WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

To: Joint Education Interim Committee

From: Kari Eakins, Chief Policy Officer
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Date: June 4-5, 2020

Subject: Update on Computer Science Standards

On March 14, 2018, Senate Enrolled Act No. 48 was signed into law by Governor Matt Mead, requiring the addition of Computer Science Standards and changes to the Basket of Goods in W.S. 21-9-101(a)(i). Section 3 of the bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to promulgate the final version of the computer science standards by January 1, 2022, and for the standards to be made effective beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

Proposed content and performance standards were presented to the SBE, public input was collected from January 22 to March 5, 2019, edits were made in April 2019, and public comment was collected through June 28, 2019. The SBE approved the 2019 Computer Science Content Standards on November 22, 2019 and Governor Mark Gordon approved them on February 4, 2020, making them effective.

Performance Standards still need to be adopted, and the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) plans to convene 15 educators from the original Computer Science Standards Review Committee for this work in June 2020. Performance standards specify the specific degree of understanding and/or skill for a particular content standard. Once finalized, the previously approved content standards and the newly approved performance standards will be incorporated into a single standards document.

The following timeline details the standards review process that occurred for Computer Science since the last update to this committee and the timeline proposed to the SBE.

November 2019
The SBE approved Chapter 10 rules for computer science standards with two revisions:

1. Amend with a clarification on the label for "Enhanced Standards" in grades K-5; to be optional to all students that are advanced beyond their peers.
2. Remove the Performance Level Descriptors from the standards document and make a separate guidance document only, not included in Chapter 10 rules.

February 2020
Governor Gordon approved the addition of the 2019 Computer Science Content Standards in Ch. 10 Rules.

June 2020
Convene 15 members from the 40-member Computer Science Standards Review Committee to identify content standards that need performance standards tied to them. The WDE to incorporate the performance standards with the already approved content standards and communicate public and educator input.

June-August 2020
The WDE presents merged Computer Science Content and Performance Standards to the SBE. The WDE collects public and educator input and shares comments with the SBE.

September-December 2020
The WDE presents Chapter 10 Rules and the final version of the Computer Science Content and Performance Standards to the SBE for approval to proceed with rules promulgation. The WDE conducts a public comment period for a minimum of 45 days and presents comments to the SBE in consideration to adopt.

December 2020 - February 2021
Governor's review for a maximum of 75 days (includes reviews of Management Council, AG's Office, and LSO).