K12 ACADEMICS — STATE EDUCATION SERIES



Wyoming
Education Guide

A complete profile — schools, testing, graduation, accountability, school choice, teacher certification & financial aid, each in depth.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Everything about school in Wyoming.

This guide profiles **Wyoming**'s education system in seven parts, each a two-page deep dive with the key facts, plain-English explanations, and a link to the full, regularly-updated guide online. From K12 Academics, the world's largest education resource, online since 2004.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Education Overview · State Testing · Graduation Requirements · Accountability & Report Cards · School Choice · Teacher Certification · Financial Aid

SEARCH 200+ DIRECTORIES

K-12 Schools · Colleges & Universities · Vendors · Summer Programs · International Programs · Performers

Education Overview

EDUCATION IN WYOMING

Wyoming educates roughly 93,000 public K–12 students — the smallest enrollment in the country — across about 48 school districts , overseen by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction. Wyoming is vast and rural, with many small schools. Wyoming's education system reflects its size and...

WHO MUST ATTEND SCHOOL

- **Start age** — 7
- **End of compulsory age** — 16 (or 10th-grade completion)
- **Districts** — ~48, many small and rural
- **Satisfying it** — Public, private, or home-based education

PRE-K IN WYOMING

Wyoming is one of only a handful of states with no state-funded prekindergarten program — the state does not appropriate funds for public pre-K. Early learning is instead provided through federal Head Start , private preschools, and community and child-care programs, with some districts and communities offering locally funded options....

AT A GLANCE

Compulsory	**Ages 7–16**
Districts	**~48**
Testing	**WY-TOPP · ACT**
Diploma	**Proficiency**
Choice	**ESA (new)**

DISTRICTS & CHARTERS

Wyoming's largest districts include Laramie County School District 1 (Cheyenne), Natrona County (Casper), Campbell County (Gillette), and Sweetwater County — but most of the state's ~48 districts are small and rural. Wyoming has a small charter-school sector : charters can be authorized by local districts or by the Wyoming Charter School...

PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN WYOMING

- **Catholic & parochial schools** — Diocese of Cheyenne schools (such as St. Mary's) and other church-affiliated schools
- **Independent schools** — Nonprofit, board-governed schools — for example, the Jackson Hole Community School and Journeys School (Teton Science Schools) in the Teton area
- **Other religious & Christian schools** — A range of faith-based options
- **Specialty schools** — Montessori and other approaches

READ WYOMING'S FULL EDUCATION OVERVIEW GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

State Testing

WHAT YOUR STATE TESTS

Wyoming uses WY-TOPP (the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress) in grades 3–10 for ELA and math (plus science), and the ACT with Writing in grade 11 (with WorkKeys). Run by the Wyoming Department of Education. There's no exit-exam gate.

WHICH TESTS, WHICH GRADES

- **WY-TOPP ELA & Math** — Grades 3–10
- **WY-TOPP Science** — Grades 4, 8, and 10
- **ACT with Writing (grade 11)** — The statewide high-school test — a real, college-usable score
- **WY-ALT** — For eligible students

FORMAT & SUBJECTS

WY-TOPP is online with interim and summative components; the grade-11 ACT follows the national ACT format.

IS PASSING REQUIRED TO GRADUATE?

No exit-exam gate. Wyoming doesn't require passing a state test to graduate; districts set course and credit requirements. The grade-11 ACT provides a college-usable score.

HOW IT'S SCORED

WY-TOPP reports achievement levels; the grade-11 ACT is scored 1–36.

AT A GLANCE

System	**WY-TOPP**
Grades	**3–10**
Subjects	**ELA, Math; Science 4, 8, 10**
High school	**ACT (grade 11)**
Grad requirement?	**No exit-exam gate**
Format	**Online**

TESTING WINDOWS

The WY-TOPP summative is given in a spring window ; interims run across the year. The grade-11 ACT is given in spring.

HOW TO PREPARE

- **ACT prep for grade 11** — Our ACT guide and free official ACT practice apply
- **State practice tests** — The state provides free practice materials matching the real format

PARTICIPATION & OPTING OUT

Students in tested grades participate. Ask your district about make-up windows and any questions.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Accommodations follow a student's IEP or 504 plan ; eligible students take the state's alternate assessment. Multilingual learners take an English proficiency test (WIDA ACCESS or the state equivalent) and may receive designated supports.

READ WYOMING'S FULL STATE TESTING GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Graduation Requirements

AT A GLANCE

Wyoming sets minimum required courses but leaves the total credits to districts , with no exit exam . Students aiming for the Hathaway Scholarship follow the Hathaway Success Curriculum .

