



## WYOMING

### CERTIFICATION

The Professional Standards Board certifies teachers in Wyoming. According to the state's Title II report, Wyoming offers Type A certification. To become certified in Wyoming, candidates must complete an approved teacher preparation program at a regionally or nationally accredited college or university. Courses on the U.S. and Wyoming Constitutions are also required. If candidates do not meet the approved program requirements, they must have a bachelor's degree and may submit a portfolio that will be reviewed by the Professional Standards Board. Certificates are issued for five years.

### Elementary Certification

Wyoming has developed standards in which its teachers must demonstrate competency. The elementary certification programs that prepare elementary teachers must provide integrated approaches to the liberal arts and to educational studies. Standard IV pertains to social studies.

- ❖ Standard IV: The program shall require demonstrated competence in the knowledge and skills of social studies; how children learn social studies; designing, implementing, integrating, assessing, and evaluating developmentally appropriate learning experiences in social studies across the curriculum.

### Middle-Level Certification

Middle school programs (grades 5–8) in Wyoming must consist of general education, professional education, and a teaching field or field of study. The endorsements must allow for an individual to teach in an interdisciplinary teaming environment. Standard IV reads:

- ❖ Standard IV: The program shall require knowledge of the content and methods utilized in the middle grades.

No specific mention of social studies is made.

## Secondary Certification

Secondary programs in Wyoming must consist of general education, professional education, and a teaching field or field of study. There are three social studies program approval standards. Standard I pertains to Teaching Processes and Skills. The second standard specifically mentions content knowledge in the different disciplines, and the third standard addresses a comprehensive approach.

- ❖ Standard I: Teaching Processes and Skills. The program shall require knowledge, capabilities, and strategies to organize and provide instruction and assessment of learning in the various disciplines of social studies including the following:
  1. the research process (examples listed); and
  2. interdisciplinary approaches to social studies curriculum (examples listed).
- ❖ Standard II: The program preparing teachers for a specific subject certification must demonstrate knowledge of one or more specified area(s):
  1. world history: origins and historical development of various cultures and the interplay of forces shaping those cultures;
  2. United States history: origins and historical development of American culture and the interplay of forces shaping American culture, including the ideals and institutions of the United States;
  3. political science;
  4. economics;
  5. anthropology;
  6. sociology;
  7. geography; and
  8. psychology.
- ❖ Standard III: Comprehensive: The program shall require:
  1. knowledge and demonstrated competence in world history, United States history, political science, economics, anthropology, sociology, geography, and psychology;
  2. knowledge must be beyond the introductory level; and
  3. a concentration in at least one area of the aforementioned disciplines.

## STANDARDS

### Standards for Teachers

Please see the above section on certification.

### Standards for Students

The Wyoming Social Studies Content and Performance Standards are currently in draft form. The July 2002 version is posted on the state's web site. Regional documents, national standards, and other states' standards served as models for Wyoming.

Wyoming has identified content and performance standards for grade clusters K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. Benchmarks exist at grades 4, 8, and 11, and performance descriptors for advanced, proficient, basic, and novice levels have been identified. Five major strands exist in Wyoming. These strands, for which the National Council for the Social Studies has provided a rationale that Wyoming includes in its document, consist of the following.

- ❖ **Citizenship, Government, and Democracy:** Students demonstrate how structures of power, authority, and governance have developed historically and continue to evolve.
- ❖ **Culture and Cultural Diversity:** Students demonstrate an understanding of different cultures and how these cultures have contributed and continue to contribute to the world in which they live.
- ❖ **Production, Distribution, and Consumption:** Students demonstrate an understanding of economic principles and concepts and describe the influence of economic factors on individuals and societies.
- ❖ **Time, Continuity, and Change:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the people, events, problems, ideas, and cultures that were significant in the history of our community, state, nation, and world.
- ❖ **People, Places, and Environments:** Students demonstrate an understanding of interrelationships among people, places, and environments.

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM**

Students in Wyoming must complete three years of social studies including history, American government, and economic systems and institutions, “provided business instructors may instruct classes on economic systems and institutions” in order to graduate from high school.

### **Exit Exam**

Not required for graduation at this time.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The Wyoming Comprehensive Assessment System (WYCAS) is administered to students at grades 4, 8, and 11. The test consists of questions pertaining to reading, writing, and mathematics. No assessment in history or social studies is given. Wyoming also assesses students through the Terra Nova exam. Students must show compliance to school districts’ standards.

