



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

Jillian Balow

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dicky Shanor

Chief of Staff

Brent Bacon

Chief Academic Officer

Megan Degenfelder

Chief Policy Officer

Dianne Bailey

Chief Operations Officer

Cheyenne Office

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor
2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-2060
Phone: (307) 777-7675
Fax: (307) 777-6234

Riverton Office

320 West Main
Riverton, WY 82501
Phone: (307) 857-9250
Fax: (307) 857-9256

On the Web

edu.wyoming.gov
wyomingmeasuresup.com
twitter.com/WYOEducation
facebook.com/WYOEducation

Date: October 12, 2017
To: 64th Wyoming Legislature
From: Honorable Jillian Balow
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Subject: Required Reporting to Legislature W.S. 21-2-202(f)

Enclosed please find the annual report on the general status of all public schools as required within W.S. 21-2-202(f). It is also available digitally at edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/communications/2017/Wyoming-Education-Snapshot.pdf.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

**EDU.
WYOMING
.GOV**

MISSION

Create opportunities for students to keep Wyoming strong

VISION

To significantly increase the percentage of Wyoming students that are College, Career, and Military Ready



2017 Education Snapshot

Jillian Balow

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dicky Shanor

Chief of Staff

Brent Bacon

Chief Academic Officer

Megan Degenfelder

Chief Policy Officer

Dianne Bailey

Chief Operations Officer

WYOMINGMEASURESUP.COM

WY-TOPP

Wyoming students in grade 3-10 will take a new statewide assessment during the 2017-18 school year called the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress, or WY-TOPP. High school juniors will continue to take the ACT and will have the option to take a career readiness exam as well. WY-TOPP has some key differences from PAWS including:

- Taken online instead of paper and pencil
- Different types of questions including multiple choice and written response
- Adaptive, meaning each student will answer different questions depending on how well they do on the test as they take it
- Later testing window in April and May instead of March and quicker results
- Teachers will have the option to access free interim and modular tests for grades K-10

ACT ASPIRE RESULTS

This spring marked the second year that the ACT Aspire was administered. The test was taken by 9th and 10th grade students, and is intended to predict college readiness.

Subject	9TH	Benchmark	10TH	Benchmark
English	428.1	426	430.5	428
Math	425.4	428	427.1	432
Reading	422.7	425	423.9	428
Science	425.6	430	427.5	432
Composite	425.6	--	427.4	--

38.66%

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED MEALS

12,945

STUDENTS RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

2,535

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

1,986

HOMELESS STUDENTS

ACT RESULTS

Students in Grade 11 took the ACT, and will continue to do so as the rest of state assessment moves to WY-TOPP.

Subject	2015	2016	2017
English	18.8	19.1	18.6
Math	19.5	19.7	19.5
Reading	20.0	20.5	20.2
Science	20.2	20.4	20.0
Composite	19.8	20.0	19.7



147 WYOMING STUDENTS
EARNED CONGRESSIONAL
AWARDS, INCLUDING **32**
GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

7,489
TEACHERS

\$60,262.93
AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY

485
NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFIED TEACHERS

POINTS OF PRIDE

- Wyoming was ranked seventh in the nation in Education Week's 21st annual report card. Quality Counts 2017 gave Wyoming an overall score of 80.3 out of 100 points and a grade of B-minus. Wyoming was scored the highest among western states and above the nation's grade of C.
- Wyoming launched a statewide Future Ready Initiative to prepare students for success through personalized student learning.
- Internet connectivity in Wyoming schools is double the federal minimum recommendation at 200Kbps per student. According to Education SuperHighway 88% of schools have the fiber connections needed to keep up with growing bandwidth demand and 79% of school districts report sufficient wi-fi.
- Wyoming celebrated its first ever Computer Science Education Week in December 2016 with over one third of schools participating through Hour of Code.
- Governor Matt Mead signed and approved the new Wyoming Science Content and Performance Standards in November 2016, marking the first update to the science standards since 2003.
- Results on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the Nation's Report Card or NAEP, show Wyoming's fourth and eighth grade students continue to outperform national average test scores in science.
- State Superintendent Jillian Balow was recognized with the Patrick Henry Award for her contributions and service to the military and their families.
- The Hathaway Scholarship Program celebrated its first ten years with Hathaway Day on November 16, 2016.
- Ryan Fuhrman, Sheridan Junior High School, was named Wyoming's Teacher of the Year.

