



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 - 2022



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



West Virginia Board of Education
2022-2023

L. Paul Hardesty, President
Nancy J. White, Vice President
F. Scott Rotruck, Financial Officer

Robert W. Dunlevy, Member
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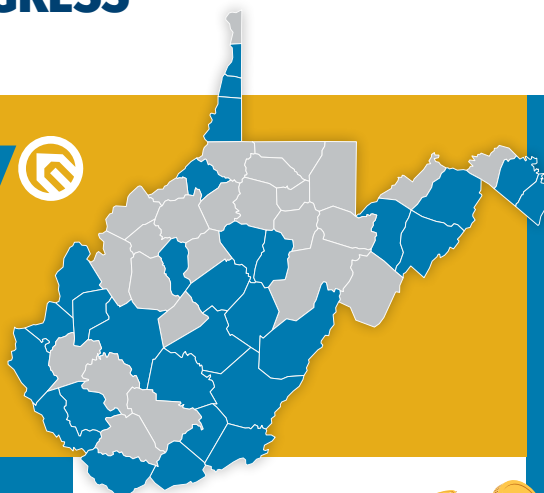
W. Clayton Burch, Ex Officio
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POINTS OF PROGRESS

TeachWV 

29

Pilot Counties



95%

pass rate for
Dual Credit

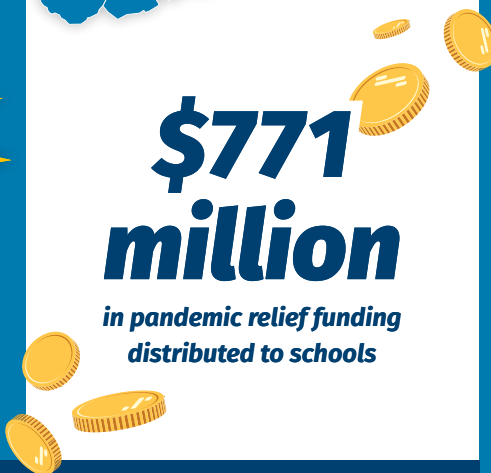


29,724

students attend
combined **280** weeks
of Summer SOLE

\$771
million

in pandemic relief funding
distributed to schools



6th

in the nation for access to high
quality Universal Pre-K



Nearly
4 million

books delivered to WV children through
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



22 of 24

ACE schools earn
national accreditation



COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

36

counties

194

schools

70,000

students impacted

PUBLIC EDUCATION SNAPSHOT (SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022)

Students	252,357
Schools	637
Elementary Schools	372
Middle Schools	151
High Schools	114
Career Technical Centers	26
Multi-County Centers	7
Alternative Schools	13
Adult Learning Locations	82
Professional Personnel (Teachers, Administrators, & Other Professionals)	24,084
Service Personnel	13,932
Average West Virginia Teacher Salary	\$50,314.64
Average West Virginia Service Personnel Salary	\$29,906.63

SPENDING PER STUDENT (SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021*)

State Aid per Pupil	\$4,624.29
Per Pupil Expenditure	\$13,256.12

**Most recent data available*

WEST VIRGINIA'S SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

	2012	2022
Education spending as a percentage of total state appropriations	46.96%	40.08%
State population	1.850 million	NA*
Workforce Participation (<i>Monthly, as of May annually</i>)	54.3%	55.1%
Number of Children in Foster Care (<i>as of May annually</i>)	4,246	6,672
Economically Disadvantaged Students	91,558	125,410
Economically Disadvantaged Students (%)	33.5%	50.0%
Number of Homeless Students	7,459	9,154
Student Enrollment by School Year	282,088	250,899
Number of Teachers	19,850	18,478

DATA NOTES AND SOURCES:

State Population: US Census Bureau Quick Facts and American Community Survey (ACS) Five-year Estimates

2012: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=West%20Virginia&t=Population%20Total&tid=ACSDT5Y2012.B01003>

2020: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/WV/PST045221>

Workforce Participation: Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED), Labor Force Participation Rate for West Virginia (LBSSA54). Retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LBSSA54>.

Monthly workforce participation rates represent workforce participation in May of the noted year.

