



WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

Research Memorandum

FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS ENROLLMENT AND PERFORMANCE DATA, 2017 TO PRESENT

March 2023

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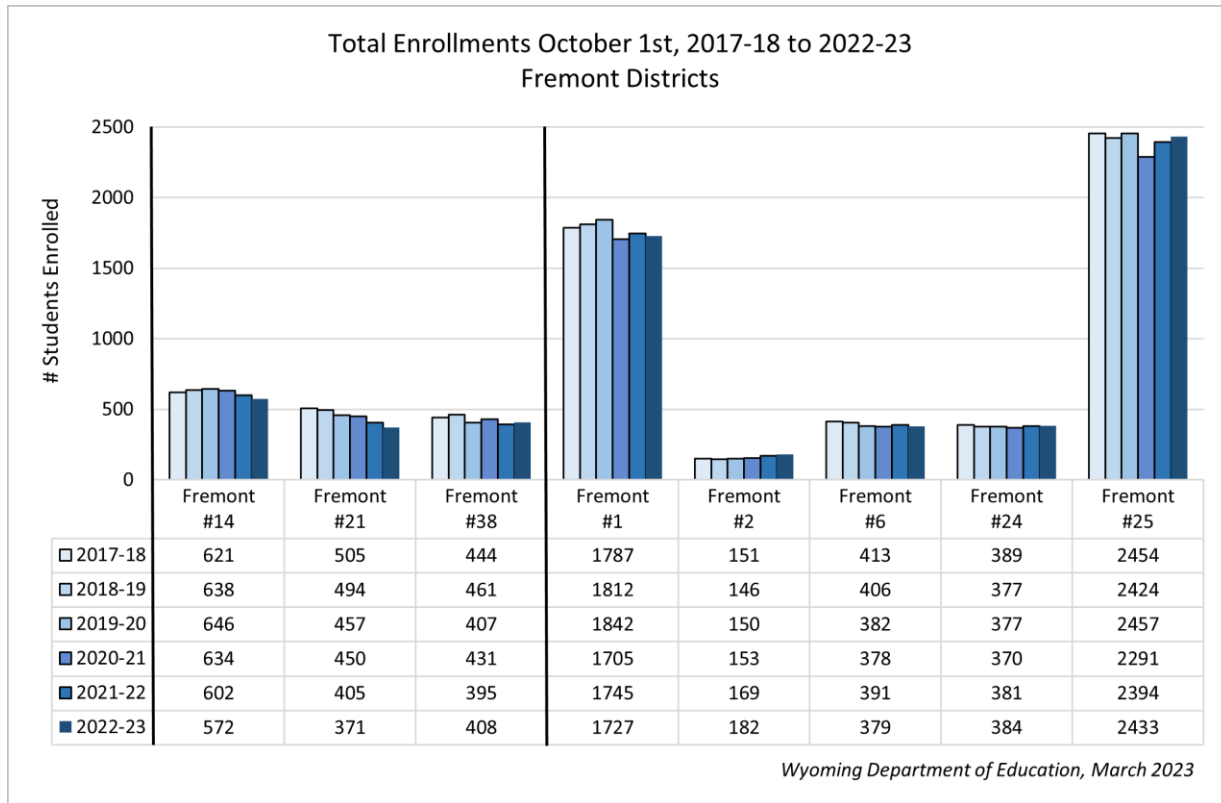
Fremont County is comprised of eight school districts: Fremont #1 (Lander), Fremont #2 (Dubois), Fremont #6 (Pavillion), Fremont #14 (Ethete), Fremont #21 (Ft. Washakie), Fremont #24 (Shoshoni), Fremont #25 (Riverton), and Fremont #38 (Arapahoe). Fremont #14, #21 and #38 reside on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The Wyoming Department of Education provided the following student enrollment, student achievement, and school performance data for the Fremont districts.¹

STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATA

Student enrollment numbers vary widely among the eight Fremont County school districts. Over the past six years, enrollment in the two largest districts, Fremont #1 and Fremont #25, averaged approximately 1750 and 2400 students, respectively. The smallest district, Fremont #2, saw an average enrollment of 160 students. Over the past six years, enrollment in each of the three Wind River Reservation districts (Fremont #14, #21, and #38) ranged from approximately 400 to 650 students. See **Figure 1**.

¹ E-mail from Vince Meyer, Principal Statistician, Wyoming Department of Education to author (March 15, 2023).

Figure 1.

