



The State of Education 2018

July 2018

Governor James C. Justice II

A passion for education

Jim Justice, West Virginia's 36th Governor, wants the best for all West Virginia students. Long before he became Governor, he was a supporter of our schools, communities and youth programs. He is a coach and a mentor and has spent considerable time in classrooms statewide. A product of the West Virginia public school system, he is passionate about the education of young people.



Since taking office, Governor Justice has taken deliberate steps to enhance West Virginia's education system. He restored hope among educators across the state as he advocated to move away from the A-F accountability system to a more fair and more accurate system in order to accelerate student learning. His 2017 landmark education reform bill restored local control, providing increased flexibility in regulations for counties and supports for classroom teachers. The bill increased flexibility in school calendars, provided the ability to share services among counties, established a county superintendents' advisory council, eliminated the Office of Education Performance Audits, reduced statewide testing and amended school accountability, accreditation and school performance to include multiple measures.

Governor Justice believes education should be an economic driver in the state and has been a champion for investing additional resources. In 2018, education was the centerpiece of legislative action following a statewide work stoppage. Governor Justice supported teachers as they received a five percent pay increase and made a commitment to identify a long-term fix for PEIA.

Governor Justice has a clear vision that education is the driver to support economic development. Under his leadership, the future for West Virginia is bright.



Executive Summary

The West Virginia Board of Education and West Virginia Department of Education work persistently to strengthen the public school system in an effort to prepare students who will ultimately make a positive impact on the economy. Students must graduate with the skills needed to meet workforce demands and support themselves and the state as informed and productive citizens. West Virginia's economic outlook is brighter than it has been in decades, and the opportunities for young people are emerging in existing sectors as well as those developing on the horizon.



When reflecting on the 2017-18 school year, public education was paramount. The subject of teacher pay and benefits defined the 2018 legislative session and cultivated national news interest. As a result of the work stoppage, our West Virginia teachers became known around the world for standing 55 Strong.

In an effort to provide an accurate and constructive depiction of public education in West Virginia, we are proud to present this report: *The State of Education 2018*.



Many great things are happening within West Virginia's public schools. The state's 89.4 percent graduation rate leads the nation, and more than 53 percent of public school students participate in the school breakfast program, the highest participation nationwide. The National Assessment of Education Performance (NAEP) reveals continued gains in fourth grade reading as West Virginia has moved from 47th to 37th since 2013. The Universal Pre-K program ranks among the top in the nation, and West Virginia is routinely recognized for its progressive state law that requires preschool for all four-year-olds.

Our State Board of Education has worked to transfer more authority and responsibility to the local level. Additionally, they have reduced the number of statewide policies by more than 20 percent and have worked to empower districts to make the best decisions on behalf of our students.

Our expectations remain high, and our work will not stop until we improve student achievement and guarantee a quality education for all students. Students are West Virginia's most important resource, and investing in education from early childhood through college and career readiness is critical for West Virginia's future.

Thomas W. Campbell
President, West Virginia Board of Education

Steven L. Paine, Ed.D.
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools

A Shared Strategic Plan

VISION

Prepare and empower all students to pursue **knowledge** for life, contribute to their **community** as responsible citizens and succeed in the **workforce**.

MISSION

The West Virginia Board of Education and State Superintendent of Schools work in concert to establish policies and procedures to assure implementation of West Virginia's public education goals and to ensure the general supervision, oversight and monitoring of a thorough, efficient and effective system of free public schools.

GOALS

Provide a high-quality learning system that:

- Encourages a lifelong pursuit of **knowledge** and skills
- Promotes a culture of responsibility, personal well-being and **community** engagement
- Responds to **workforce** and economic demands

.....
“For the first time, the West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education are aligned with a single strategic plan. Together we are prioritizing what needs to be done to ensure all students graduate college and career ready.”
.....

– Frank Vitale



West Virginia Board of Education

Nurturing and inspiring West Virginia's children to embrace their potential and make a difference in the world.

The State Board of Education shares a vision with Governor Justice to provide more responsibility at the local level and empower districts to make decisions on behalf of their students. During Governor Justice's term, we have replaced the A-F accountability system with a balanced scorecard that allows schools to more accurately pinpoint their strengths and weaknesses. The U.S. Department of Education approved our state ESSA plan, which includes a new summative assessment in grades 3-8 and a college entrance exam as the statewide high school assessment.

The Board has worked to reduce the number of statewide policies by more than 20 percent. We have eliminated Board committees and reduced Board staff to increase efficiency and better assist districts in their missions of providing a quality education throughout the state.

