

## Common Ground Compact Signing Event - Fact Sheet



### **What is the mission of Common Ground?**

Our mission is to enhance the capacity of schools to ensure student success. Our partnership contributes to developing strong communities with a productive, civically active and well-educated workforce. Common Ground partners focus on ensuring that all students graduate from high school, college and career ready.

### **What is the significance of this mission?**

Our ability to ensure that students receive a high-quality education, impacts our state and our nation's ability to safeguard economic and military security.

### **How does the Common Ground Compact accomplish this mission?**

The Compact creates a shared role among all parties as partners in developing our country's youth to become future leaders and humanitarians in their communities, state and nation. Together partners collaborate to raise awareness about programs, opportunities, resources and information which may be used to support successful outcomes for all students.

Specific ways in which the Common Ground Partnership is making a positive impact in schools and communities throughout West Virginia:

- 1. The Common Ground Speaker Series** provides school staff with a website that allows them to make requests to have military service members visit their school as guest speakers and provide support in addressing a variety of important topics. These topics include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Substance abuse prevention, bullying prevention, the importance of graduating from high school, career exploration, promoting literacy and patriotic events.

Our partnership believes that guest speaker appearances have the power to advance conversations about cooperation between community leaders, military personnel and school staff in efforts to provide resources, activities and experiences to children that will have a lasting impact on their lives.

- 2. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program** provides high-quality career exploration and planning materials at no cost to high schools.

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3. The **March 2 Success** website provides schools and students with free test preparation for the SAT and ACT.
4. The **Troops to Teachers** program provides a means for current and former military service members to begin careers as educators, share their expertise with students and meet needs for teachers in areas of critical shortage.
5. The **Drug Demand Reduction** program provides motivational and student focused substance abuse education, in efforts to combat the opioid epidemic and unsafe drug use.
6. **Prevent Suicide WV** provides partners and schools with trainings, resources and technical assistance for suicide prevention.
7. Provides unique opportunities for students to participate in activities which promote leadership and career related skills, such as those experienced in the **Civil Air Patrol**.
8. The **Military Interstate Children's Compact** addresses challenges that children of active duty military service members may face when relocating from a public school in one state to another state.

### How does Common Ground impact support for military families?

As part of our efforts to support all students, our partnership includes a special emphasis on supporting children in military families. Many children have immediate family members or relatives who have served to protect our country as military service members. The Common Ground Partnership's website includes information and resources designed to assist educators in their interactions with families as the service member leaves and returns from deployment(s). Together we can make a difference in meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of military-connected children.

### Who are Common Ground Partners?

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE); West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE); Jim Justice, Governor of the State of West Virginia; West Virginia National Guard; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus; Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh; United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia; Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley; West Virginia Civil Air Patrol; West Virginia Veterans Council; West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (WVPTA); and Prevent Suicide WV.

### Where may I find more information about the Common Ground Partnership and Compact?

One may access information about the partnership at <https://wvde.us/commonground/>.