October 2022 student enrollment by demographic subgroup is presented in **Table 1**. LSO noted the following:

- The percentage of special education students across all eight districts ranges from 8 percent (Fremont #2) to 29 percent (Fremont #21) with five districts (Fremont #14, #21, #24, #25, and #38) exceeding the Wyoming statewide average of 15 percent.
- The percentage of homeless students in Fremont #21 (14%) and Fremont #38 (19%) significantly exceeds the statewide average of one percent.
- The percentage of students in foster care in four Fremont County school districts (Fremont #6, #14, #25, and #38) exceeds the statewide average of one percent.
- The three Wind River Reservation school districts (Fremont #14, #21, and #38) participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program Community Eligibility Provision program, under which all students receive free lunches. The percentage of free lunch eligible students in the remaining Fremont districts ranges from 29 percent (Fremont #1) to 44 percent (Fremont #25).²

² Fremont District #24 (Shoshoni) elected not to participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program in 2022-23.

Table 1.

October 2022 Enrollment Percentages by Demographic Subgroup State and Fremont Districts									
Enrollment Subgroup	State	Fremont #14	Fremont #21	Fremont #38	Fremont #1	Fremont #2	Fremont #6	Fremont #24	Fremont #25
<i>Total Student Count</i>	<i>91640</i>	<i>572</i>	<i>371</i>	<i>408</i>	<i>1727</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>2433</i>
Female	49%	51%	45%	49%	47%	46%	48%	45%	49%
Male	52%	49%	56%	51%	53%	54%	52%	55%	51%
Asian	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Black	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Hispanic	15%	1%	1%	0%	6%	6%	8%	8%	11%
Indian	3%	99%	97%	97%	10%	2%	20%	3%	21%
Multi-Racial	4%	0%	1%	1%	8%	6%	9%	5%	8%
Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
White	77%	0%	1%	2%	75%	85%	62%	83%	59%
Special Education	15%	18%	29%	26%	15%	8%	14%	18%	21%
English Learner	3%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Homeless	1%	0%	14%	19%	0%	3%	0%	0%	2%
Foster Care	1%	4%	0%	6%	0%	0%	2%	1%	2%
USDA NSLP Lunch Eligible	34%	100% *	100% *	100% *	29%	37%	43%	0% **	44%
Military Connected	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

* Fremont 14, 21, and 38 participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program Community Eligibility Provision program, under which all students receive free lunches.

** Fremont 24 elected not to participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program in 2022-23.

> HOMELESS Observation: Over the past four years Fremont #21 and #38 have reported homeless percentages which significantly exceed the state average, and Fremont #14 hasn't reported students as being homeless.

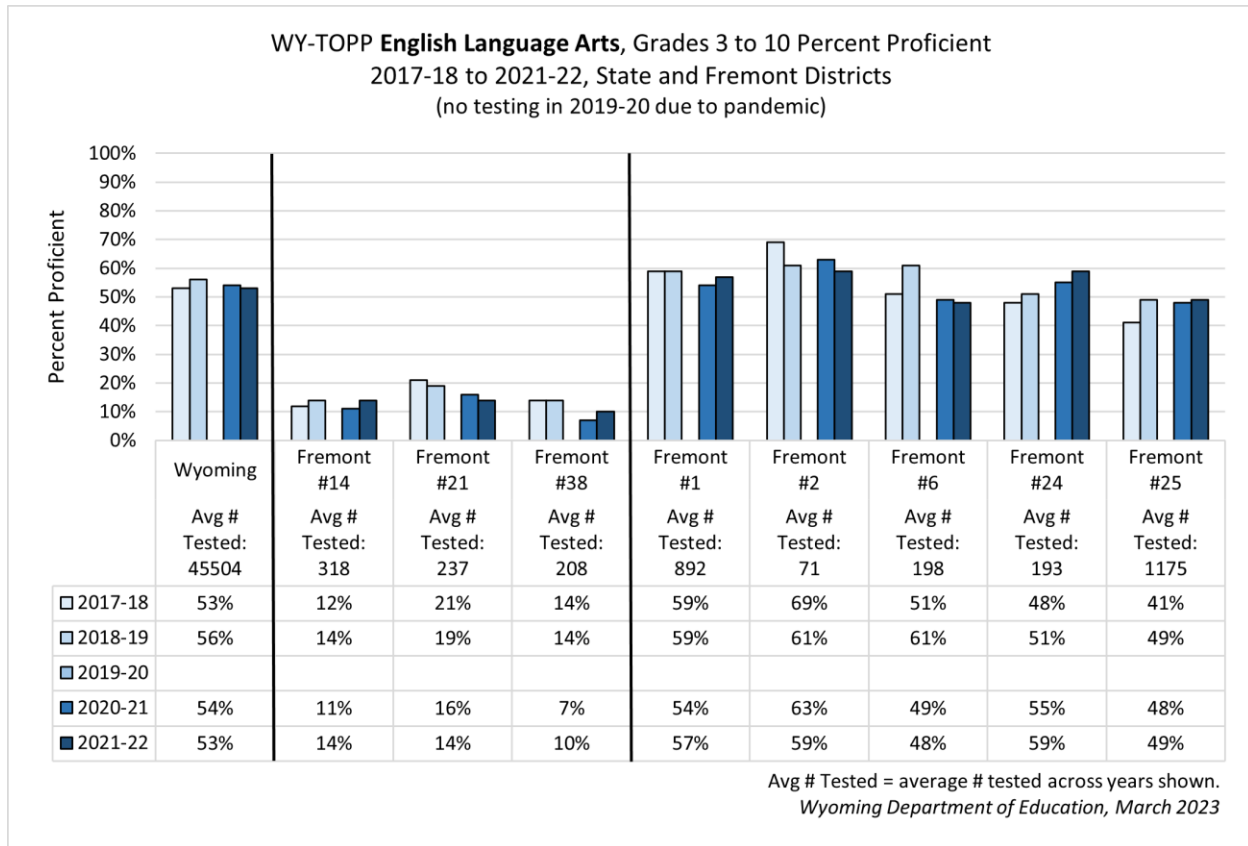
> FOSTER CARE Observation: Over the past four years Fremont #14 and #38 have reported foster care percentages which significantly exceed the state average, and Fremont #21 hasn't reported students as being in foster care.