Under Governor Justice's leadership, 466 positions have been reduced with the elimination of the Department of Education and the Arts, the Center for Professional Development, RESAs and Office of Education Performance Audits (OEPA). Additionally, by assuming responsibilities of the Department of Education and the Arts and the Center for Professional Development, the West Virginia Department of Education realized a cost savings to the state of more than \$2.5 million.

The West Virginia Supreme Court ruled in favor of the State Board in a consolidation case involving Nicholas County schools, affirming the Board's constitutional authority to ensure counties are effectively serving our students. We take our duty to ensure a thorough and efficient public school system very seriously, and we look forward to the year ahead. We pledge to work cooperatively and diligently to improve student achievement and provide a quality education for all students.



Thomas W. Campbell
President



David G. Perry
Vice President



Frank Vitale
Financial Officer



Miller L. Hall
Parliamentarian



Steven L. Paine



F. Scott Rotruck
Member



Debra K. Sullivan
Member



Joseph A. Wallace
Member



James S. Wilson
Member



Chancellor Paul L. Hill




Chancellor Sarah Tucker

STATE OF EDUCATION

Performance Outcomes

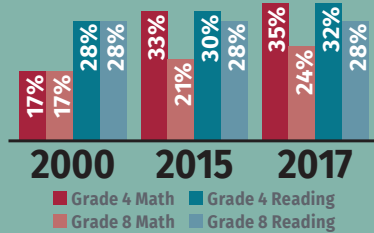
89.4%
students graduated
high school in 2017

West Virginia had the
3rd highest national
graduation rate
in 2016 

17th

in the nation per capita
for the percentage of
**National Board
Certified Teachers**

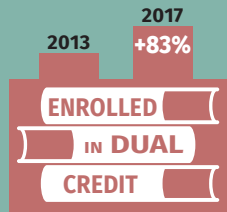
NAEP Students At or Above Proficient




76% 4-year-olds
participated in
WV Universal Pre-K

West Virginia
is ranked **6th** in the nation
for quality and
access to
early education programs

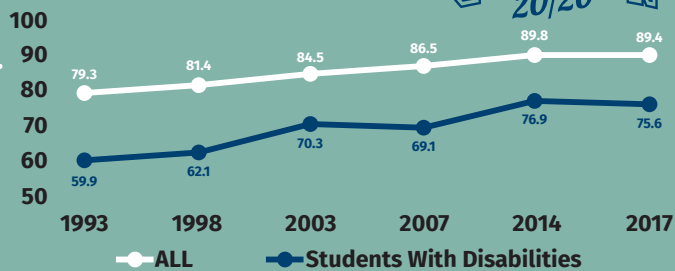
Dual Credit
offered in 52
counties



1st 
in the nation for
breakfast participation

431 
Career Technical Education
students earned the 2018
Governor's Workforce Credential

WV Graduation Rates



54.5%
of graduating
seniors
enrolled in
higher education
institutions



Nearly
2,000
EDUCATORS
will participate in the
West Virginia Summit
for Educational Excellence

37%
of students
completed
at least 1
CTE program
of study

4,891
CTE completers
earned NOCTI
scores that
indicate Career
Readiness

CTE students earned more than
14,000
industry-recognized credentials



>40%
of test takers taking an
AP® course
scored a 3 or higher,
making them eligible to
receive college credit

System Outcomes & Efficiencies

By assuming responsibilities of
the Department of Education & the Arts
and the Center for Professional Development,
the West Virginia Department of Education
realized a cost savings to the state of

> \$2.5 million

State Board
policies
reduced by
20%

Positions reduced by
466
with the elimination of the Department
of Education & the Arts and the Center
for Professional Development,
RESAs and OEPA

14,000
technology items have been donated to schools
in 47 counties, resulting in more than
\$4.6 million
in savings to the state



Emphasis on local
control • Increased
local flexibility
brings robust
responsibility

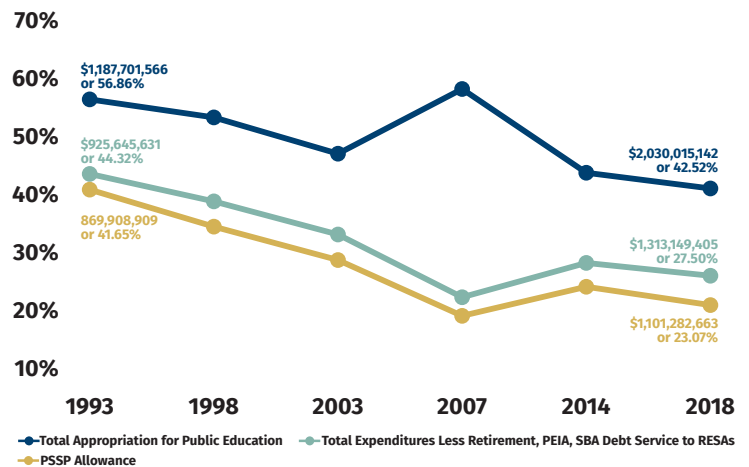
Public Education Snapshot

- **270,613 students in 680 public schools**
 - » 398 elementary schools
 - » 162 middle schools
 - » 120 high schools
- **23,773 professional educators (teachers and administrators)**
- **13,697 service personnel**
- **24 Career Technical Education centers, 7 multi-county centers**
- **21 education programs in juvenile centers within institutional programs**
- **119 students enrolled in West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind**

