

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) March 2021

Wyoming Profiles of a Graduate Initiative

A. Why was this initiative started?

- If the COVID-19 pandemic taught us important lessons, chief among them is the notion that education as we have known it needs to become more flexible, efficient, and adaptable to the needs of our rapidly changing world. Preparing our students to be successful in their lives beyond the K-12 system requires a thorough examination of current, as well as future, requirements, opportunities and possibilities. It involves listening to the voices of parents, educators, business leaders, community members, and our youth as they share their aspirations, their needs, their ideas. If we want our young people to be “Life Ready” citizens, legislators, policy makers, and educators must also be “ready” to ensure that the Wyoming educational system is aligned to meet the challenges of the future. In fulfilling its statutory responsibility of facilitating discussions regarding the improvement of education, the Wyoming State Board of Education (SBE), in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), the Wyoming School Boards Association (WSBA) and stakeholders across the state, is committed to creating a Profile of a Wyoming Graduate - one who is prepared for success in any future endeavor.

B. How will the profile be developed?

- A Design Team of dedicated individuals from a variety of professions, positions, communities, and backgrounds is developing a series of virtual listening sessions which will take place in the Spring and Summer of 2021. The sessions will be open to Wyoming residents who wish to share comments about their experiences and their ideas for the profile. Once collected the Design Team will review the listening session data and suggest essential knowledge, skills, and behaviors/dispositions that ALL Wyoming graduates should possess.

C. Who will approve the Wyoming profile?

- The State Board of Education intends to finalize the Wyoming Profile of a Graduate after sharing the proposal with stakeholders and interested Wyoming residents.

D. How will the profile be used by the State Board of Education (SBE)?

- As one of their major statutory duties, the SBE has the responsibility to identify graduation standards and set minimum state graduation

requirements which may be enhanced by the local district. Additionally the SBE is statutorily mandated to approve Student Content and Performance Standards in 10 content areas (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Fine and Performing Arts, Foreign Cultures and Languages, Physical Education, Health, Career and Technical Education, and Computer Science). Finally, the SBE sets requirements for student instructional hours, district calendars, and courses taught virtually. The Profile of a Graduate will form the framework to guide policy decisions in these areas. Use of this framework will enable the SBE to eliminate policy barriers and expand the options and possibilities for our learners.

E. What is the timeline for creating the Wyoming Profile of a Graduate?

- The work is divided into three phases:
- Phase 1: Finding the Foundation, scheduled to be completed by Summer 2021;
- Phase 2: Producing the Profile, scheduled to begin Summer 2021 and completed by December 2021;
- Phase 3: Setting the Standards, scheduled to begin in January 2022 and continue until completed.

F. Who is involved in the effort?

- Design Team members include parents, K-12 educators, Wyoming Community College and University of Wyoming representatives, business leaders, SBE members, WDE staff, Wyoming legislators, the Wyoming School Boards Association, and other interested citizens of Wyoming. A complete list of Design Team members as well as a listing of agencies, entities, and organizations who have requested to be involved in the listening sessions is available on the Profile of a Graduate banner on the SBE website <https://edu.wyoming.gov/board>. Additional listening sessions will be scheduled and open to the public at large.

G. Are other states or organizations doing similar work?

- There are a number of valuable resources from other states and organizations who are engaged in this work. Interested parties can explore those documents and links by going to the SBE website <https://edu.wyoming.gov/board> and clicking on the Profile of a Graduate banner.

H. How can people contribute to this initiative?

- We want to hear from each of you! The SBE is encouraging everyone in Wyoming to get involved.
 - i. Attend a listening session. To register, go to the [SBE Profile of a Graduate webpage](#).

- ii. Complete the survey linked here [Profile of a Graduate Participant's Survey](#) to provide your opinions and ideas.
- iii. Join the Design Team meetings as an observer. Learn more at [SBE Profile of a Graduate webpage](#).