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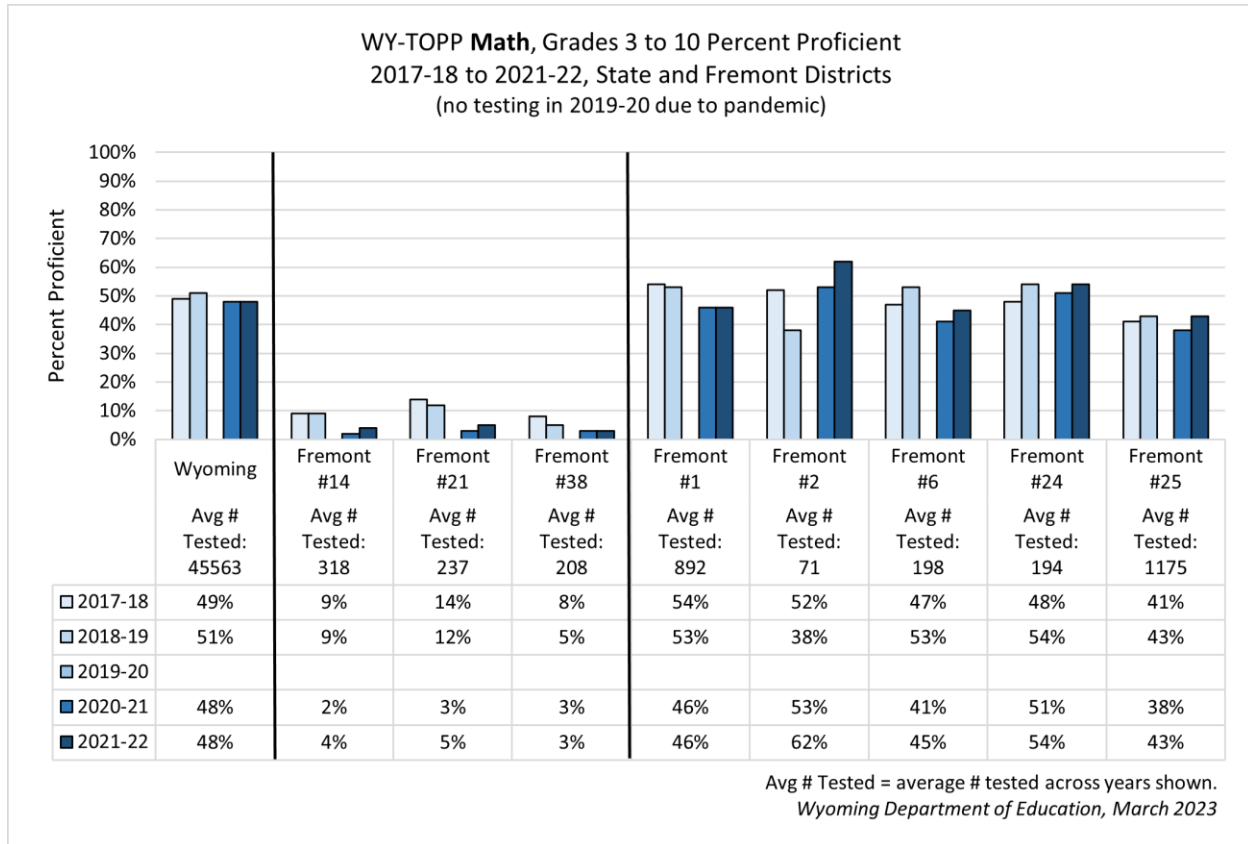
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