Public Education Funding

Dollars appropriated for public education as a percentage of total state appropriations have decreased from more than 56 percent in 1993 to just over 43 percent in 2018. Although enrollment has decreased throughout that same time period, population in West Virginia has also decreased.

Education as a Percentage of Total State Appropriations (General & Lottery Accounts)



Spending Per Student

in West Virginia (SY16-17)*:

\$11,705.75

State Aid Per Pupil:	\$4,004.56
State & Federal Grants, Property Taxes & Excess Levies:	\$6,594.44
Unfunded Teacher's Retirement Fund:	\$1,106.75

*When excluding the amount dedicated to the Unfunded Teacher's Retirement, West Virginia's actual spending per student is \$10,599, which puts WV in line with spending in Virginia (\$11,141), Ohio (\$10,669) and Kentucky (\$10,508).

.....
"Investing in our children should be a top priority for our state. We must ensure the funding formula provides adequate resources to school districts to provide a thorough and efficient education to all students."

– Tom Campbell

Average WV Teacher Salary (SY17-18): \$45,642.48

Average National Teacher Salary (SY17-18): \$59,660.00

Accomplishments

The West Virginia Board of Education and West Virginia Department of Education unveiled a unified strategic plan in November 2017. The Board and Department share a common vision of preparing and empowering all students to pursue knowledge for life, contribute to their community as responsible citizens and succeed in the workforce. The following pages summarize accomplishments during the 2017-18 school year organized within each of the overarching strategic goals.



Goal 1: Provide a high-quality learning system that encourages a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and skills.

West Virginia's General Summative Assessment

Following the passage of House Bill 2711 in April 2017, the West Virginia Department of Education successfully awarded a contract to American Institutes for Research (AIR) for the grade 3-8 assessment and selected College Board SAT School Day for the high school assessment through a competitive review process. Additionally, West Virginia was one of the first states to receive federal peer review approval for its alternate assessment. In spring 2018, 116,887 students in grades 3-8 took 389,943 tests in English language arts, math, science and writing, and 16,579 high school juniors took the SAT School Day assessment. Results from each assessment were made available to students shortly after test administration. Statewide results will be available in August 2018.

ESSA

The U.S. Department of Education approved West Virginia's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan in January 2018. West Virginia's plan details the foundational pieces of its public education system including content standards, the statewide assessment, the school accountability system and support for struggling schools. The plan also details how federal funds will be distributed to counties. Under the new ESSA framework, West Virginia eliminated the A-F accountability system and now provides a balanced approach to school accountability. Schools are provided with flexibility to determine the supports needed and ensure students are prepared to meet the demands of the growing economic and workforce needs.

"A key element of West Virginia's ESSA plan is an accountability system that provides parents and community members important insights into how their schools are performing. It is essential that this new accountability system is presented in a way that is easily understood and provides actionable feedback for stakeholders."

– Jim Wilson

High School Graduation

West Virginia continues to lead the nation with a high school graduation rate of 89.40 percent in 2016-17. This percentage ranks West Virginia third in the country for high school graduates. Several statewide initiatives contributed to this growth. Most notably the creation of the state’s Early Warning System, which tracks 45 different indicators – the most important being attendance, behavior and grades – to identify students at risk of dropping out. The system, which has been used since 2011, provides educators with easy access to data and research-based information to identify students at risk of dropping out.

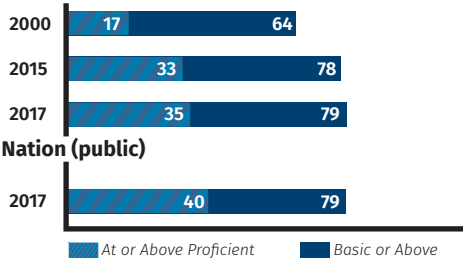
NAEP

West Virginia continues to see gains in student achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Students scoring at or above proficiency increased among fourth-grade students in reading and math and among eighth-grade students in math in 2017. West Virginia now ranks 37th in the country for the number of students in fourth grade who scored at or above the proficiency level in reading and ranks 40th in the country for the number of students in fourth grade who scored at or above the proficiency level in math. While results show there is still work to be done, West Virginia is on par with the nation for its students meeting acceptable achievement levels at Basic and above. It is also important to consider the sample of students tested. Eighty-six percent of West Virginia students tested within the NAEP sample in 2017 qualified for free or reduced lunch. Those students ranked fifth in the nation for fourth-grade math proficiency and ranked second in the nation for fourth-grade reading proficiency.