Number of Children in Foster Care: WV Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) Bureau for Children and Families Legislative Foster Care Reports. Retrieved from <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Reports/Pages/Legislative-Foster-Care-Reports.aspx>.

Counts represent the number of children in foster care in the month of May for each stated year, as reported in the June 2012, 2020, 2021, and 2022 reports provided by DHHR.

Economically Disadvantaged Students: Percentage of students directly certified as eligible for free/reduced-price meals, per the Certified 2nd Month (October) Enrollment data collection.

Number of Homeless Students: Counts represent sum of county-level data of all/any students identified as homeless at any

time during the noted school year. Data are verified through annual homeless survey submitted at the end of each academic year.

2010 and 2012: WV Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) for the 2009-2010 and 2011-2012 school years, downloaded from the National Council for Homeless Education (<https://profiles.nche.seiservices.com/StateProfile.aspx?StateID=57>)

All Other Years: Direct queries of annual data of student homeless status submitted by counties to the WVDE

Student Enrollment by School Year: Certified 2nd Month (October) Enrollment Counts (Headcount), Retrieved from ZoomWV (<https://zoomwv.k12.wv.us/Dashboard/dashboard/2056>)

Number of Teachers: FTE Count of Teachers (rounded to nearest whole number), based on annual Certified List of Personnel (staff working in schools as of October 1 each year)

2012: <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ALLPER12.pdf>

2020: <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/ALLPER20.pdf>

2021: <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ALLPER21-FTE.pdf>

2022: <https://weis.k12.wv.us/schoolFinance/sf000019.cfm> (Statewide totals, minus any positions at instructional/service cooperatives; for positions 119, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 222, 230, 231, 232)

*The state population estimates were not available from the U.S. Census Bureau at the time this summary was prepared.

PAANDMIC ROAD TO RECOVERY

A LESSON IN ROBUST RESILIENCY

The 2021-2022 school year presented many firsts, but perhaps the most important one was the first complete school year students have had since 2017. This means for the first time in their academic journey, fourth graders had a full, uninterrupted year of in-person instruction. We cannot understate the important role public education plays in the lives of children, families, and our state.

Public education serves as the consistent foundational support that meets not only the educational needs but also the developmental and even basic needs of children. The West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) have proudly supported the education community, students, and families who have shown robust resiliency throughout the pandemic and beyond.

On any given day, in any given county, and on any given street or country road, public schools have stood ready to serve the children of West Virginia. No child is turned away, and all are welcomed.

The WVDE, under the direction of the WVBE, navigated our public school system through unprecedented challenges for two years with four committed practices in place: reach, teach, support, and repeat.

It was the Board's steadfast and consistent hand on the wheel that allowed the state and individual counties to pivot quickly when change was needed. Meeting monthly, and more often if needed, the members approved a variety of allowances, ranging from meal distribution to instructional and athletic waivers, to assist schools in meeting the changing needs of all children. This dedication and leadership provided sensible protocols for schools and ensured the safety of students and staff making schools one of the safest spaces throughout the pandemic.

Looking at the year in review, the resiliency of our school community is evident as it continues to work above and beyond to support the whole child – mind, body, and spirit. Educators and school service personnel cast a wide net of care that covers all – from the child with determined focus and well-planned goals to the most vulnerable child unsure of his or her tomorrows. These caring adults help children navigate the challenges of life while improving their overall academic pursuits.

Pre-pandemic, it was commonly understood we had to address the social-emotional well-being of our children before learning could occur. Now, even more people throughout the state are fully aware that mental health through *robust resiliency* should be considered along with the often-cited mantra of *reading, writing, and arithmetic*.

The WVBE and the WVDE proudly support the schools, educators, children, and families of our great state as we journey the road to recovery, taking each step together with purpose and resiliency to increase academic progress.

MEET THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION



L. Paul Hardesty,
President



Nancy J. White,
Vice President



F. Scott Rotruck,
Financial Officer



Robert W. Dunlevy,
Member



Miller L. Hall,
Member



Dr. Daniel D. Snavely,
Member



Debra K. Sullivan,
Member



Dr. James S. Wilson,
Member



**Dr. Sarah
Armstrong Tucker,**
Chancellor



W. Clayton Burch,
Superintendent



A person is seen from the back, sitting at a desk and reading a book. The background is a classroom with a white wall, a wooden shelf, and a window with blinds. The lighting is warm and soft.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS & FAMILIES

The new normal for students, families, and educators is equal parts reflection, resilience, determination, and expectation. The return of in-person instruction brought renewed appreciation for the privilege of being together in the same space to learn and grow. As we all gained a greater understanding of the impact of the pandemic, we continued the work of adjusting and enhancing our practices, supports, and structures to accommodate the needs of students and families. The West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education are reinforcing the state's educational infrastructure to strengthen individual, community, and state outcomes.