Student achievement data for each of the Fremont districts is presented below. English Language Arts proficiency of students in grades 3 through 10, as measured by the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP), is presented in **Figure 2**. The graph presents district proficiency scores for four of the past five school years. (The WY-TOPP was not administered in 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

In 2021-22, three Fremont districts (#1, #2, and #24) reported proficient student percentages that met or exceeded the Wyoming statewide average of 53 percent. The percentage of proficient students in each of the three Wind River Reservation districts (Fremont #14, #21, and #38) ranged from 10 percent to 14 percent, which was significantly below the statewide average.

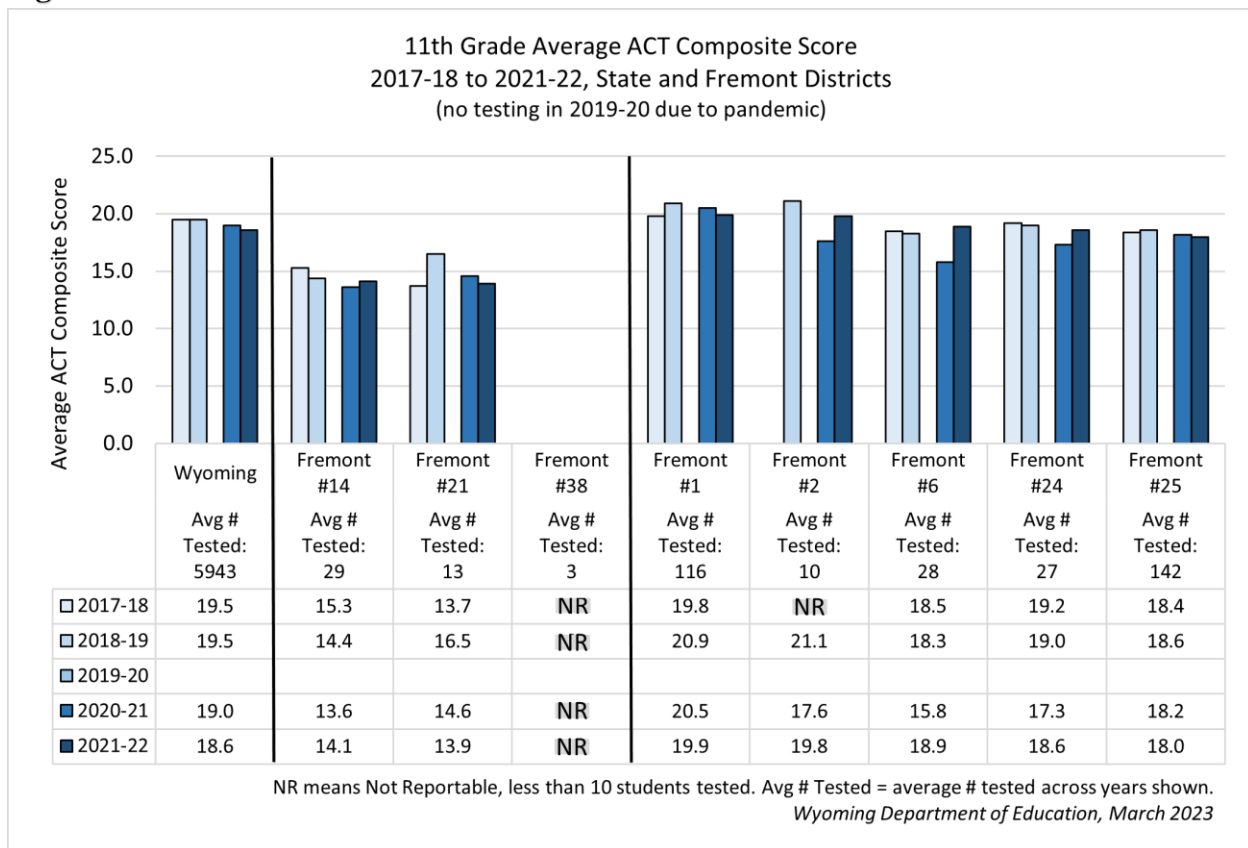
Figure 2.