MATHEMATICS GRADE 4

Achievement-Level Percentages

West Virginia



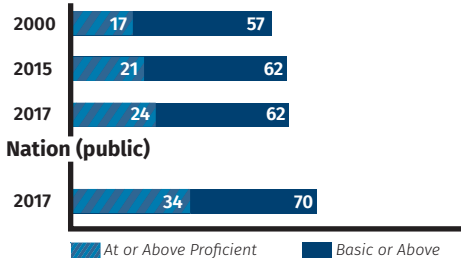
Nation (public)



MATHEMATICS GRADE 8

Achievement-Level Percentages

West Virginia



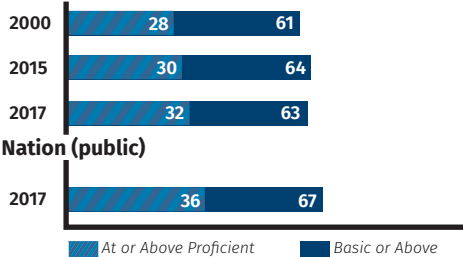
Nation (public)



READING GRADE 4

Achievement-Level Percentages

West Virginia



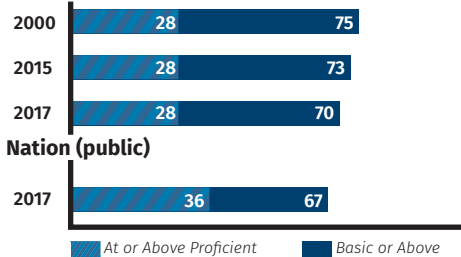
Nation (public)



READING GRADE 8

Achievement-Level Percentages

West Virginia



Nation (public)



*Proficient and above represents a rigorous standard denoting the students have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter. Basic represents a fundamental knowledge of content.

Early Childhood Education

A national leader in the area of early learning, West Virginia is one of only three states to offer high-quality preschool statewide for all four-year-olds. The program enrolled 76 percent of the state's four-year-olds, or about 15,550 children, in 2017-18. The National Institute for Early Education Research ranked West Virginia sixth in the nation for quality and access to early education programs. In December 2017, West Virginia received the State Pacesetter Award, a national recognition for being the first and only state to implement a statewide Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, which is the state's effort to close the literacy achievement gap for children ages birth through grade three.

Dual Credit

Fifty-two counties offer the opportunity to earn dual credit for courses taken at the high school level. Since 2013, the number of students enrolled in dual credit courses has increased by 83 percent. Of the students enrolled in 2018, 96.53 percent passed one or more dual credit courses.

State Board Policy 2510: Assuring Quality of Education - Regulations for Education Programs

The State Board of Education adopted revised Policy 2510 in January 2018 in an effort to make public education more efficient and effective for students, schools and teachers. The revised policy focuses on personalizing education to meet the needs of individual students while maintaining rigorous educational standards. Overall, the new policy reduces the minimum number of credits required to graduate from high school from 24 to 22 and gives counties flexibility in credits beyond 22. The policy now defines a 10-point statewide grading scale for high school students and allows school-sponsored extracurricular activities to fulfill physical education credits.

State Board Policy 2322: WV System of Support & Accountability

In June 2018, the State Board adopted Policy 2322, WV System of Support & Accountability, to include the accountability system outlined in West Virginia's ESSA plan. The new accountability system was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in January, and will replace the A-F system. All public schools will receive accountability ratings this fall, which will be reflective of performance data from the 2017-18 school year.

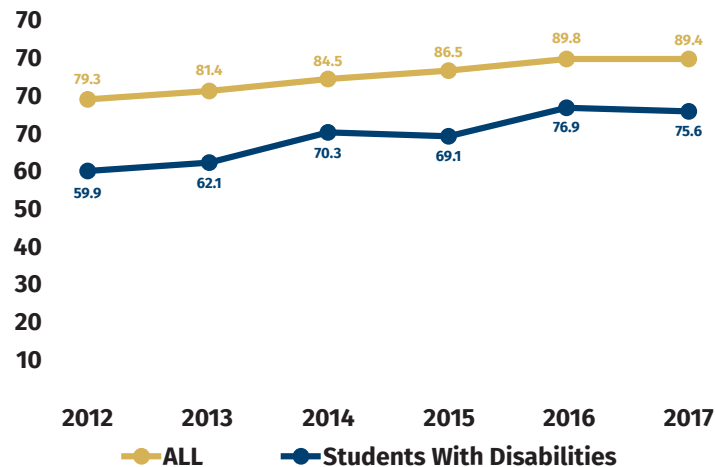
State Board Policy 2340: West Virginia Measures of Academic Progress

