Welcome Back!

West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven Paine issued a statement on March 6, 2018:

“It truly is a great day for education in West Virginia. I am pleased that our students, teachers and service personnel will return to school on Wednesday, March 7 following action taken by Governor Justice and the West Virginia legislature. I know our teachers and service personnel look forward to returning to complete another successful school year…”

Message from the WVDE School Counseling Coordinator - I heard stories of so many of you who continued to “work” during the strike. Many of you were involved in outreach efforts to provide food and other resources to students and their families, some of you were entering PROMISE data from home, and others took time to meet with students in public locations around your community to help them complete the FASFA and PROMISE applications. I want to recognize and applaud your heart, your grit, and your work ethic! I know after missing nine consecutive days of school, you have a lot of “catching up” to do but I also know that each of you is probably glad to be back to work and I’m sure your students are glad to be back to school as well. So, welcome back!

Intervention IDEAs for Youth Impacted by Opioids

In response to concerns and requests from school administrators, counselors, and teachers, the West Virginia Department of Education has identified a resource that outlines interventions that can improve outcomes for students who are affected by the opioid epidemic. This document, developed by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs, highlights suggested practices that can be performed by a parent or a teacher, as well as programs that may be carried out by a school counselor, school psychologist, or therapist. The table in this document presents the name of each intervention or category of interventions, a brief description of the intervention, and examples of specific actions associated with the intervention. [https://osepideasthatwork.org/sites/default/files/IDEAslIssBrief-Opioids-508.pdf](https://osepideasthatwork.org/sites/default/files/IDEAslIssBrief-Opioids-508.pdf)

WV HELP – Smartphone App

West Virginia Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, in partnership with the West Virginia Children’s Justice Program, has developed a smartphone application called WV HELP, which provides quick access to contact information for various offices involved with protecting children and dealing with substance abuse. WV HELP provides information for each of West Virginia’s 55 counties, and also at the state and federal level. This app is free and available in the iTunes store, and is downloadable for iPhones, as well as Android and Windows phones.

To use the app, simply select your county, choose a resource, and hit call to be connected to the given resource. WV HELP allows you to save resources as your favorite to provide even faster access in the future. This app is strongly recommended for law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, victim advocates, school counselors, teachers, and child advocacy centers.
Training and Professional Development

- **WV Comprehensive School Counseling Program** – Register by March 13, 2018
  Counselors working in West Virginia schools now have the opportunity to participate in the WVDE e-Learning course, *West Virginia Comprehensive School Counseling Programs: Design and Implementation*. The purpose of this course is to assist counselors in the field with designing comprehensive school counseling programs that are aligned with the WV School Counseling Model and demonstrate comprehension of program development steps and sequence as presented in the ASCA National Model. Registration for the course will remain open through March 13, 2018. Courses are scheduled to begin on March 14, 2018. There must be a minimum of 10 participants for the course to be held. Please go to [http://wvlearns.k12.wv.us/](http://wvlearns.k12.wv.us/) to register. Your login and password are the same credentials that you use when you login to your email account/WebTop/Office 65.

- **Applied Improvisation with Veterans, Families, and Clients of Trauma** – May 5, 2018 (Uptown Event Center, Clarksburg, WV)
  As mental health practitioners search for effective techniques in supporting veterans, their family members, and other clients who have experienced trauma, many are now turning to the theater technique of improvisation. Through the discussion of the “Rules of Improvisation” and interactive exercises, participants will gain cutting-edge information, and gain practical tools for helping support veterans, their family members and other clients of trauma and stress-related disorders. Techniques will explore working with individual clients, culminating with the integration of clients into groups for maximum therapeutic benefit. Register by March 31, 2018 to receive the early bird rate of $40. Online registration is available at: [https://appliedimprovwithveterans.eventbright.com](https://appliedimprovwithveterans.eventbright.com) *VA APPROVED by the WV Board of Examiners in Counseling for 4 CEUs

- **KidStrong Conference**—June 21-22, 2018 (Charleston Civic Center, Charleston, WV)
  The registration for the 15th annual 2018 KidStrong Conference is open. The tentative conference agenda is posted at the top of the page. Registration, including breaks and lunch, will be FREE to all West Virginia school personnel, school-based health center staff and state and public health department staff working with schools. Conference topics include substance abuse prevention, mental health supports, safe and supportive schools, school nursing, school-based health, immunizations, oral health, school counseling, nutrition, physical education, health education, physical activity for classroom teachers and reproductive health. *CEUs and Graduate Credit Available

- **Student Success Summit**—July 25-26, 2018 (Waterfront Hotel, Morgantown, WV)
  Anyone working to improve educational outcomes in West Virginia is encouraged to attend. That includes individuals working in the fields of elementary and secondary education; postsecondary education; career technical education; military service and training; workforce development; college access and success; and student and family services. More information can be found at [http://cfwvconnect.com/student-success-summit/](http://cfwvconnect.com/student-success-summit/). *CEUs Available

  **Call for Proposals:** The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the WVDE, and the Office of Secretary Education and The Arts are seeking presentation proposals for the 2018 Student Success Summit. The theme of the 2018 Summit is "Navigating Success: Students today, leaders tomorrow."