Math proficiency of students in grades 3 through 10, as measured by the WY-TOPP, is presented in **Figure 3**. In 2021-22, two Fremont districts (#2 and #24) reported proficient student percentages that met or exceeded the statewide average of 48 percent. The percentage of proficient students in the three Wind River Reservation districts (Fremont #14, #21, and #38) ranged from 3 percent to 5 percent, which was significantly below the statewide average.

Figure 3.

Grade 11 average ACT composite scores for seven of the eight Fremont districts are presented in **Figure 4**. Scores are not reported for Fremont #38 because less than ten students were tested in each of the four years.

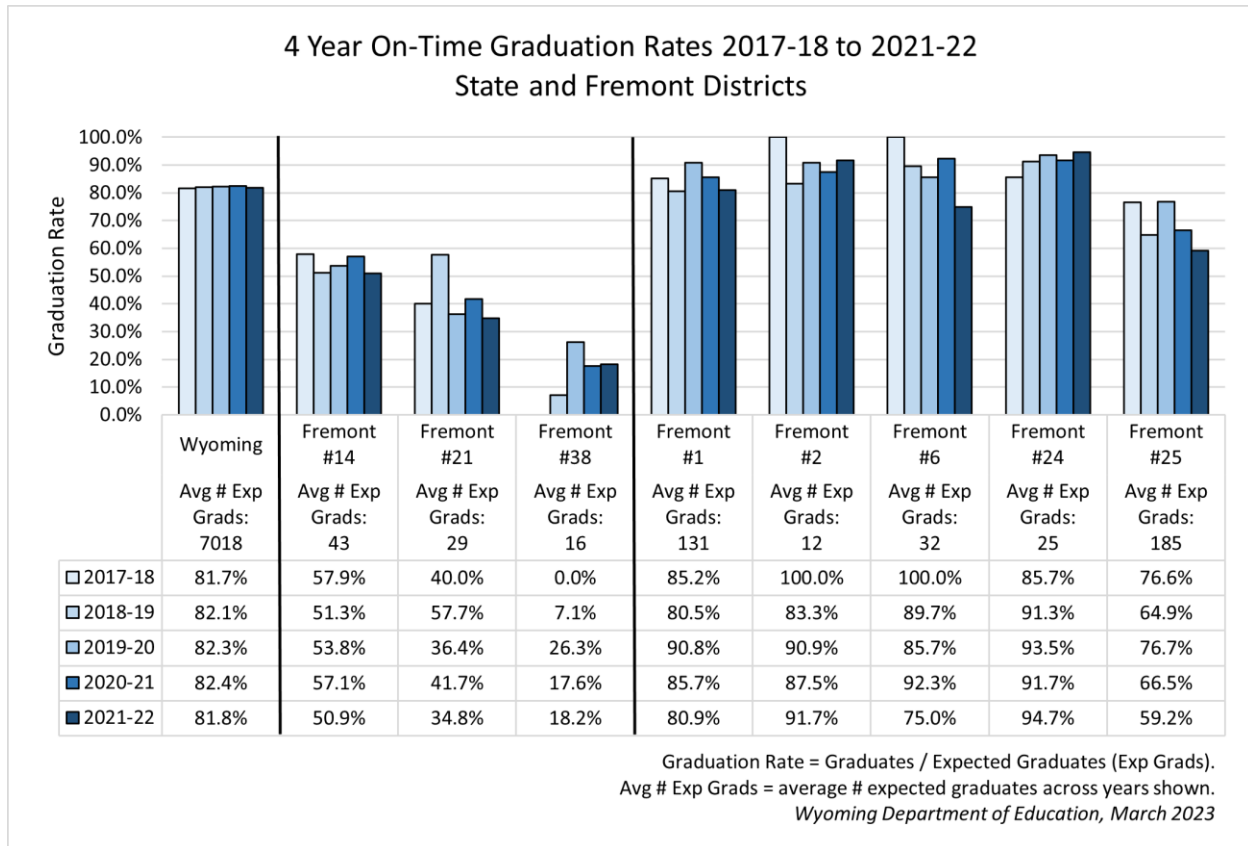
In 2021-22, four Fremont districts (#1, #2, #6, and #24) reported average ACT composite scores that met or exceeded the statewide average composite score of 18.6. The average reported composite scores in the two reported Wind River Reservation districts (Fremont #14 and Fremont #21) were 14.1 and 13.9, respectively.

Figure 4.

GRADUATION RATES

Four year on-time graduation rates for each of the Fremont districts are presented in **Figure 5**. Four-year rates show the percentage of students in a graduation cohort (i.e. with the same on-time graduation year) who graduate in four or fewer years of high school.

In 2021-22, two Fremont districts (Fremont #2 and Fremont #24) met or exceeded the statewide average of 81.8 percent of students graduating on-time. The percentage of students graduating on time in the three Wind River Reservation districts ranged from 18.2% (Fremont #38) to 50.9% (Fremont #14).