The Board also adopted Policy 2340, West Virginia Measures of Academic Progress, which reduces requirements for statewide assessments. The revised policy no longer requires the state to administer statewide assessments to students in grades 9 and 10 and outlines that students in grade 11 will be administered a college- and career-readiness exam. Additionally, seniors will no longer be required to retake the grade 11 college- and career-readiness test for not meeting the acceptable benchmark scores.

Graduation 20/20

The West Virginia Department of Education implemented a dropout prevention program known as Graduation 20/20 in 2015-16. Since its implementation, graduation rates among students with disabilities have improved by nearly 10 percent. Through the program, counties are provided with training, coaching and resources to help schools continuously monitor and support at-risk students. Currently, 63 percent of high schools participate in the effort and several middle and elementary schools have implemented pipeline programs.

WV Graduation Rates among ALL students and SWD 2012-2017



Advanced Placement®

In 2017, more than 43 percent of Advanced Placement (AP) exam takers scored a three or higher, which is an increase from 41.7 percent in 2015 and 41.9 percent in 2016. Students earning a three, four or five on their exams are eligible to receive college credit. Mineral, Monongalia and Preston counties were recognized by the College Board as part of the “AP District Honor Roll” which honors districts for increasing access to AP coursework while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of a three or higher on AP exams.

West Virginia Virtual Schools

The West Virginia Virtual School was created by the State Legislature in 2000 to assure consistent, high-quality education for students through online courses. This initiative promotes equity in course offerings while providing options for implementation across the public school system. In 2017, 6,650 students took 11,700 virtual courses. Additionally, several counties have their own full-time Virtual Instructional Programs (VIP). As of July 1, 2018, counties will annually provide a copy of their VIP policy, chosen virtual school providers and student participation by grade level, among other data as prescribed by Policy 2510.

National Board Certification

West Virginia’s support of National Board Certification (NBC) has placed the state in the upper echelon of states nationally. With 944 National Board Certified Teachers, the state is ranked 17th for the percentage of Board Certified Teachers per capita. Professional learning opportunities for those pursuing the credential include a thorough introduction of the process followed by a review of the NBC standards and components. While pursuing the certification, teachers receive sustained and structured support from an expert NBC mentor. As a result, 73 percent of those participating in the professional learning program successfully achieve NBC.

Goal 2: Provide a high-quality learning system that promotes a culture of responsibility, personal well-being and community engagement.

Child Nutrition

West Virginia ranks first in the nation for school breakfast participation for the fourth year in a row. Fifty-three percent of all public school students participate in the program each day. West Virginia was recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food Research and Action Center for its progressive efforts surrounding school breakfast. In January 2018, the State Board of Education passed revised Policy 4321.1 to protect students against unpaid meal debt. In 2018, West Virginia Department of Education staff provided technical assistance to all 55 counties on the administration of federal child nutrition programs.

“We know that children who eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch perform better in school, have lower rates of absenteeism and tardiness, and enjoy a better quality of life. Our child nutrition programs can have an astonishing impact on the overall well-being of students.”

– Debra Sullivan



Alternative Certification

State Board of Education Policy 5901 allows counties to develop alternative certification programs to help fill teaching vacancies. Currently, 52 districts have state-approved alternative certification plans, and 26 have implemented their programs. Since 2016, 97 additional teachers are in the classroom as a result of participating in the alternative certification program.

Physical Education

More than 1,000 teachers throughout the state were trained by the West Virginia Department of Education to integrate physical activity into their classrooms. Additionally, more than 2,500 students participated in the Operation Tone-up program that empowers youth with nutrition and exercise knowledge to improve their health.

Aspiring Leaders

The West Virginia Department of Education, in partnership with the West Virginia Association of School Administrators, held seven on-site professional learning sessions for new and aspiring superintendents during the 2017-18 school year. As part of the academy, participants worked in an online portal to stay connected and continue learning between sessions. Approximately 75 people attended each of the monthly sessions, and 22 individuals completed the entire program receiving AASA certification.

Professional Learning

The West Virginia Department of Education transitioned professional learning to the local level based on needs identified through survey data. During school year 2017-18, the Department provided hundreds of on-site professional learning visits, positively impacting thousands of teachers, administrators and students.

Goal 3: Provide a high-quality learning system that responds to workforce and economic demands.

