



On July 29, 2026, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) will host its first annual Middle School Conference, marking the official launch of *West Virginia Middle Schools—Bridging the Future*. The initiative is designed to strengthen middle-level education through high-quality professional learning and targeted support, enabling schools to effectively implement proven middle school practices, including expanding career and technical education (CTE) resources and opportunities.

The West Virginia Standards for Effective Instruction – The Middle School Edition

The West Virginia Standards for Effective Schools provide a framework of evidence-based practices that, when implemented, lead to successful student outcomes. All WVDE professional learning and resources are designed to align with these standards. The new *Middle School Edition* illustrates how effective practices are enacted in middle school settings.

- **Foundational Standards** - Promote a Supportive Environment for Adolescents so Learning Can Occur
- **Leadership Standards** - Support a Growth Mindset for Staff and Students and Emphasize Learning for All
- **Instructional Standards** - Establish a Framework for Effective Instruction, Intervention, and Enrichment

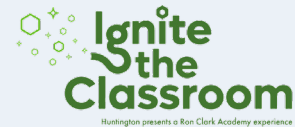
West Virginia Middle Level Learning Advisory Team

An advisory team of experienced middle school practitioners has been established to provide ongoing input regarding field-based needs, effective supports, and proven strategies that have demonstrated success in improving outcomes in middle school settings across the state. The team will guide efforts to establish a strong middle school network to support the implementation of sustainable practices that meet the needs of middle-level learners.

Examples of targeted supports designed to strengthen middle-level learning

Ignite the Classroom

A targeted cohort of middle school educators will participate in immersive learning at the Ron Clark Academy, focusing on high-impact strategies that inspire student engagement, strengthen classroom culture, and elevate classroom practice.



Spark the Network

A statewide middle school conference, followed by a middle school podcast, webinars, and newsletters, will foster collaboration, spark innovation, and provide ongoing professional learning while intentionally building a sustainable network of educators dedicated to the continuous improvement and implementation of effective middle-level practices.

Fuel the Learning

New interdisciplinary, standards-based instructional lessons will emphasize relevance and purpose through embedded career exploration, while helping students make meaningful connections between learning and their futures.