff development and on-the-job training for all employees;
- operating with honesty and integrity;
- building partnerships within and outside of the agency;
- communicating openly and honestly in all dealings; and
- granting employees at all levels the decision making authority to perform their jobs.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

Annual accrediting of 47 school districts with site visits and desk audits to 10 of those districts:

- Full accreditation – 13
- Full accreditation (with follow-up) – 34

Annual accrediting of nine institutional schools with site visits and desk audits to one of those institutions:

- Full accreditation (with follow-up) – 8
- Full accreditation – 1

Commendations awarded in 1999-2000 (visits to 10 districts):

- Facilities/Budget – 1

Exemplars awarded in 1999-2000 (visits to 10 districts):

- Standards – 6
- Measures – 3
- School Improvement – 1

General information

Judy Catchpole,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Agency contact

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Other locations

Casper, Rawlins, Riverton, Sheridan, Laramie,
Lander, Evanston, Powell

Year established

1890

Statutory references

Wyoming Constitution and W.S. 21-2-201 and
W.S. 21-2-202

Number of authorized personnel

100 full-time, 11 part-time, eight at-will employment contracts (AWEC)

Organizational structure

Administration Unit, Data and Technology Unit, Finance and Personnel Unit, Health and Safety Unit, North Central Association, School Improvement Unit, Special Programs Unit

Clients served

The general public including students, parents, educators and legislators.

Budget Information

Goal 1	\$67,431,732.71
Goal 2	1,593,603.12
Goal 3	28,942.62
State	\$4,382,924.17
Federal	64,671,354.28
Trust	608,810.68
Other	\$510,780,832.27

- Parent Involvement – 2
- Staff Development – 1
- At-Risk – 0
- School Climate – 10
- Facilities and Budget – 1

Corrective Actions awarded in 1999-2000 (visits to 10 districts):

- Standards – 0
- Measures – 4
- School Improvement – 6
- Parent Involvement – 0
- Staff Development – 7
- At-Risk – 7
- School Climate – 0
- Facilities and Budget – 2

Corrective Actions awarded in 1999-2000 (visits to 2 institutional schools):

- Standards – 0
- Measures – 1
- School Improvement – 1
- Parent/Guardian Involvement – 0
- Staff Development – 1
- Services – 0

Statewide WycAS Results

The Wyoming Comprehensive Assessment System (WycAS) was administered to 21,448 fourth, eighth and 11th grade students in all Wyoming school districts March 21-30, 2000.

Grade Level	Content Area	Percent of Students by Performance Level			
		Novice	Partially Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
Grade 4	Writing	26	38	26	9
	Reading	23	39	27	11
	Mathematics	37	35	22	5
Grade 8	Writing	15	38	42	5
	Reading	22	42	31	6
	Mathematics	31	38	23	9

Carl Perkins Overall Results (Secondary)

The following statistics show the percent of students achieving mastery in the subskills pertaining to the seven content areas:

- 1) Applied communication,
- 2) Applied math,
- 3) Affective and thinking skills,
- 4) Applied science,
- 5) Technology,
- 6) Pre-employment skills, and
- 7) Employability skills.

Note that not all students are assessed on applied science, technology, pre-employment and employability skills; therefore, the percents mastering these areas are reported out of those students who were assessed (i.e., valid percents).

Applied communications – 68 percent

- Listening – 76 percent

- Speaking – 74 percent
- Reading – 72 percent
- Writing – 67 percent

Applied mathematics – 65 percent

- Basic operations – 81 percent
- Measurement – 77 percent
- Advanced math – 55 percent
- Data representation – 68 percent

Technology – 87 percent

- Operating systems – 72 percent
- Software applications – 71 percent
- Networking and e-mail – 74 percent
- Internet searches – 79 percent

Affective and thinking skills – 68 percent

- Cooperation – 78 percent
- Problem solving – 71 percent
- Work ethic – 70 percent
- Critical thinking – 74 percent

Applied science – 63 percent

- Data analysis and interpretation – 65 percent
- Conceptual applications – 66 percent
- Lab skills – 79 percent
- Scientific methods – 67 percent

Pre-employment skills – 75 percent

- Career interests – 83 percent
- Resume, application and interview – 77 percent
- Career prerequisites – 81 percent
- Employment potential – 81 percent

Employability skills – 76 percent

- Punctuality and attendance – 78 percent
- Interpersonal relations – 81 percent
- Attitude and appearance – 79 percent
- Task completion – 79 percent

❖ Strategic plan changes

There were no significant changes in the strategic plan from 1999 to 2000.

Department of Education organization chart