Office of Governor's Economic Initiatives

The Office of Governor's Economic Initiatives was created in 2017 by Dr. Steven Paine to serve as a liaison between business communities and education sectors. The newly established office has spent the last year focused on developing a targeted, efficient and convenient approach to creating high quality technical education environments aligned to workforce needs. The office will continue to explore what policy changes might be needed to meet West Virginia's workforce demands and reach out to leading industry experts via the Department of Commerce and local communities to ensure career pathways focus on current and future employment needs.

» Governor's Workforce Credential

Four hundred thirty-one Career Technical Education students earned the second annual Governor's Workforce Credential in 2018. Students were honored for meeting or exceeding rigorous criteria that measures applicable real-world and work-readiness skills in their CTE programs.



» State Parks Partnership

In November 2017, the West Virginia Department of Education signed an interagency agreement with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to enable students in Career Technical Education programs to gain authentic work experiences while helping to revitalize West Virginia's state parks, many of which have not been updated in 30 years. Student-led companies, as part of the Simulated Workplace program, will utilize their technical skills at 35 state parks and seven state forests. Students completed more than 500 projects during school year 2017-18 including construction projects, repair of HVAC systems and restoration of bathhouses.



Workforce Readiness

Reaching students at a critical point in their education is key to the success of the Simulated Workplace. This initiative has transformed the traditional career classroom into a workplace culture administering distinct business practices dedicated to student empowerment through career skills development. By making this transformation, students have been afforded additional opportunities to work within their local communities. West Virginia's Simulated Workplace programs are preparing students for future workforce needs.

Thirty-seven percent of the 2018 graduating class completed at least one career technical education program of study. In 2018, students earned more than 14,000 industry-recognized credentials in the areas of welding, hospitality, automotive, information technology, OSHA, manufacturing, construction and early childhood education.



SIMULATED WORKPLACE



.....
“West Virginia’s economy is only as strong as the workforce. It is imperative that students leave the West Virginia public education system career and college ready, thereby prepared to lead the Mountain State as the next generation of highly skilled workers, innovators and entrepreneurs.”

– Scott Rotruck

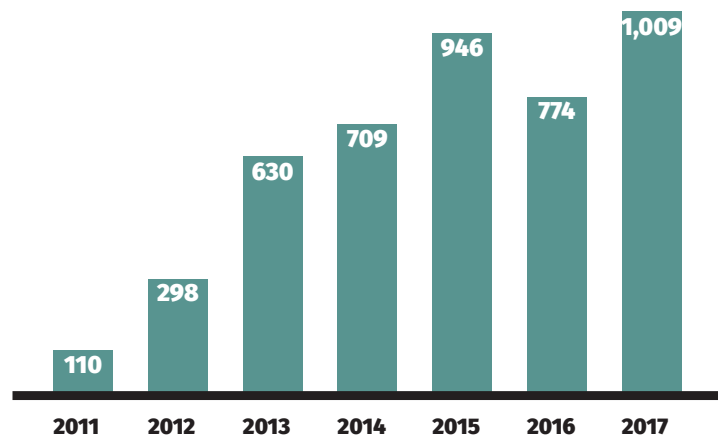
Career Technical Assessment

In 2018, 4,891 Career Technical Education completers earned a score on their technical assessment (NOCTI) that indicates they are career-ready and have the appropriate skill sets to enter the workforce. Of those 4,891 students, 1,869 earned college credit by achieving an exemplary score on the NOCTI assessment.

Option Pathway

The Department of Education’s Option Pathway Program is a course correction for students who have veered from their academic track and are in jeopardy of dropping out of high school. In place since 2010, the program has helped more than 5,000 at-risk students earn their high school diploma or high school equivalency degree. The program is designed for students who are one or more years behind their 9th grade cohort, and/or age inappropriate according to their grade level. The impact of the Option Pathway is significant as the number of participating students who have graduated has increased more than 10-fold between 2011 and 2017.

Option Pathway Graduates 2010-2017



Adult Education

Today's workplace presents numerous opportunities and challenges for adults in West Virginia. Employers need workers with a strong foundation of skills and an ability to adapt to change. Adult Education programs play an important role in fostering productive employment, effective citizenship, personal and family growth, self-esteem and dignity for adult learners. Of the more than 10,000 adults enrolled, more than 20 percent have earned an employment-related certificate. Additionally, West Virginia's passage rate on the high school equivalency exam (TASC) of 77.04 percent is the highest among all the states using the TASC.

"We must ensure our students are prepared to succeed in today's competitive academic and professional marketplace. Graduating from high school is a strong positive indicator of a brighter future for our students and our state."

