

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
Advanced Placement (AP)	Yes	Funds available to pay for exams; prep courses available to ready students to participate in AP courses; distance learning available to rural students from small schools that may not have teachers qualified to teach AP	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Low-income students • Native American students • Rural students 	Yes	Federal and state funding
Bridge Programs	Yes	In conjunction with Upward Bound and GEAR Up at the University of Wyoming and all seven community colleges	Yes	At-risk students	Yes	Federal and state funding
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	The University of Wyoming and all seven community colleges offer college credits for CLEP tests.	No		Yes	State funding
Distance Learning/ Virtual School	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High priority because of large terrain and small population; Utilizes compressed video and online learning with a statewide dedicated network • CC classes widely available to high school students • Used in conjunction with other programs such as AP 	Yes	Rural students	Yes	State funding and policy; Major investment in network (\$70 million); State pays for teachers to open their classes statewide through distance learning
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	Yes	Limited dual credit program; students must pay tuition costs.	Yes	Native American students	Yes	State legislation and funding
Early or Middle College High Schools	No	Not yet, but the state is beginning to discuss this pathway.	No		No	
GED in College Settings	Yes	In all community colleges; some online courses.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESL students (Spanish speakers) • Immigrant students • Low-achieving students 	Yes	State legislation and funding

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International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	2 high schools participating; Prep programs available to students ready to enter IB	Yes	Low-achieving students	Yes	No details known or available
Tech Prep	Yes	Very decentralized with schools retaining local control	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latino(a) students • Native American students • Special populations 	Yes	Federal policy and funding
Vocational Education Pathways	Yes	Currently in development, with focus on earning certification and entering technical college or work	No		Yes	Being developed by the State Department of Education

Summary of academic pathways:

While the state provides support, guidance, recommendations, and best practices, it does not dictate how local programs are to be administered. Wyoming is developing vocational pathways to assist students in entering technical colleges or the workforce. Much of Wyoming’s focus is on using distance and online education to reach out to students. With a small population spread out across the state, the Department of Education has developed a distance learning network so that all students can have access to AP and dual credit courses. The K-14 and K-20 groups are working to align the curriculum and strengthen communication among all educators.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Distance Learning Network
- Dual Credit Program

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

The Native American population is a main focus of state officials. Many Native Americans live on reservations with minimal facilities, and reservation schools often have a high dropout rate. The state is attempting to expand its dual credit and AP programs to this population. Wyoming is also using distance and online education as a tool to reach rural students. Through the distance-learning network, advanced instruction can be delivered to students in locations that previously have had neither the resources nor the instructors for these classes. The state has also developed prep courses to prepare students for AP and IB programs.



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Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

The state has made a major \$70 million investment in the development of a distance and online learning network. This investment enhances other pathways such as dual credit and AP. State funding supports most of the other academic pathways. Policy is being developed to align the curriculum and strengthen articulation among the different levels of education.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- The different education sectors remain “stovepiped” with each having its own board, president and staff. More communication is needed among the departments.
- The state’s compressed video system is viewed as threatening by some administrators who see it as competing with their classes; funding can be lost if class sizes are not adequate. Wyoming already has a declining enrollment, and the video system can add to that stress in certain areas.

Programs recommended by state officials:

No programs recommended.

State official’s contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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