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Increased Support for Whole Child Wellness

With the increase in student mental health and behavior needs during the pandemic, Student Support and Well-Being Services expanded its staff to include a coordinator of School Psychology. Spikes in student depression, anxiety, behavior issues, and other areas of concern have required the expertise of emotional and mental health experts. School psychologists help students by providing counseling to address mental health and behavioral problems, addressing barriers to learning, quickly responding to crises with direct and coordinated services, and through a number of other strategies.

This new coordinator also assists with the development of the Expanded School Mental Health (ESMH) framework and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) which are a part of the Project AWARE grant.

School Safety Partnership with State Agencies

The WVDE increased its collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security to offer consistent support for school safety statewide. Partners at the local, state, and federal levels support the school system within their realm of expertise. This allows emergency responders to coordinate efforts and the school system and enhances the focus students' social-emotional needs.

This enhances safe and supportive school environments with open and continuous cooperative relationships among partners. Additionally, schools must now submit their safety plans by Aug. 1 of each year as a part of the state's annual accountability system.

SMILES FOR SCHOOL: *First Lady Cathy Justice enjoys visiting schools throughout the state to support Communities In Schools.*



Schools Purple Up for Students



This year, the WVDE and Common Ground Partnership recognized the second class of Purple Star Award recipients.

This honor is awarded to schools and districts committed to meeting the needs of military-connected children. Counties are recognized for having 100% of their schools participate in the program.

- » First class: **130** schools, **3** counties
- » Second class: **70** schools, **6** counties
- » In total, **200** schools and **9** counties have earned the Purple Star Award

Communities In Schools Grows in Scope and Impact

The Communities In Schools program experienced continued growth in West Virginia thanks to support from First Lady Cathy Justice and our hard-working site coordinators. Five counties and 15 schools were added, bringing the total to **36** counties and **194** schools participating in West Virginia. During the pandemic, and now through the pandemic recovery, **167** site coordinators affect **70,000** students to remove barriers to student learning and prevent them from dropping out of school.





CAN YOU DIG IT?: Mercer County students gain gardening skills during the county's Summer SOLE program.

EXTENDING LEARNING SUPPORTS AND STRUCTURES

SOLE – Extending Learning for Student Success

Counties continue to deliver summer learning and engagement through the Student Opportunities for Learning and Engagement (SOLE) program. This programming was funded by the WVDE's second allocation of Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER II) and included:

- » Full-day opportunities for K-8 students
- » Access to a minimum of four days per week for four weeks at all programmatic levels
- » Transportation and meals

Summer SOLE 2021 Highlights

- » **64.4%** of attending students either maintained or made gains on county-

selected pre- and post-assessments for English Language Arts

- » **59.3%** maintained or made gains in mathematics

West Virginia Guidepost to Graduation

By 2025, at least **86%** of West Virginia students with disabilities will graduate with a traditional diploma. That is the goal of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) which is aligned with the West Virginia Board of Education's Strategic Plan goal to develop economic preparedness relative to post-secondary E's - Education, Employment, Enlistment, and Entrepreneurship. The Guidepost to Graduation (WVGtG) is a new program focusing on the additional "E" of "Everyday Living" to articulate the achievements of students with disabilities who struggle with independent living skills.

Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy is a nationally recognized award presented to high school students who demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one other language. During the inaugural year in the state, 23 students earned the Seal, demonstrating proficiency in Amharic, Filipino, French, Italian, Russian, and Spanish.

STUDENT COMPETITIONS AND SHOWCASES

West Virginia Academic Showdown

The inaugural West Virginia Academic Showdown took place in partnership with the Office of Senate President Craig Blair; the WVDE; the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History; and West Virginia Public Broadcasting. The program aims to highlight and celebrate academic success with the same excitement and enthusiasm as school athletics.



Showdown matchups took place in January through March 2022 and featured:

- » 29 teams from 19 schools competing in five regional matchups
- » George Washington High School (Kanawha County), Grand Champion - \$10,000 prize
- » Spring Mills High School (Berkeley County), Runner-Up - \$6,000 prize
- » Planning for the 2022-2023 Showdown is underway

GRAND CHAMPS: *George Washington High School students celebrate their win with Coach Pete Kosky.*



« SCAN TO WATCH
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Arts Alive

This year marked the 16th anniversary of the annual showcase featuring some of West Virginia's most talented pre-K-12 students in the visual and performing arts.

- » **450** students participated in monologues, music solos, instrumental and vocal ensembles, and dance
- » **200** pieces of art submitted

Young Writers

The West Virginia Young Writers contest celebrated its 30th anniversary. In collaboration with the West Virginia Writing Project, the program focuses on developing writing excellence in students. This year, **279** county winners were recognized.

West Virginia Social Studies Fair

This fair is the largest student program sponsored by the WVDE. It challenges students to display creative projects that delve deeper into the cultural, social, political, economic, and geographical forces that color historical and current events. The 2022 event featured:

- » **283** projects on exhibit
- » More than **500** students showcasing their intellectual and creative talents

Science Fair

The West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair (WVSEF) challenges students to utilize problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The WVSEF prepares students for STEAM-related career paths by equipping them with necessary college- and career-readiness skills. 2022 highlights include:

- » **188** students representing **24** counties
- » **145** projects presented

A Milestone in Golden Horseshoe History

The longest-running program of its kind in the country, the WVDE Golden Horseshoe Ceremony debuted a new sword for the first time in history. West Virginia high school students were invited to submit designs for a new sword as part of First Lady Cathy Justices' Student Artist Series. The Golden Horseshoe Sword Smithing Design Contest brought five finalists to Charleston as the final leg of the competition. Winners were:

- » Avery Nine and Jillian Eicher, designers from Musselman High School
- » Gabriel Eller, Mason Nelson, Logan Pittsnogle, Jasper Edens, and Carter Jones, welders from James Rumsey Technical Institute

Gov. Jim Justice was given an honorary Golden Horseshoe this year as part of the West Virginia Day celebration.

2022 Golden Horseshoe Highlights:

- » **91st** anniversary
- » **221** 8th grade students awarded
- » Students represented 55 counties and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind



AN EVENING WITH

Dolly

DOLLY PARTON VISIT CELEBRATES IMAGINATION LIBRARY MILESTONE

With a pep in her step and a smile that is pure joy, Imagination Library Founder and American Icon Dolly Parton will grace the stage of the Clay Center to say, "Thank You." Her visit is a celebration of West Virginia being one of only 11 states to expand the Imagination Library program to all counties. This program, a partnership between Marshall University's June Harless Center (JHC) and the WVDE, delivers a free book every month to children birth to age five whose family has enrolled them. Parton is upholding her promise to visit once the state reached the participation goal. To view highlights from the event, visit wvde.us/dolly-celebration.

Imagination Library continues to grow with **50.36%** of the state's eligible children enrolled. This program is funded by the WVDE, Marshall University's June Harless Center, and community partners.



SUPPORTING SKILLED WORKFORCE & ADULT LEARNERS

Offering Multiple Pathways to Student Success

To provide students with multiple pathways to success and the ability to have flexibility in career decisions now and in the future, the Offices of Teaching and Learning and Career and Adult Education collaborate to find innovative solutions to provide students with experiences to enter college, pursue a career, or both, including:

- » Flexible graduation requirements to ensure students meet academic requirements as well as opportunities to pursue career interests
- » Embedded English Language Arts (ELA) and math credits in some career technical education courses with support from ELA and math teachers assigned to CTE centers
- » Opportunities to earn college credit while in high school through dual credit or Advanced Placement (AP) courses that can be used toward a two- or four-year degree or career education certification
- » Infusing technical education starting in middle school via technical education courses, Discover Your Future career experiences, and community partnerships
- » Providing access to hands-on career experiences through extended learning opportunities, workplace readiness experiences, apprenticeships, simulated workplace, and extracurricular career organizations
- » Exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) careers and content via the STEAM Technical Assistance Center – a collaborative project between WVU and the WVDE

