

# Wyoming Social Studies Standards: Grassroots Information Packet

---

State law requires that Wyoming academic standards be revised every nine years. These standards govern social studies instruction in all Wyoming public schools. The revision of statewide standards is directed by the Wyoming Department of Education. The Department appoints a Standards Review Committee (SRC) consisting of educators, administrators, parents, higher education representatives, business & industry representatives, Wyoming citizens, and occasionally students. The Committee is responsible for writing recommendations for social studies standards. The State Board of Education is charged with considering the standards developed by the Committee for final adoption. Before the adoption of standards takes place, however, the general public of Wyoming has the opportunity to review and comment on Wyoming's existing social studies standards and the proposed revisions to those standards drafted by the Standards Review Committee through three separate public comment periods.

Below we explain and list in sequential order:

1. Current Wyoming social studies standards and their current website location
2. How often Wyoming is required to review and revise its social studies standards
3. State laws and administrative codes governing social studies instruction in Wyoming public schools
4. Which state agencies and groups are responsible for writing and adopting social studies standards
5. The electoral or bureaucratic relationships these agencies have with the general public in Wyoming
6. What opportunity Wyoming community members and educators have to offer feedback and comment during a standards' revision cycle.

**1. Current Wyoming social studies standards and their current website location**

[Wyoming K-12 Social Studies Standards](#) [Adopted December 2014; Revised August 15, 2018]

**a. Website Location**

- i. [Wyoming Department of Education \(WDE\) Website](#)

**b. Wyoming Social Studies Resources**

- i. [Wyoming DOE Indian Education Resources](#)

**2. How often Wyoming is required to review and revise its social studies standards**

[Wyoming Social Studies Standards Revision Schedule](#): State law dictates that Wyoming must update its statewide academic standards every nine years.

- a. See: [Wyoming Department of Education Content and Performance Standards Information Page](#)

**3. State laws and administrative codes governing social studies instruction in Wyoming public schools**

**a. Wyoming Legislation**

- i. [Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-2-304](#) [*Duties of the State Board of Education*]
- ii. [Wyo. Stat. Ann. §21-4-602](#) [*American Indian Educational Program*]

**b. Wyoming Administrative Code**

- i. [206-10 Wyo. Code R. § 10-3](#) [*Wyoming Content and Performance Standards) – Definitions*]
- ii. [206-10 Wyo. Code R. § 10-4](#) [*Uniform Student Content and Performance Standards*]

**4. Which state agencies and groups are responsible for writing and adopting social studies standards**

***a. Which agency writes Wyoming’s social studies standards?***

Per [Wyo. Stat. Ann. §21-2-304](#), Wyoming State Board of Education reviews and revises statewide academic standards through the Department of Education, which convenes the standards’ revision and writing process; in each standards’ revision cycle, the Department appoints a Standards Review Committee (SRC) consisting of educators, administrators, parents, higher education representatives, business & industry representatives, Wyoming citizens, and occasionally students; the Wyoming Department of Education attempts to ensure that the Standards Review Committee has diverse representation - by geographic region, role within a school, content expertise, grade levels, years of experience, scale of school, and educators of special populations.

- i. For more information, see: [Wyoming DE Academic Standards Revision Process Flow Chart \(pdf\)](#) (taken from [WDE Content and Performance Standards Information web page](#))

Furthermore, through the Department of Education, the Wyoming State Board of Education is required to evaluate and review existing state social studies standards in cooperation with Indigenous tribes of the region including the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Indian tribes so that standards will reflect the cultural heritage, history and contemporary contributions of American Indians ([Wyo. Stat. Ann. §21-4-602](#) also known as the [2017 Original House Bill 76/House Enrolled Act 119](#))

***b. Which agency adopts Wyoming’s social studies standards?***

The Wyoming State Board of Education adopts all statewide social studies standards ([Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-2-304](#)); after the Board approves a revised set of social studies standards, the governor reviews and approves standards pursuant to [Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 16-3-103](#).

**5. The electoral or bureaucratic relationships these agencies have with the general public in Wyoming**

***a. How are the members of the Wyoming State Board of Education appointed?***

The Wyoming State Board of Education is composed of 14 members; 11 are appointed by the governor with approval of the Wyoming State Senate. The remaining voting member of the board is the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The executive director of the Wyoming community college commission and the president of the University of Wyoming, (or their designees) serve as the only non-voting members ([Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-2-301](#)).

***b. How is the Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed?***

The Wyoming State Superintendent is an elected official ([Wyoming Constitution, Article 4, § 11](#)).

**6. What opportunity Wyoming community members and educators have to offer feedback and comment during a standards' revision cycle**

***a. Where does public input occur during Wyoming' standards revision process?***

Wyoming social studies standards revision process begins with a public comment period in which the Wyoming Department of Education collects community and educator input on existing social studies standards; the Department then sends out a public survey calling for participants to serve on the Standards Review Committee. Public comment periods, surveys, and announcements of meetings, are announced on the [Wyoming Chapter 10 Rules on Standards Information Page](#).

After the first draft of standards is written, the Wyoming Department of Education conducts an informal public review of the drafted standards for a minimum of 45 days; the Department presents comments received from the public and Wyoming educators to the State Board of Education to review.

Finally, the Wyoming Department of Education conducts a Ch. 10 Rules Promulgation formal public review of proposed revisions to social studies standards in which the public can once again provide comment for a minimum of 45 days. The State Board of Education will once again review public feedback elicited from this formal public review period and then vote on whether or not to adopt revised social studies standards.

- i. See: [Wyoming DOE Academic Standards Revision Process Flow Chart](#) (taken from [WDE Content and Performance Standards Information web page](#))