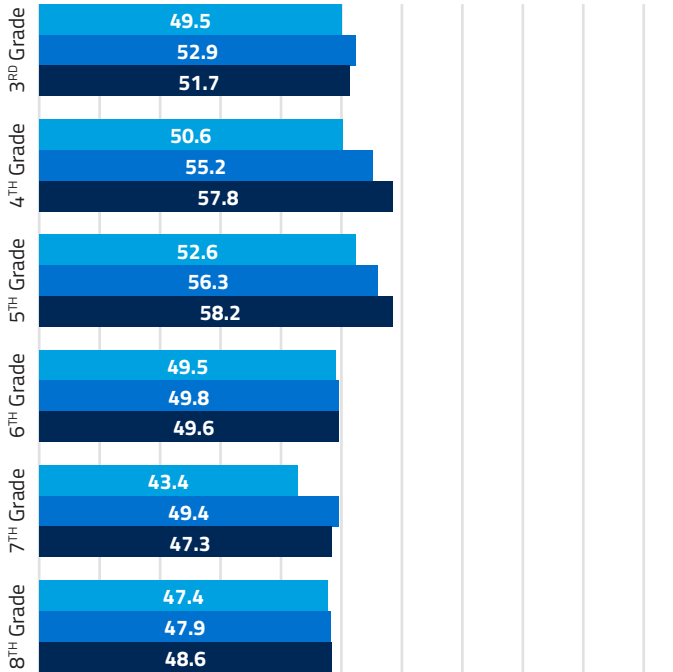
PAWS RESULTS

2014-15 2015-16 2016-17

Percent Proficient or Advanced

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

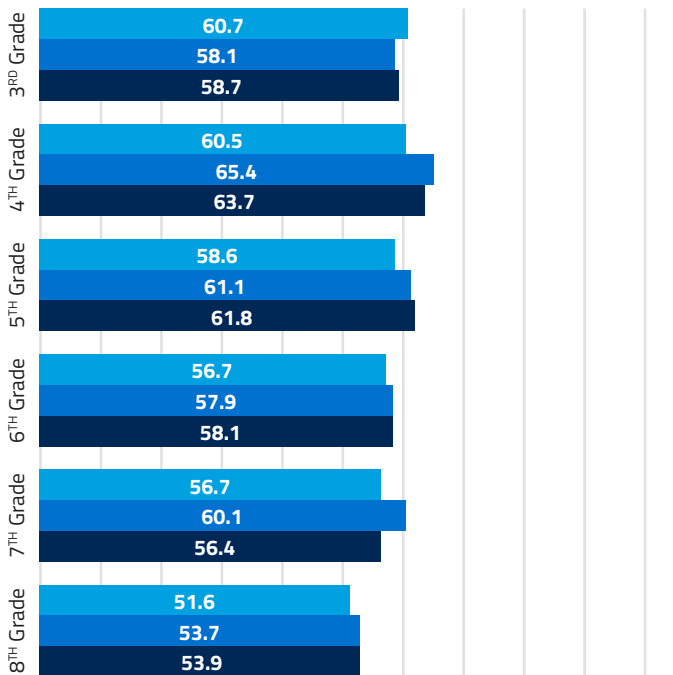
MATH



Percent Proficient or Advanced

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

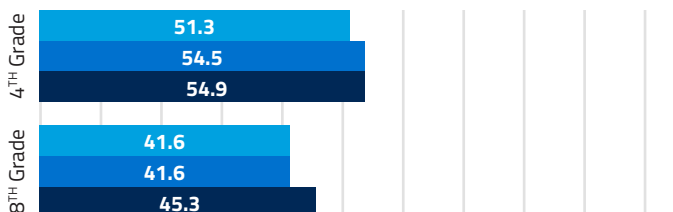
READING



Percent Proficient or Advanced

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

SCIENCE



93,261
STUDENTS

16,498

STUDENTS TOOK A CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Ft. Caspar Academy, Natrona #1
South Side Elementary School, Washakie #1
Wilson Elementary School, Teton #1

NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

Woodland Park Elementary School, Sheridan #2
Evansville Elementary School, Natrona #1



\$15,528.76

GUARANTEE PER PUPIL IN FUNDING MODEL

\$1,459,132,714

2016-17 SCHOOL FOUNDATION BLOCK GRANT

These reports contain performance data on students who took alternate assessments.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Wyoming's Consolidated State Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) allows us to continue creating opportunities for students to keep Wyoming strong by ensuring they are ready for college, career, or the military. It is built on Wyoming's strengths and designed to have a single, coherent school accountability system which supports schools, while meeting federal and state requirements. To meet the federal requirements, Wyoming's ESSA plan includes:

- Achievement and graduation rate goals for schools
- Measures for how well schools are doing
- Priorities for the use of federal funds to support schools, students, and educators

The long-term goals are based on schools that performed among the 65th percentile of all public schools in Wyoming. In the 2015-16 school year, the top 35% of schools had a graduation rate of at least 88%. The long-term goal aims to have all schools perform at the same level within 15 years.

The long-term goals for reading and math are also based on schools that performed among the 65th percentile in 2015-16, but these goals will be revisited once baseline data is available from the new statewide assessment, Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP), which will be given for the first time in the 2017-18 school year. The current goals were set using PAWS results for Grades 3-8 and ACT results for Grade 11.

80.0%

GRADUATION RATE

\$16,956,623

AWARDED IN HATHAWAY SCHOLARSHIPS

5,766

HATHAWAY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ESSA ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

Academic Indicators		School Quality/Student Success Indicators
Elementary & Middle Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Achievement on WY-TOPP (25%)▪ Growth on WY-TOPP (25%)▪ English Language Proficiency (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Equity (25%)
High Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Achievement on WY-TOPP (20%)▪ Growth on WY-TOPP (20%)▪ 4-year, on-time Graduation Rate (20%)▪ English Language Proficiency (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Post-Secondary Readiness (using college, career, and military readiness measures) (20%)

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Citizens of Wyoming,

The most important work we do at the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is to support student success in every classroom, school, and community across the state. In 2015, Wyoming adopted a statewide vision for education, Career, College, and Military Ready: Creating Opportunities for Students to Keep Wyoming Strong. Sharing information through this Wyoming Education Snapshot helps us fulfill that mission. Whether you are a student, parent, educator, business person, or interested citizen, I hope you find this information informative and useful.

Here are a few priorities that I am working on:

- **Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP):** The new WY-TOPP assessment replaces PAWS starting this year. It is shorter and administered online. Teachers will have detailed results much faster so they can make critical decisions to help ensure student success.
- **Partnerships between business/industry and schools:** Whether students go to college, enter the workforce, or serve in the military, partnerships between schools and business and industry as well as quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in high school are keys to success.
 - 46% of U.S. employers report difficulty filling positions, with skilled trades the hardest jobs to fill
 - In Wyoming, 39% of graduates in 2007 never enrolled in a post-secondary institution, including college or workforce training
- **Computer Science:** 2016 was the inaugural year for Wyoming's Hour of Code, and hundreds of students in dozens of schools across the state participated. The demand for computer science literacy is increasing and Wyoming students must be prepared.
- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):** The new federal law replaces No Child Left Behind, and affords Wyoming the opportunity to make important decisions about education:
 - Clear and ambitious goals for Wyoming students to succeed and graduate
 - Focus on graduates who are ready for college, careers, and military service, not just college
 - Opportunities to utilize federal funds to better benefit Wyoming's kids
 - Support for low-performing schools
 - Public and transparent reports about school performance

Unfortunately, Wyoming education is experiencing a downturn in funding. Cuts have occurred in every school district and at the WDE. While we must understand that funding is a significant issue, it should not overshadow our quest to improve student outcomes. The fiscal crisis is short-term and has a solution. A quality education for every Wyoming child lasts a lifetime and is always the most important issue in education.