Figure 5.

High school students who do not graduate on-time in four years have the opportunity to earn needed credits and graduate in subsequent years. Four-, five-, and six-year graduation rates for each Fremont district graduation cohort are shown in **Table 2**. Most Fremont districts demonstrated increased cohort graduation rates in Years 5 and 6. Some of these gains were quite significant. For example, the Fremont #38 2017-18 cohort graduation rate increased from 0 percent in Year 4 to 14.3 percent in Year 6, while the 2019-20 cohort graduation rate increased from 26.3 percent in Year 4 to 55.6 percent in Year 6.

Table 2.

4, 5, and 6 Year Graduation Rates by Cohort-On-Time-Graduation-Year 2017-18 to 2021-22 Cohorts, State and Fremont Districts										
Cohort On-Time Grad Yr.	Rate Type and Year	State	Fremont #14	Fremont #21	Fremont #38	Fremont #1	Fremont #2	Fremont #6	Fremont #24	Fremont #25
2017-18	4 Yr, 2017-18	81.7%	57.9%	40.0%	0.0%	85.2%	100.0%	100.0%	85.7%	76.6%
	5 Yr, 2018-19	83.3%	71.4%	44.0%	5.0%	86.0%	100.0%	100.0%	85.7%	80.2%
	6 Yr, 2019-20	83.9%	71.4%	48.0%	14.3%	86.0%	100.0%	100.0%	85.7%	81.3%
2018-19	4 Yr, 2018-19	82.1%	51.3%	57.7%	7.1%	80.5%	83.3%	89.7%	91.3%	64.9%
	5 Yr, 2019-20	84.1%	63.2%	57.1%	13.3%	87.2%	91.7%	89.7%	91.3%	70.0%
	6 Yr, 2020-21	84.5%	63.2%	63.0%	20.0%	87.2%	91.7%	89.7%	91.3%	71.4%
2019-20	4 Yr, 2019-20	82.3%	53.8%	36.4%	26.3%	90.8%	90.9%	85.7%	93.5%	76.7%
	5 Yr, 2020-21	83.7%	59.0%	42.9%	44.4%	92.8%	90.9%	85.7%	93.5%	77.1%
	6 Yr, 2021-22	84.2%	61.5%	42.9%	55.6%	92.8%	90.9%	85.7%	93.5%	77.1%
2020-21	4 Yr, 2020-21	82.4%	57.1%	41.7%	17.6%	85.7%	87.5%	92.3%	91.7%	66.5%
	5 Yr, 2021-22	83.9%	58.5%	50.0%	22.7%	86.6%	87.5%	92.3%	91.7%	70.0%
2021-22	4 Yr, 2021-22	81.8%	50.9%	34.8%	18.2%	80.9%	91.7%	75.0%	94.7%	59.2%

Wyoming Department of Education, March 2023

HATHAWAY SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE

The number of Fremont school district high school graduates who qualified for and accepted Hathaway scholarships for post-secondary education is shown in **Table 3**. Over the past five years, no graduates of Fremont #38 accepted scholarships and only one graduate of Fremont #21 accepted a scholarship.

Table 3.

Hathaway Scholarship, # of Students Accepting by Initiation Year, 2017-18 to 2021-22, State and Fremont Districts					
State / District	# Students by Year Hathaway Scholarship Initiated (graduated from a WY public high school one year earlier)				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
State	2187	2106	2048	1795	1799
Fremont #14	2	3	5	3	2
Fremont #21	0	0	0	1	0
Fremont #38	0	0	0	0	0
Fremont #1	40	47	38	51	44
Fremont #2	4	5	5	2	1
Fremont #6	5	15	15	10	9
Fremont #24	13	11	12	11	11
Fremont #25	64	68	53	42	43

Wyoming Department of Education, March 2023

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE³

The Wyoming Department of Education website explains the State's school accountability system. A school accountability system provides information about the quality of education received by Wyoming students to help determine which schools are doing well and which schools are in need of assistance. Wyoming is held accountable at both a state and federal level. State accountability is defined in the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act of 2013 (WAEA), which takes into account measures specifically related to educational goals in Wyoming. Federal accountability has transitioned from the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to a locally controlled Wyoming accountability system that meets federal guidelines defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The number of Fremont district schools identified for school improvement under ESSA guidelines is presented in **Table 4**. In 2021-22, twelve Fremont district schools were identified for improvement, including all schools in Fremont districts #14, #21, and #38.

Table 4.