– Joe Wallace

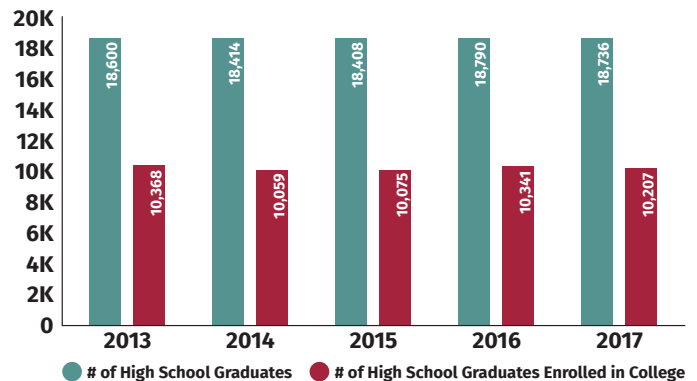
Institutional Education

The Department of Education's Office of Diversion and Transition Programs (ODTP) provides educational services to over 6,000 juveniles and adults in residential and other state operated facilities and is one of only three states that have all correctional facilities accredited by the Correctional Education Association. Last year, ODTP worked on prevention of truancy and juvenile justice involvement in Putnam, Lincoln, Monongalia and Harrison Counties resulting in more than 70 Option Pathway graduates who were at-risk for juvenile justice involvement. In 2018, work will expand in Boone, Wood and Marion counties.

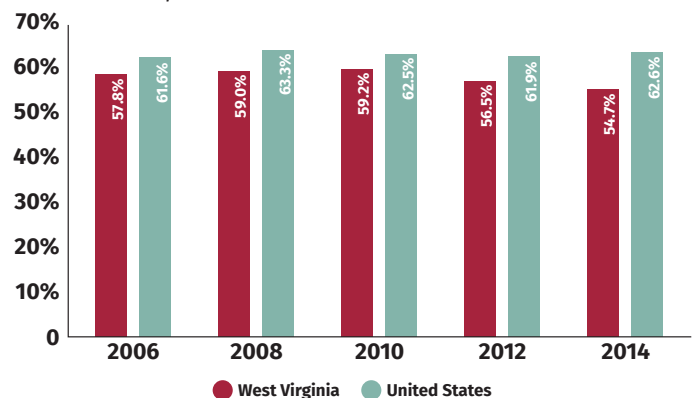
College-Going Rate

Of the 18,736 students who graduated from public or private high schools in West Virginia during 2016-17, an estimated 10,207 (54.5 percent) enrolled in higher education institutions in the fall 2017 semester.

West Virginia High School Graduates & Graduates Enrolling in College 2013-2017



College-Going Rates of Recent High School Graduates 2006-2014*



*latest data available



Looking Ahead

West Virginia Summer Summit for Educational Excellence



In an effort to provide data-driven professional learning and support to enhance standards-focused teaching and learning, the West Virginia Department of Education is facilitating the West Virginia Summit for Educational Excellence in July and August 2018. The Summits will bring together more than 2,000 educators from across the state to participate in a weeklong professional learning session.

.....
“Today’s students face many challenges outside of schoolwork. The opioid crisis hits West Virginia especially hard, and we are taking every possible step to keep students safe and healthy so they can reach their highest potential.”

.....
– Miller Hall

Math for Life Campaign

In response to unsatisfactory math achievement, the West Virginia Department of Education is establishing Math for Life: West Virginia’s Pre-K–Grade 12 Campaign for Mathematics Achievement. The campaign is a comprehensive effort to elevate mathematics achievement for all students and will ultimately work to close the mathematics achievement gap. The campaign comprises two parts:

Part One: Increased Mathematics Student Achievement

- a. Data-driven decision-making to support mathematics
- b. County leadership engagement
- c. Extended learning opportunities

Part Two: Student and Community Engagement

- a. Statewide marketing campaign
- b. Countywide communications plan
- c. Professional learning supports focused on mathematics achievement
- d. Funding

Opioid Crisis

The West Virginia Department of Education is coordinating a Leadership Advisory Team focused on the opioid crisis. The advisory team will bring together key stakeholders to support public schools in addressing the needs of the students affected by this epidemic.

Office of District & School Advancement

The Office of District and School Advancement was created following the elimination of the Office of Educational Performance Audits (OEPA) to continue the legacy of the Recht decision to assist districts with continuous improvement. The Office will utilize a system of accreditation, which considers multiple measures of effectiveness and performance to provide a comprehensive view of success and challenges.



Increasing Education Efficiency

The West Virginia Legislature passed House Bill 4006, which dissolved the Department of Education and the Arts in an effort to restructure education programming for the sake of coordinated delivery and gaining efficiencies. Since the time of the bill's passing, the West Virginia Department of Education has worked collaboratively and proactively to seamlessly transition vital programs including:

- Advanced Placement Training
- National Board Certification
- New Principals' Academy
- Governor's Schools
- Imagination Library

Moving forward, the West Virginia Department of Education is working to enhance and expand programs previously offered under the Department of Education and the Arts, while providing cost savings to the state.