CREDIT & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Wyoming's state minimum requires 4 English, 3 math, 3 science, and 3 social studies , plus locally set electives — and districts set the total credit count . The Hathaway Success Curriculum specifies the coursework for scholarship eligibility.

TESTING TO GRADUATE

No exit exam. Wyoming students take state assessments (WY-TOPP and the ACT), but a passing score is not required to graduate.

DIPLOMA TYPES & HONORS

Wyoming issues a standard diploma, with the Seal of Biliteracy available. Following the Hathaway Success Curriculum supports Hathaway Scholarship eligibility (see WY financial aid).

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

Dual/concurrent enrollment and CTE offer accelerated pathways.

AT A GLANCE

Required	4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 3...
Exit exam?	No
Scholarship	Hathaway Success Curriculum
Credits	Total set by districts
Confirm with	Your district

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The Hathaway Success Curriculum is the recommended course of study for students pursuing the Hathaway Scholarship — plan for it early.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How many credits does Wyoming require?** — The state sets a minimum, but your district may require more — confirm locally.
- **Does Wyoming require a test to graduate?** — No — Wyoming has no exit exam; a passing test score is not required to graduate.
- **Are there different diploma types?** — Yes — plus honors designations and seals; see the diplomas section.
- **What if my student is behind on credits?** — Talk to the counselor about credit recovery and alternative pathways.
- **Where do I confirm the exact requirements?** — Your school counselor, district, and the state department of education.

READ WYOMING'S FULL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Accountability & Report Cards

AT A GLANCE

Wyoming rates schools with School Performance Ratings under the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) — assigning each school one of four performance levels.

HOW THIS STATE RATES SCHOOLS

WAEA assigns one of four ratings: Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, or Not Meeting Expectations . It's based on indicators like achievement, growth, equity (gap closure), and (for high schools) graduation and readiness . Growth is central — read it alongside the rating.

WHAT GETS MEASURED

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency
- **School quality / student success** — An extra indicator — often attendance/chronic absenteeism, college/career readiness, or similar

FINDING & READING THE REPORT CARD

Look up any school on the Wyoming Department of Education report cards. Review the indicators (especially growth) and the trend alongside the performance level.

AT A GLANCE

Format	WAEA performance ratings (4 leve...
Levels	Exceeding – Not Meeting Expectat...
Law	Wyoming Accountability in Educat...
Tool	WDE report cards
Look up at	edu.wyoming.gov

HOW FAMILIES SHOULD USE RATINGS

- **Read it in context** — A school's score reflects its students' circumstances too, not only its quality
- **Look at growth, not just scores** — Growth shows how much a school moves students — often more telling than raw proficiency
- **Check the trend** — Is the school improving over time?
- **Look past the summary** — Dig into the underlying data (subgroups, attendance, readiness)
- **Then visit** — Data raises questions; a visit answers them (see our guide on evaluating a school)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How does Wyoming rate schools?** — Wyoming uses WAEA School Performance Ratings (Exceeding – Not Meeting Expectations).
- **What do the ratings measure?** — Test scores, growth, graduation rate, English-learner progress, and a school-quality indicator.
- **Where do I look up my school?** — On the state's official report-card portal (see below).
- **Should I choose a school by its rating alone?** — No — use it as a starting point, weigh growth and context, and visit.
- **What are CSI and TSI?** — Federal labels for schools flagged for Comprehensive or Targeted Support and Improvement.

READ WYOMING'S FULL ACCOUNTABILITY & REPORT CARDS GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

WYOMING — PART 5 OF 7

School Choice

AT A GLANCE

Wyoming enacted a universal Education Savings Account (ESA) — the Steamboat Legacy Scholarship — in 2025, providing eligible families about $7,000 for private-school and approved education expenses. As a new program, confirm its current funding and status.

THIS STATE'S CHOICE PROGRAMS

The Steamboat Legacy Scholarship (ESA) gives families a state-funded account (around $7,000 per student) for tuition and approved expenses, with broad (universal) eligibility. Because it's new , confirm the current amounts, eligibility, and whether funding has been reauthorized.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is designed to be universal-eligible , though (as with new programs) funding and rules can change. Confirm current eligibility.

APPLYING

Apply through the program administrator once the application window opens. Confirm requirements and current status.

LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE STATUS

The program is new (2025) ; its funding and continuation may depend on further legislative action — confirm the current status.

