

Guidance for Schools about the West Virginia Common Ground Partnership

West Virginia's Common Ground Partnership is designed to provide schools and school districts with additional resources for enhancing the success of students. It is critical that communities statewide have the capacity to ensure that students graduate high school, are prepared academically and socially for the demands of entering postsecondary education, and become part of a productive, civically active, and well-educated workforce. Accordingly, Common Ground will foster positive relationships between military service members, Common Ground partners, administrators, and school staff in efforts to assist our students in achieving their goals and experiencing positive outcomes.

Common Ground Speaker Series

The Common Ground Speaker Series is one way in which the partnership provides supplemental resources to schools which advance opportunities for



student success. The Common Ground website at wvde.us/commonground/ allows schools and school districts to request guest speakers who serve as content experts and deliver a positive message with regard to a variety of topics important to the life-long achievements of our children. These topics include career exploration, the importance of staying in school, promoting literacy, avoiding drug use, preventing bullying, the American Flag, and historic/patriotic events.

Contact from Guest Speakers

Military service members participating in the Common Ground Speaker Series as guest speakers are to be supervised by school staff at all times and are selected to meet requests in accordance with their familiarity of assigned topics. If you have questions about a speaker series request, contact Robert Mellace at 304.550.7771 or rmellace@k12.wv.us.

Guidance for Schools about the West Virginia Common Ground Partnership

West Virginia's Common Ground Partnership is designed to provide schools and school districts with additional resources for enhancing the success of students. It is critical that communities statewide have the capacity to ensure that students graduate high school, are prepared academically and socially for the demands of entering postsecondary education, and become part of a productive, civically active, and well-educated workforce. Accordingly, Common Ground will foster positive relationships between military service members, Common Ground partners, administrators, and school staff in efforts to assist our students in achieving their goals and experiencing positive outcomes.

Common Ground Speaker Series

The Common Ground Speaker Series is one way in which the partnership provides supplemental resources to schools which advance opportunities for



student success. The Common Ground website at wvde.us/commonground/ allows schools and school districts to request guest speakers who serve as content experts and deliver a positive message with regard to a variety of topics important to the life-long achievements of our children. These topics include career exploration, the importance of staying in school, promoting literacy, avoiding drug use, preventing bullying, the American Flag, and historic/patriotic events.

Contact from Guest Speakers

Military service members participating in the Common Ground Speaker Series as guest speakers are to be supervised by school staff at all times and are selected to meet requests in accordance with their familiarity of assigned topics. If you have questions about a speaker series request, contact Robert Mellace at 304.550.7771 or rmellace@k12.wv.us.

While Common Ground visits are not recruiting activities, as students receive information from Common Ground speakers and participate in career exploration or other activities, their interest in military careers may grow. The West Virginia Department of Education recognizes military careers as one of many valuable opportunities for students to experience success in life. West Virginia school districts are aware that the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Federal Law 106-398, and the Speaker Series section of our website provide guidance for military recruitment in schools. Individuals participating in the Common Ground Speaker Series are advised that if they would like to conduct recruiting events, they must first communicate with school administrators and appropriate school staff to confirm that the activities are approved by the school district.



School Resources

The Common Ground website and its partners offer a variety of resources for schools in support of success for all students. These resources include information about SAT, ACT and ASVAB (a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success) test preparation. Students may access information about joining exciting peer group activities, such as the Civil Air Patrol and Youth Leader's Camp. Schools may also discover programs and initiatives aimed specifically at supporting military children and their families.



Questions? Contact Robert Mellace at 304.558.7010 or rmellace@k12.wv.us or Stephanie Hayes at 304.558.3199 or stephanie.hayes@k12.wv.us.

While Common Ground visits are not recruiting activities, as students receive information from Common Ground speakers and participate in career exploration or other activities, their interest in military careers may grow. The West Virginia Department of Education recognizes military careers as one of many valuable opportunities for students to experience success in life. West Virginia school districts are aware that the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Federal Law 106-398, and the Speaker Series section of our website provide guidance for military recruitment in schools. Individuals participating in the Common Ground Speaker Series are advised that if they would like to conduct recruiting events, they must first communicate with school administrators and appropriate school staff to confirm that the activities are approved by the school district.



School Resources

The Common Ground website and its partners offer a variety of resources for schools in support of success for all students. These resources include information about SAT, ACT and ASVAB (a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success) test preparation. Students may access information about joining exciting peer group activities, such as the Civil Air Patrol and Youth Leader's Camp. Schools may also discover programs and initiatives aimed specifically at supporting military children and their families.



Questions? Contact Robert Mellace at 304.558.7010 or rmellace@k12.wv.us or Stephanie Hayes at 304.558.3199 or stephanie.hayes@k12.wv.us.