Principal Leadership

In partnership with current principals across the state and in response to districts' needs, the West Virginia Department of Education is developing a Comprehensive Principal Development Institute to meet the needs of aspiring, beginning and experienced principals. The Institute will focus on how instructional leadership can make a difference in increasing student achievement and providing a safe learning environment for all students.

.....
“It is our responsibility to develop principals from within and build a pipeline of future school leadership so each of our schools is equipped for success.”

– David Perry
.....



Technology Model Schools

Fifteen schools were selected in spring 2018 to receive a three-year grant from the West Virginia Department of Education to transform their schools into technology model schools through creativity, innovation, community connections and school-wide initiatives. Currently, schools are working to launch projects to bring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education to all of their students and teachers. Schools will also work with their communities to find opportunities that the students they serve most need to develop into college- and-career ready adults. Common initiatives are Maker Spaces, coding and robotics. Specialized initiatives are hydroponics, entrepreneurship and aviation technologies.

Remediation

According to data from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), nearly one-third of public school students required remediation at the college level. Efforts underway to address issues of low achievement include:

- » *HEPC Partnership for Co-Requisite Math*
This project will develop students' math acumen and allow them to be placed into credit-bearing, college-level coursework.
- » *Co-Requisite Expansion*
Thanks to Benedum funding to HEPC, co-requisite math programs will be expanded into other content areas.
- » *Technical Transition Math*
Math and CTE teachers are working together to develop a Technical Transition Math for Seniors course geared specifically toward students exploring technical credentials and careers.
- » *Changes to Policy 2510*
Beginning with the incoming high school freshmen class, students will be required to take a math course each year of high school.

Advanced Career Education (ACE)

Simulated Workplace-Advanced Career Education (ACE), or the 13th Year, provides graduated high school students with specific, economically targeted, workforce training that builds upon prior technical knowledge needed to secure rewarding careers. Workforce's demand for a more highly qualified applicant has led West Virginia to create the 13th Year, where students gain advanced credentials and licenses, earn potential college credits, and enhance technical skills, all while remaining at their local Career Technical Education center.

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

The West Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Student Advisory Council is a statewide, student team that was established to provide a voice for public school students and to present the interests of students to administrative and policy-making bodies. The Council is composed of seventh- through eleventh-grade students from across the state.



On May 3, 2018, 17 students assembled to participate in the first Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting to discuss school safety. West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven Paine, met with students for more than two hours discussing safety and other student concerns.

Moving forward, Dr. Paine will assemble various groups of students to uncover insights and make students a part of the education conversation. Actionable insights will be shared with policymakers and community members to affect change.

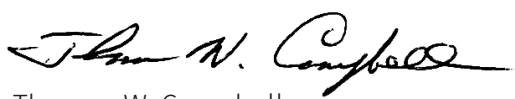


Conclusion

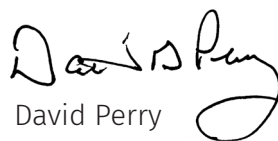
We are achieving better results because of the alignment among our State Board, Governor Justice's office, the West Virginia Legislature and our districts. Together, we are holding ourselves accountable for the kind of results that fuel continuous improvement. We value and respect the work of our teachers, our principals and our students. However, we know our work is never complete. Collectively, we must strive to improve student achievement with the ultimate goal of providing a world-class education for all students.

We look ahead to several major initiatives directly tied to student achievement. The first is an aggressive campaign to improve performance among all students in math. West Virginia students have struggled with math for too long. Under Dr. Paine's leadership and with support from each district, we are launching a campaign specifically targeted at improving math achievement. Additionally, in partnership with current principals, we are developing a Comprehensive Principal Development Institute to meet the needs of aspiring, beginning and experienced principals. The Institute will focus on how instructional leadership can make a difference in increasing student achievement and providing a safe learning environment for all students. Finally, in an effort to provide professional learning and support to enhance teaching and learning, the West Virginia Department of Education is facilitating a Summit for Educational Excellence, which will bring together more than 2,000 educators this summer in Morgantown and Charleston. Finally, investing in our children should be a top priority. We must ensure the funding formula provides adequate resources to school districts to provide a thorough and efficient education to all students.

Today's students are the lifeblood of West Virginia's economy. It is our responsibility to ensure each of them receives a quality education to prepare them for success as tomorrow's innovators.



Thomas W. Campbell
President, West Virginia Board of Education



David Perry
Vice President, West Virginia Board of Education





Steven L. Paine, Ed.D.
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools