



# WV GUIDEPOSTS to GRADUATION



## ► BACKGROUND

In 2014, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), as part of a revised accountability system under the IDEA, required that all states develop and report annually on results for a state systemic improvement plan (SSIP). States must report progress toward their state-identified measurable result (SiMR) and provide website links for the theory of action, logic model, and evaluation plan. Each state is also expected to use continuous improvement cycles to identify gaps, analyze systems, and implement evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) has chosen to focus on improving graduation and post-school outcomes for students with disabilities.

## ► CURRENT WVDE SIMR STATEMENT

86% of West Virginia students with disabilities will graduate with a regular diploma by June 2025.

## ► DATA COLLECTION AND PROGRESS MONITORING

Based on new federal government reporting requirements, the current SiMR must be measured using special education data submitted as required by Section 618 of IDEA. This change means that SSIP reporting will no longer include separate data collections or multi-page reports but may include subsets of special education data already collected as part of federal requirements. County-level data will be aggregated and used to measure state-level progress toward meeting targets in the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR).

## ► STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

WVGtG has established an internal stakeholder group for SSIP that includes representation from Special Education, Communities in Schools, Family Engagement, School Improvement, Teaching & Learning, and Federal Programs coordinators. This core team meets regularly to analyze data and coordinate supports to districts involved in WVGtG. In addition, external stakeholder groups (including the state's advisory council and parent information center) are consulted for input and feedback, and districts are offered an opportunity to collaborate as members of a community of practice focused on ensuring that students with disabilities are continuing to receive supports and services necessary to graduate with a regular high school diploma.

Organizations, families, and individuals with an interest in becoming involved as a stakeholder should send an email to [ssip.wvde@k12.wv.us](mailto:ssip.wvde@k12.wv.us) to receive a quarterly newsletter regarding WVGtG supports to districts.

## ► ALIGNMENT AND COLLABORATION

Whenever we can remove barriers/silos through integrating initiatives, we reduce the burden on local systems and provide consistent messaging to the field. WVDE has made intentional efforts to align the SSIP work with existing improvement initiatives and reform efforts. Importantly, the SSIP is also aligned to the WV Board of Education's 2021 State Strategic Plan goal to develop economic preparedness relative to post-secondary E's – Education, Employment, Enlistment, and finally Everyday Living to support students with disabilities who struggle with independent living skills. In addition, the SSIP work has been restructured as West Virginia Guideposts to Graduation (WVGtG) to represent the different pathways and supports available to students with disabilities on their journey toward graduation with a regular high school diploma.

## ► EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Utilizing evidence-based practices and strategies, WVGtG is focused on providing universal, targeted, and intensive technical assistance and support related to:

- ▶ drop-out prevention,
- ▶ increasing family and student engagement,
- ▶ developing results-oriented secondary transition plans for students with disabilities ages 14-21, and
- ▶ strengthening opportunities for post-secondary economic preparedness among students with disabilities to the maximum extent possible.

## ► UNIVERSAL, TARGETED, AND INTENSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**Universal** support is available to all districts through updated website documents and using the [ssip.wvde@k12.wv.us](mailto:ssip.wvde@k12.wv.us) email account to request consultation for improving special education data related to graduation, drop-out prevention, secondary transition planning, and post-secondary opportunities.

**Targeted** support is available to districts who are identified as not meeting state targets on SPP/APR data for graduation, drop-out prevention, secondary transition planning, and post-secondary opportunities. Based on a review of trend data and individual district need, differentiated technical assistance will focus on targeted strategies for improving outcomes for secondary students.

**Intensive** support is available to districts who have consistently been identified as not meeting state targets on SPP/APR data for graduation, drop-out prevention, secondary transition planning, and post-secondary opportunities. Based on a review of trend data and individual district need, differentiated technical assistance will be available that will focus on systems change strategies for improving outcomes for secondary students.

## ► FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WVDE will offer competitive grant awards to support WVGtG work, as budgeting allows. Funding will be awarded based on alignment with state and county level strategic plans and priority will be given to applicants who have identified a need for systemic change toward improving graduation results. Applicants who receive funding are expected to participate in the community of practice focused on improving graduation outcomes and preparing students for post-secondary success.

