

2020-21 Federal Accountability Flexibility Summary



The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of statewide assessments in the spring of 2020. Wyoming's accountability system requires multiple years of assessment data, which means that even if students are able to be assessed in the spring of 2021, some adjustments are necessary in order to meet federal requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.

Typically, information regarding academic achievement, growth of all students, growth of low-performing students, English language acquisition, graduation rate, and post-secondary readiness would be used to make identifications for support and reported to the U.S. Department of Education. The lack of necessary data and the uncertainty of the ability to have students take WY-TOPP this school year are cause for Wyoming to seek flexibility regarding long-term goals and timelines for identifying Wyoming's lowest-performing schools.

Wyoming plans to submit an addendum to its federal accountability plan which would allow long-term goals in academic achievement, graduation rate, and English language acquisition to be pushed one year. The addendum would also allow Wyoming to not calculate measures for which there is not adequate data, not calculate overall scores for schools, and delay identification of low-performing schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement one year. Additionally, Wyoming plans to ask for a waiver from the annual requirement to identify schools for Targeted Support and Improvement based on the performance of specific student populations.

Wyoming currently plans to safely assess students to the extent possible this spring. The proposed one-year changes would mean assessment results would not be used for accountability purposes, and simply allow the results to be used to provide information about the impact of COVID-19 on student learning. Wyoming's accountability system includes multiple measures so as to be as comprehensive as possible. Identifying schools or students as low-performing without the needed data will most likely result in the wrong labels being assigned and is inappropriate at this time.

Any available data from the 2020-2021 school year will still be made public once it is available. Additionally, the Wyoming Department of Education would continue to offer support and technical assistance to schools.

Comments can be submitted to the WDE through January 25, 2021 via an online survey at <https://bit.ly/2Xd7P9q>, or by mail. Two online public meetings will be offered, one at noon and another at 5 p.m. MST on January 14. Anyone wishing to participate can register online [here](#) for the noon session and [here](#) for the 5 p.m. session.

Comments can be mailed to:

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Find out more at edu.wyoming.gov/essa