

Department of Education

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Department of Education's mission is to ensure a quality education in a safe learning environment through service and leadership.

The Wyoming Department of Education is a service organization dedicated to the people of the state. The department believes that continuous improvement of education is at the heart of strong communities, the economy and an improved quality of life. The department is committed to ensuring that all learners have appropriate opportunities to master an ambitious common core of knowledge and skills.

The Wyoming Department of Education's service is supported by the following agency core values: service for children, servant leadership, compassion, wisdom and sound judgment, responsible stewardship, and open communication.

The Wyoming Department of Education stands for student achievement, meeting federal requirements within the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, exemplary customer service and a positive classroom climate.

Results of outcomes

The Wyoming Department of Education continues to have a broad goal of increasing student achievement through capacity building to provide instruction and services to students throughout the State of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Comprehensive Assessment System (WyCAS) and school accreditation process are two means of measuring the effectiveness of our achievement in these goal areas.

Customer satisfaction was added as a goal to measure the effectiveness of the Wyoming Department of Education's service to the public and the students of Wyoming.

General information

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State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Agency contact

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Other locations

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

Year Established

1890

Statutory references

Wyoming Constitution Article 1, Section 23 and Article 7
W.S. 21-2-104, 21-2-201 and 21-2-202

Authorized personnel

92 full-time employees, 5 part-time employees, and 25
AWEC employees

Organizational structure

Administration, Educational Programs, Educational
Quality and Accountability, and Operations

Clients served

The public including students, parents, educators and
legislators

Budget information

Department operations.....	\$20,938,060
School finance	517,662,863
Total.....	\$538,600,923

State.....	7,634,580
Federal.....	102,365,350
Other.....	428,600,993

WyCAS results

The WyCAS was given to 4th, 8th and 11th grade students in Wyoming school districts from March 15-26, 2004. The test measures the effects of districts' program work in math and language arts (the latter embodies reading and writing skills). The results for the five years that WyCAS has been administered are listed in the following tables.

4th Grade WyCAS results - % Proficient or Advanced

School Year	Reading	Writing	Math
1999-00	38%	36%	28%
2000-01	45%	45%	34%
2001-02	44%	43%	33%
2002-03	44%	37%	37%
2003-04	47%	40%	39%

8th Grade WyCAS Results - % Proficient or Advanced

School Year	Reading	Writing	Math
1999-00	36%	48%	31%
2000-01	39%	51%	32%
2001-02	38%	53%	33%
2002-03	39%	48%	35%
2003-04	41%	57%	40%

11th Grade WyCAS Results - % Proficient or Advanced

School Year	Reading	Writing	Math
1999-00	44%	52%	37%
2000-01	50%	58%	40%
2001-02	47%	58%	41%
2002-03	47%	62%	43%
2003-04	50%	59%	44%

Accreditation

The Wyoming State Board of Education changed the method of evaluating school districts for accreditation. Starting with the 2003-2004 school year, the North Central Association's (NCA) evaluation system was used for accreditation purposes. All 48 school districts had the option of participating in this accreditation process. All but one Wyoming school district has chosen to participate in the NCA accreditation method.

The percentage of North Central Association (NCA) schools that demonstrate increased student achievement in their school improvement goals as reflected in the school's Standard Unit Summary Report was 100 percent.

The percentage of all districts that received either full accreditation or accreditation with follow-up was 100 percent for the 2003-2004 year.

Customer satisfaction

The percentage of satisfied customers as measured by customer service surveys was identified as an important measure of overall agency customer service.

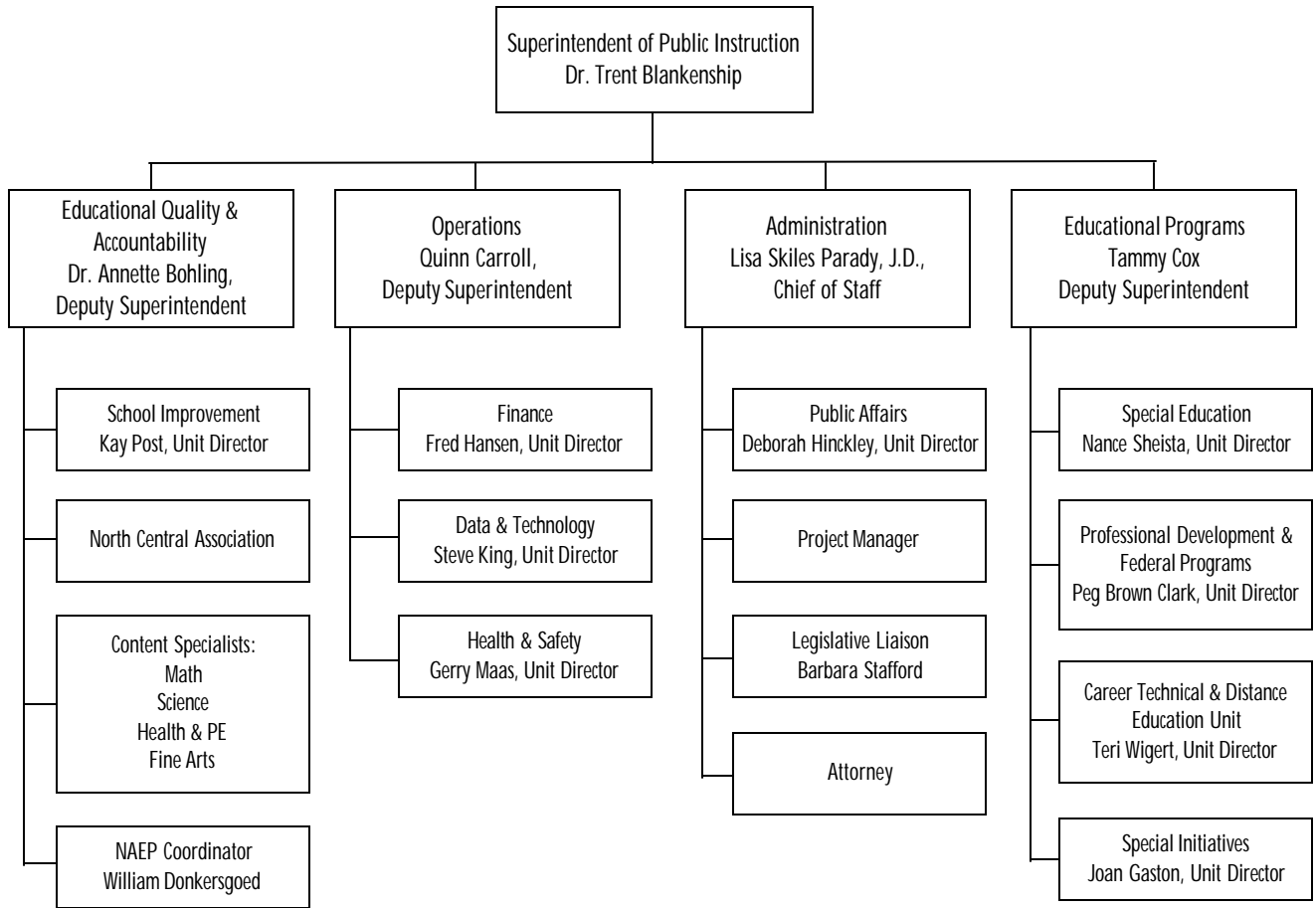
The customer service surveys were developed and are now available on the website. Data is being gathered and results will be compiled and available in October 2004.

Strategic plan changes

The Wyoming Department of Education has been incorporating a new strategic planning model. The Department of Education is focusing on results-based planning to support data-driven decisions for managing programs and allocating resources.

An updated strategic plan based on the new format will be filed with the Auditor's Office in September of 2005. The department-wide goals to increase the percentage of students receiving proficient or advanced on the state assessment and increase the percentage of schools that met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets will be retained. In addition, the goal to increase the percentage of satisfied customers as measured by customer service surveys will be retained and data will continue to be gathered throughout the year.

Department of Education organization chart



State Standards
North Central Association
(NCA)