

## **Department of Education**

### **General information**

Dr. Jim McBride, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

### **Agency contact**

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### **Other locations**

Casper, Laramie, Powell, Rawlins, Riverton, Sheridan

### **Year Established**

1890

### **Statutory references**

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

### **Authorized personnel**

95 full-time employees, 5 part-time employees, and 30 AWEC employees

### **Organizational structure**

Administration; Federal Programs; Finance; Health & Safety; Special Education; Standards, Assessments & Accountability and Technology, Careers & Data.

### **Clients served**

The public including students, parents, educators and legislators

### **Budget information**

Department operations	\$31,301,682
School finance	\$534,650,069
Total	\$565,951,751

State	\$7,540,546
Federal	\$119,392,840
Other	\$439,018,365

**Mission and philosophy**

The role of education in Wyoming is to create contributing citizens; build a competent and productive workforce; and prepare individuals for life-long learning. The mission of the Wyoming Department of Education is to model the highest possible character, integrity, and leadership focused on the support of continuous academic achievement.

**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 Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS) and school accreditation process are two means of measuring the effectiveness of our achievement in these goal areas.

**PAWS results**

PAWS was given to 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Wyoming school districts in April 2006. The test measures the achievement and knowledge of individual students in a district in math and language arts (the latter embodies reading and writing skills). The results for the first year of PAWS are listed in the following tables.

BUILD TABLES

State PAWS results - % Proficient or Advanced

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Math</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	62%	41%	75%
4 <sup>th</sup>	65%	47%	73%
5 <sup>th</sup>	66%	38%	66%
6 <sup>th</sup>	63%	46%	72%
7 <sup>th</sup>	63%	49%	61%
8 <sup>th</sup>	62%	65%	54%
11 <sup>th</sup>	63%	59%	58%

**Accreditation**

The method of evaluating school districts for accreditation in Wyoming is the North Central Association's (NCA) evaluation system. All 48 school districts had the option of participating in this accreditation process. All but one Wyoming school district have 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.

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The percentage of all districts that received either full accreditation or accreditation with follow-up was 100 percent for the 2005-2006 year.

**Strategic plan changes**

There were no significant changes to the strategic plan.