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Steamboat Legacy Scholarship (ES...**
Type	**Universal ESA (new, 2025)**
Amount	**~$7,000 per student**
Note	**Confirm funding/status**
Confirm with	**The state program**

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE, TOO

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Does Wyoming have a private-school-choice program?** — Yes — Wyoming enacted the universal Steamboat Legacy Scholarship ESA (~$7,000) in 2025 (confirm current funding).
- **What's the difference between an ESA and a voucher?** — A voucher pays a private school directly; an ESA is a flexible parent-managed account for many approved expenses.
- **What is a tax-credit scholarship?** — Donors get a tax credit for giving to organizations that fund private-school scholarships.
- **Is there public school choice too?** — Yes — open enrollment, charters, and magnets (plus homeschooling).
- **Where do I confirm the details?** — On the official state program site (see below).

READ WYOMING'S FULL SCHOOL CHOICE GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Teacher Certification

HOW LICENSURE WORKS HERE

Wyoming licenses teachers through the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) . You complete an approved program, pass the required Praxis content exam(s), meet the Constitution requirement, and earn a license.

WHICH TESTS THIS STATE USES

- **Praxis Subject Assessments** — Content test(s) for your endorsement area — the primary testing requirement
- **U.S. & Wyoming Constitution** — A required course or exam on the U.S. and Wyoming Constitutions
- **Note** — Wyoming generally does not require a separate stand-alone basic-skills test — confirm current requirements

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET LICENSED

- **A bachelor's degree** — From an accredited college or university
- **A state-approved teacher-preparation program** — Completed at a college or through an approved alternative route
- **Student teaching / clinical practice** — Supervised classroom experience
- **Pass the required exams** — See the exams section above
- **A background check** — Fingerprint-based criminal background check
- **Apply to the state** — Submit your application and documents to the licensing agency

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Wyoming PTSB**
Content	**Praxis Subject Assessments**
Also	**U.S. & Wyoming Constitution requ...**
License	**Initial — then renewable**

OTHER PATHS INTO TEACHING

Most states offer alternative routes for career-changers and those with a degree in another field. In Wyoming, these typically let you start teaching while completing licensure requirements — through district or university alternative-certification programs, residencies, or emergency/provisional permits. Requirements (and the exams) are...

RECIPROCITY & OUT-OF-STATE LICENSES

- **Interstate agreements** — Most states participate in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, which eases (but doesn't guarantee) recognition of an out-of-state license
- **You may still owe exams** — States often require you to meet their own testing (or coursework) requirements, sometimes within a grace period
- **Check both states** — Confirm the specific steps with Wyomings agency and your current state

READ WYOMING'S FULL TEACHER CERTIFICATION GUIDE
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Financial Aid

THE STATE AID PICTURE

Wyoming's standout state aid is the Hathaway Scholarship , funded by a mineral-revenue endowment, with both merit and need components — administered by the Wyoming Department of Education and the Community College Commission.

MERIT & LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Hathaway Scholarship** — A tiered program (Honors, Performance, Opportunity, and Provisional levels) combining a merit award — earned through GPA, ACT/WorkKeys, and a...

PROMISE & FREE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship helps adults (24+) earn credentials, and Wyoming Works supports students in high-demand fields at community colleges. The Cowboy Commitment provides free tuition at the University of Wyoming for eligible Pell students.

COLLEGE SAVINGS (529 PLAN)

Wyoming is the only state without its own 529 plan — Wyoming families can still save for college by using another state's 529 (there's no Wyoming income tax, so there's no state deduction to lose).

DEADLINES & TIMING

State deadlines are typically much earlier than the federal FAFSA deadline , and some aid is first-come, first-served until funds run out. File the FAFSA as soon as it opens (in the fall) and confirm the state's specific priority date.

AT A GLANCE

Merit + need	**Hathaway Scholarship**
Adults 24+	**Wyoming's Tomorrow**
High-demand	**Wyoming Works**
Free tuition (Pell)	**Cowboy Commitment (UW)**
529 plan	**No state 529 (use another state'...**
Agency	**WY Dept. of Education / WCCC**

APPLYING & THE STATE AGENCY

- **File the FAFSA early** — It's the trigger for state grants and many scholarships
- **Register with Wyoming Department of Education** — Create the state agency's student account to track and claim awards
- **Confirm your details** — Verify residency, GPA, and enrollment as required
- **Meet any extra requirements** — Some programs need a separate form, GPA, or service commitment
- **Reapply every year** — State aid is awarded annually

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How do I get Wyoming aid?** — File the FAFSA (and any state form) by the deadline; Wyoming Department of Education administers the programs.
- **Is it need-based or merit?** — Both — Wyoming offers need-based and merit programs.
- **Are the deadlines earlier than federal?** — Usually yes — file early, as some aid is first-come.
- **Can I use it out of state?** — Most aid is for in-state schools (with exceptions); check each program.
- **Does this list private scholarships?** — No — this guide covers official programs only.

READ WYOMING'S FULL FINANCIAL AID GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

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