

West Virginia

ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Education



2006

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Lowell E. Johnson, President
West Virginia Board of Education



Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools

West Virginia Board of Education

Members of the West Virginia Board of Education believe that their key goal is to prepare students to not only live and work in the 21st century but to thrive. The 12-member board develops and updates policies related to academics, health and wellness, nutrition, technology, teacher professional development, facilities and much more. We want to engage and challenge all children so that they can compete and succeed in the global economy.

While we may lay the foundation for learning, we look to county boards of education and local school systems, communities and parents to implement our vision. Parent involvement is fundamental to a healthy public education system. We believe strong partnerships between homes and schools are so important that we directed Superintendent Paine to create the Parent Community Task Force to foster parental involvement statewide.

As board members, we are humbled by the dedication of the administrators, principals and teachers in West Virginia. West Virginia is leading the way in an education revolution as we implement 21st century learning and again we look to educators and parents to collaborate with us to assure that we graduate students who are part of the best prepared generation in our history.



21st Century Learning

The West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education have embarked on a great 21st century adventure to change not only what we teach but how we teach from preschool to high school. Yesterday's three R's — reading, writing and arithmetic — now must incorporate today's three R's — rigor, relevance and results.

As the world becomes more competitive and complex, our nation's future depends on the education of our young people.

West Virginia is committed to closing the gap between the knowledge and skills students learn in school and the knowledge and skills they need for the 21st century work place. We must place an emphasis on math, science, English and languages. But we also must teach global awareness, civics, business, finance, economics and problem-solving and analytical skills.

For more information about the 21st Century Learning Initiative or for information on any of our other programs, visit our Web site at <http://wvde.state.wv.us>



Technology

Technology is at the core of 21st century learning. As the state Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education prepare educators to teach in a 21st century classroom, technology will serve as a powerful tool. While technology cannot replace a good teacher, both the board and the department recognize that teachers need the new delivery tools technology offers to reach today's Nintendo generation and teach 21st century skills.

Today's classroom has to be engaging where students are actively involved in their own learning. Today's students use multimedia to learn interactively and to work on class projects. They use the Internet to do research, engage in projects and to communicate. The new technologies allow students to have more control over their own learning, to think analytically and critically and to work collaboratively.

For more information about educational technology or any other educational topic or achievement, visit our Web site at <http://wvde.state.wv.us>

Successes

Through the work of local school systems, the West Virginia Department of Education and other education stakeholders, the West Virginia Board of Education realized many successes. Achievements in 2006 – 2007 include:

- To complement the professional development of district leaders, the state Department of Education and the state Board of Education launched year-long Principal Leadership Institutes as well as Teacher Leadership Institutes.
- About 85 percent of West Virginia schools received a passing mark on the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) report card this year. About 607 of nearly 710 schools accountable under NCLB met adequate yearly progress (AYP).
- The number of West Virginia public school students taking college-level Advanced Placement courses nearly doubled since 2001. Last year, 3,438 public school students took an AP exam, compared to 2,329 in 2001, an increase of nearly 50 percent.
- Thirty-six West Virginia Reading First schools improved student achievement by as much as 41 percent in two years, which is one of the best rates in the country.
- West Virginia schools were ranked by Education Week's *Quality Counts 2007* as second in the nation for the state's cumulative average in standards and accountability, teacher quality, school climate, equity and spending.
- West Virginia was ranked by Education Week's *Technology Counts 2006* Report as the top state for computer access, data use and technology capacity in schools across the state.
- West Virginia high schools are graduating a greater percentage of students than the national average. The state's graduation rate is 72.8 percent, compared to 69.6 percent nationally, according to Education Week's *Diplomas Count: An Essential Guide to Graduation Policy and Rates*.
- West Virginia was ranked sixth in the nation by *The State of Preschool: 2006* for providing access to state-funded early childhood education for 4-year-old children.

Accomplishments

The West Virginia Board of Education reviewed and updated about 10 school policies during the 2006 – 2007 school year. A few of the more significant policy amendments include:

■ **Policy 2510:** *Assuring Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs.* This policy aligns programs of study with the rigor and relevance of 21st century learning; eliminates the entry level pathway; adds an online learning course prior to graduation; requires all high schools offer a minimum of four AP courses; and recommends that all middle school students complete a technology course. The policy also increases graduation requirements to include four units of math, transition college English and math courses for all students not meeting college benchmark assessment standards, a science sequence for all students, including biology and chemistry, and four units of social studies. It also recommends a senior project before graduation.

■ **Policy 2520.4 – 2520.12; 2520.35; and 2520.55:** *21st Century Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools.* Instructional areas addressed in the updates include social studies, health, physical education, foreign languages, drivers education, dance, music, theater, visual art, science 9-12 and wellness PreK-4.

All content areas include updates to add 21st century content standards and objectives. They also incorporate higher level thinking skills and establish an improved alignment with national and international assessments, including the ACT and SAT college entrance exams, the National Assessment for Education Progress (NAEP), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). The policy updates also for the first time provide teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities guidance for instruction in content areas that align with state standards and objectives.



■ **Policy 2419:** *Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities.* This policy reduced the number of identified special education students and created a more flexible system of assignments to teachers based on levels of student needs and not area of disability.

■ **Policy 2525:** *West Virginia's Access to a Quality Early Education System.* This policy outlined health and safety requirements with new language regarding the HealthCheck protocol, increased program availability requirements, including offering each preschool class a minimum of 16 hours per week and a maximum of 28 hours per week during the school year calendar for no less than 108 instructional days.

■ **Policy 3233:** *Establishment and Operation of Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs).* This policy established additional internal controls and accountability measures regarding financial practices and allows RESAs additional time to develop strategic plans.

■ **Policy 5100:** *Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation.* This policy ensures that teacher preparation programs include at least one three-credit course on technology integration and reflects changes in state legislation to allow student teaching in non-public schools, among other revisions.

Serving Students



Delores W. Cook
Vice President



Robert W. Dunlevy
Member



Burma Hatfield
Member



Lowell E. Johnson
President

MISSION

The West Virginia Board of Education establishes policies and rules to assure implementation of education goals and to ensure the general supervision, oversight and monitoring of a thorough and efficient educational system.



Priscilla M. Haden
Secretary



Barbara N. Fish
Member



Ronald B. Spencer
Member



Jenny N. Phillips
Member



Gayle C. Manchin
Member