Federal Accountability, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)					
Fremont 14, 21, and 38 Schools, ESSA School Improvement Status, 2017-18 to 2021-22					
(* no determinations made for 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to pandemic)					
School (District #, School Name, Grades)	Identified for School Improvement?				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
#14, Wyoming Indian Elementary, K-5	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
#14, Wyoming Indian Middle School, 6-8	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
#14, Wyoming Indian High School, 9-12	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
#21, Ft. Washakie Elementary, K-6	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
#21, Ft. Washakie Middle School, 7-8	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
#21, Ft. Washakie High School, 9-12	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
#38, Arapahoe Elementary, K-8	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
#38, Arapahoe Charter High School, 9-12	Yes	Yes	*	*	Yes
Number of Schools Identified for ESSA School Improvement, 2017-18 to 2021-22					
(* no determinations made for 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to pandemic)					
Districts / Organization Level	# Schools Identified for School Improvement				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Fremont 14, 21, and 38	8	8	*	*	8
All other Fremont districts: 1, 2, 6, 24, 25	4	4	*	*	4
State, all districts	45	50	*	*	53
Wyoming Department of Education, March 2023					

³ Wyoming Department of Education, Accountability webpage, accessed March 23, 2023.

Under ESSA, districts and schools are required to implement an improvement plan addressing identified low-performing schools and/or subgroups. The Wyoming Department of Education annually offers federal funding and ongoing technical assistance to districts with identified schools. Federal ESSA funding accepted by Fremont County school districts is shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5.

Federal Accountability, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)					
ESSA Sec. 1003(a) School Improvement Funding Accepted, 2017-18 to 2021-22					
Districts/schools are required to implement an improvement plan addressing identified low-performing schools and/or subgroups to meet federal statute. The WDE annually offers federal funding and ongoing technical assistance to districts with identified schools.					
District	ESSA Sec. 1003(a) Funding Accepted				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Fremont #14 schools	\$193,500	\$167,400	\$174,100	\$175,100	\$157,300
Fremont #21 schools	\$0 *	\$0 *	\$0 *	\$0 *	\$157,300
Fremont #38 schools	\$129,000	\$111,600	\$116,100	\$116,700	\$104,900
Fremont #1 (Pathfinder High School)	\$64,500	\$55,800	\$58,000	\$58,400	\$52,400
Fremont #2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fremont #6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fremont #24 (Shoshoni Junior High)	\$64,500	\$55,800	\$58,000	\$58,400	\$52,400
Fremont #25 (Riverton Middle, Frontier Academy)	\$129,000	\$111,600	\$116,100	\$116,700	\$104,900
* Declined Funding					
N/A: Not applicable, no identified schools			Wyoming Department of Education, March 2023		

The number of Fremont County school districts meeting expectations of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) is shown in **Table 6**. In 2021-22, 13 of 25 Fremont district schools met or exceeded expectations, two schools partially met expectations, and 15 schools, including the eight schools in Fremont Districts #14, #21, and #38, did not meet expectations.

Table 6.

State Accountability, Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA)						
Number of Schools at each WAEA School Performance Level, 2021-22						
WAEA School Performance Level	Fremont 14, 21, and 38		Fremont 1, 2, 6, 24, and 25		State (all districts)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not Meeting Expectations	8	100%	7	28.0%	63	18.4%
Partially Meeting Expectations	0	0%	2	8.0%	91	26.5%
Meeting Expectations	0	0%	13	52.0%	111	32.4%
Exceeding Expectations	0	0%	0	0.0%	41	12.0%
Small School Decision:Approved	0	0%	3	12.0%	37	10.8%
Total Schools	8		25		343	

Wyoming Department of Education, March 2023

State accountability data for schools in Fremont Districts #14, #21, and #38 is presented in **Table 7**. Over the past five years, all schools in the three districts failed to meet WAEA expectations, with the exception of two Fremont #14 schools that partially met expectations in 2018-19.

Table 7.

State Accountability, Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA)					
Fremont 14, 21, and 38 Schools WAEA School Performance Levels, 2017-18 to 2021-22					
(* WAEA School Performance Levels held at 2018-19 levels in 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to pandemic)					
School (District #, School Name, Grades)	Meeting Expectations?				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
#14, Wyoming Indian Elementary, K-5	No	No	*	*	No
#14, Wyoming Indian Middle School, 6-8	No	Partially	*	*	No
#14, Wyoming Indian High School, 9-12	No	Partially	*	*	No
#21, Ft. Washakie Elementary, K-6	No	No	*	*	No
#21, Ft. Washakie Middle School, 7-8	No	No	*	*	No
#21, Ft. Washakie High School, 9-12	No	No	*	*	No
#38, Arapahoe Elementary, K-8	No	No	*	*	No
#38, Arapahoe Charter High School, 9-12	No	No	*	*	No

Wyoming Department of Education, March 2023

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL SUPPORT AND INTERVENTIONS⁴

The Wyoming Department of Education provided the following information regarding school support provided to Wyoming schools and districts who fail to meet expectations of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) or Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

As part of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA), support is provided to help Wyoming schools increase student and school performance. This includes support for all schools through statewide professional development and district accreditation. It also includes school improvement planning and additional support for schools partially meeting and not meeting expectations through WAEA. In addition, support is required in federal statute (ESSA) for schools designated as Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) and Targeted School Improvement (TSI). The WDE provides a variety of supports to all schools and schools identified as in need of improvement. This [Statewide System of Support Logic Model](#) illustrates how the System of Support operates for Wyoming schools.

The Department's current interventions and efforts to address schools identified as Not Meeting Expectations or Partially Meeting Expectations (priority schools) have been developing a Wyoming-specific process for district representatives to use as they provide assistance to school leadership teams with improvement planning that focuses on the Six Highly Effective Domains of School Improvement:

- Leadership (mission and vision, resources allocation, distributive leadership)
- Culture and climate (positive relationships, communication, safety)
- Data-informed planning (systems to collect academic and nonacademic data, analysis of data, intervention, and enrichment)
- Professional development (PLC model, teacher training and practices, use of PD)
- Instruction (standards-based quality instruction, deeper learning, student learning practices)
- Learning support (MTSS, expanded learning opportunities, enrichments)

Resources, training and tools that schools have access to include a needs assessment, goal setting guide, data analysis training and school improvement template.

Based on the identified needs, schools have the opportunity to participate in professional development in the areas of Professional Learning Community (PLC) Cohort, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), standards based learning, and statewide varied training.

Beginning in 2018-19 to current, the Department has offered PLC Cohort training. This is a two-year training program. Cohort 5 will begin in the fall of 2023-24. Participation in training in

⁴ Information provided as part of e-mail from Vince Meyer, Principal Statistician, Wyoming Department of Education to author (March 15, 2023).

Fremont districts and the state is summarized in **Table 8**. All Fremont #14 schools and one Fremont #38 school have participated in the PLC training to date.

Table 8.

WDE Statewide System of Support					
Participation in Professional Learning Community (PLC) Cohort Training					
Cohorts 1 to 4 (2018-19 to 2021-22 identification, training beginning the next fall)					
		Participating Schools Fremont Districts			
Districts	District, School, Grades Served	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4
Fremont 14, 21, and 38	Fremont #14, Wyoming Indian Elementary, K-5	Yes			
	Fremont #14, Wyoming Indian Middle School, 6-8	Yes			
	Fremont #14, Wyoming Indian High School, 9-12	Yes			
	Fremont #38, Arapahoe Elementary, K-8				Yes
Fremont 1, 2, 6, 24, 25	Fremont #6, Wind River Middle School, 6-8	Yes			
	Fremont #24, Shoshoni Elementary, K-6	Yes			
	Fremont #24, Shoshoni High School, 9-12	Yes			
	Fremont #25, Jackson Elementary, 1-3				Yes
	Fremont #25, Rendezvous Elementary, 4-5				Yes
	Fremont #25, Riverton Middle School, 6-8				Yes
		Counts of Participating Schools			
District Grouping		Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4
Fremont 14, 21, and 38		3	0	0	1
Fremont 1, 2, 6, 24, 25		3	0	0	3
State Total (all districts)		32	16	16	16

Wyoming Department of Education, March 2023

In 2022, the WDE provided in person training to schools Not Meeting Expectations or Partially Meeting Expectations addressing establishing goals, reviewing WAEA data and other data. Monthly “open door” Zoom meetings are available to all district representatives and leadership teams for continued communication about updates, concerns, and questions.

Fremont school districts #1, #14, and #24 participated in the in-person training and have attended the “open door” Zoom meetings.

Additionally in 2022, WDE Statewide System of Support office and American Institute of Research (AIR) began working together on developing monitoring tools and to ensure that the implementation monitoring findings are represented in a user-friendly dashboard that connects and aligns with existing state information systems and dashboards (e.g., Wyoming Measures Up). AIR's research- driven monitoring process is consistent with the goals of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act of maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of Wyoming education and increasing the credibility and support for Wyoming public schools by ensuring a consistent set of processes, logic, and vocabulary among Wyoming initiatives.

As part of the work in developing monitoring tools, Fremont #1, #2, #14, #21 and #38 are all part of a pilot project where AIR staff are conducting on-site observations and principal surveys.