  If you are interested in presenting during the Summit, please complete and submit the form found at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018SSSProposals](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018SSSProposals) no later than Friday, March 16, 2018. Collaborative presentations are highly encouraged. Presentation selections will be announced by mid-March.
Higher Education Policy Commission Extends PROMISE Scholarship Application Deadline

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) announced today it is extending the application deadline for Fall 2018 PROMISE scholarships to Friday, March 30, 2018. Some students reported they had difficulty completing their PROMISE applications by the earlier deadline due to the statewide public school work stoppage, and legislators and the governor asked the Commission to provide relief, said HEPC Chancellor Dr. Paul L. Hill.

“Students are encouraged to go out now and complete the PROMISE application (www.cfwv.com/PROMISE) and the FAFSA (www.fafsa.gov), which are both available for students to complete if they have not done so already,” said Brian Weingart, senior director of financial aid. “Any students who have questions or need assistance applying for the PROMISE scholarship and any other financial aid may contact our office.”

The Office of Financial Aid and Outreach Services may be reached toll-free at 877-987-7664 or by emailing PROMISE@wvhepc.edu. Additional information about all financial aid programs available to students may be found on the College Foundation of West Virginia website at www.CFWV.com.

FASFA Completion

As of February 23, 2018, 44.7% of West Virginia high school seniors have completed a FAFSA. You will find updated FAFSA completion rates by West Virginia high schools at the following link: http://www.cfwvconnect.com/financial-aid-outreach/ffasa-completion-rates/.

Congratulations to the following schools for already meeting our 63% FAFSA completion goal by April 15, 2018:

- Bluefield High School
- Bridgeport High School
- Buffalo High School
- Central Catholic High School
- Charleston Catholic High School
- Faith Christian Academy - Berkeley
- Harman Elementary/High School
- Liberty High School (Raleigh County)
- Paw Paw High School
- Weirton Madonna High School
- Williamstown High School

Jim Bailey Memorial Scholarship

Jim Bailey, past Transportation Director of Roane County Schools, was a very active member of the West Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation. He also worked on the national level to help provide the safest transportation for our children. In memory of Jim Bailey, this scholarship was established to provide assistance to students of West Virginia who attend post-secondary vocational and technical programs. Since the inception of this scholarship program in 1999, the number of students to receive assistance has grown from 1 to approximately 12 and the amount of the scholarship has increased to $600.00.

While we are constantly striving to provide the safest transportation for our students, it is our desire to assist with the education of our students by providing financial aid for those deserving students who wish to pursue opportunities beyond high school. Please make the scholarship application available to the students who could benefit from this award and encourage them to submit. The application is also available at www.wvapt.org. You may even wish to recommend a student by submitting a letter along with the application. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2018. If you require any additional information, please feel free to call Sherry Sadler at 304-733-3015.
Grant Opportunities

LifeSkills Training - Available for Drug and Violence Prevention Program (Grades 6-9)
The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado Boulder is offering a three-year non-competitive grant to replicate the evidence-based LifeSkills Training (LST) program beginning in fall 2019. Priority will be given to those applications received by March 30, 2018 with a grant deadline of October 18, 2018.

For additional information on the LifeSkills Training (LST) program: http://www.lifeskillstraining.com  For details about the LifeSkills Training (LST) program grant: https://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/lst-grant

HighMark Foundation Grant and Award Opportunities
The Highmark Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2018-2019 School Grant and Awards Program. The goal of the program is to create healthier school environments that show evidence of positive, sustainable and lasting change through comprehensive strategies. The Foundation’s School Grant and Awards Program are:

School Grant Program funding supports evidence-based programs that address one of four priority areas: bullying prevention, child injury prevention, environmental health or healthy eating and physical activity.

To complete the Highmark Foundation’s School Grant and Awards Program applications, please create an account and follow the instructions to submit an application. All applications must be submitted online. Please contact Cathy McAlister of HighMark at cathy.mcalister@highmarkhealth.org for further information.

FERPA Tip – Health or Safety Emergency Exception

Schools must be prepared to respond when a dangerous incident occurs. In some cases, school staff may also be able to take action to prevent people from carrying out plans to hurt members of the school community or others. When school officials become aware that a student is planning an action that could harm someone—whether on school premises or off—they may release information about that student to local law enforcement or other appropriate parties.

The “health or safety emergency” exception to FERPA allows staff to release personally identifiable information from a student’s record without consent if doing so may be necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. Such disclosures must be related to a specific impending or imminent emergency. School officials, including a threat assessment team, may determine that there is an “articulable and significant threat” that necessitates the disclosure of information. The following item from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) explains that term means and specifies that USED will not second guess school officials who have rational basis for making that determination. (Note that this same exception applies when a student may be planning to harm himself or herself. School staff may take action to release information that may prevent student self-harm or suicide.)

What does “articulable and significant threat” mean?

The phrase “articulable and significant threat” means that a school official is able to explain, based on all the information available at the time, what the significant threat is under § 99.36 when he or she makes and records the disclosure. For instance, if a school official believes that a student poses a significant threat, such as a threat of substantial bodily harm to any person, including to the student, then, under FERPA, the school official may disclose personally identifiable information (PII) from the student’s education records without consent to any person whose knowledge of the information will assist in protecting a person from that threat. This is a flexible standard under which school administrators may bring appropriate resources to bear on the situation. If, based on the information available at the time of the determination, there is a rational basis for the educational agency’s or institution’s decisions about the nature of the emergency and the appropriate parties to whom the information should be disclosed, the Department will not substitute its judgment for that of the school in evaluating the circumstances and making its determination.