- » Offering courses in emerging career fields such as computer science, coding, and robotics at both high schools and CTE centers

OPTIONS PATHWAY

Serviced nearly **2,000** students with **82%** earning their high school equivalency

Career Technical Education (CTE)

CTE continues to serve a critical need in our state and country. Providing students with robust career preparation and filling the skilled worker pipeline that helps to fuel our state's economy is priority-one of CTE. Students continue to make strides and leave West Virginia's CTE programs with options available to them, including post-secondary education, employment, and enlistment.

Work Readiness (NOCTI)

- » **60%** of students met the workforce entry score
- » **531** students received the Governor's Workforce Credential
- » **1,488** students earned college credit
- » **53%** of students exceeded state averages
- » **47%** of students exceeded national averages

West Virginia CTE students pursued the following options after high school:

- » Education (Post-Secondary) – **53%**
- » Employment – **44%**
- » Enlistment (Military) – **3%**

Industry Recognized Credentials

These credentials allow students to demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and skills. They can increase job prospects and options for post-secondary education as well as increase their marketability to employers. CTE student-milestones include:

- » More than **2,800** Microsoft certifications earned
- » **8,213** high school graduates of the class of 2021 earned an (Earn a Degree Graduate Early) EDGE program credit
- » **633** West Virginia Welder certifications earned
- » **5,246** National Center for Construction, Education and Research (NCCER) certifications earned
- » **4,212** OSHA 10 hours Safety certification earned (through Career Safe)

Advanced Career Education

Advanced Career Education (ACE) offers credentials, certifications, licenses, and on-the-job training opportunities in growing industries across the state, creating a highly skilled talent pipeline for West Virginia.

- » **22** Nationally accredited institutions by the Council on Occupational Education (COE). Accredited institutions may utilize Title IV federal funds and other federal financial aid programs.
- » ACE Advantage Funds, a new FTE funding source, was awarded to institutions in the state during the 2020-2021 school year. The ACE Advantage Funds intend to reduce and/or eliminate the overall cost for a student to attend an ACE program.

Discover Your Future – Middle School Initiative

This initiative introduces students in Grades 6-8 to the 16 national career clusters and offers schools extensive flexibility to implement the program. Highlights include:

- » Program is designed to be taught by any certified middle school teacher via hands-on, two-week modules for a total of 32 weeks
- » Students are exposed to career opportunities through real-world, hands-on projects that will influence their high school path and future career- and college-readiness goals
- » Resources include guest speakers, field trip suggestions, activities, community projects, and more.

Classroom2Career

The WVDE's Office of Technical and Adult Education piloted this

online resource during the 2020-21 school year. It offers students real-world work experience by connecting on-the-job training to related technical instruction and academic competencies that can be applied in the workplace. The goal is to create potential full-time, entry-level job opportunities for students. As part of this program:

- » There was a **26.9%** work-based learning participation rate among all high school students on the Consolidated Annual Report submitted to the United States Department of Education for the 2020-2021 school year. This surpassed the state-determined performance goal of 10% for high schools across West Virginia.





SCAN TO WATCH
CTE COMMERCIALS



THE BREW CREW: *The Good Gauley Coffee Company is a student-operated roastery and coffee shop based out of the Nicholas County Career & Technical Center in Craigsville, West Virginia. ProStart students roast the beans and student baristas serve up specialty coffee drinks and treats.*

- » The WVDE plans to create and expand work-based learning opportunities for CTE students through a state-wide system to track and manage work-based learning activities, such as community service projects, clinicals, and internships/apprenticeships.
- » A statewide launch is set for the 2022-23 school year and additional resources can be found on wvclassroom2career.com.
 - Total number of work-based learning hours: **31,076** (2021-2022 was the pilot year to test the system).
 - Established three new career pathways that include: Entrepreneurship Pilot Pathway, E-Commerce Pilot Pathway, and Nursing Pathway

Entrepreneurship - the Fourth E

Often considered the fourth E of post-secondary preparedness, the West Virginia

Department of Education has made entrepreneurship a priority creating a pathway for entrepreneurial-spirited students to gain the knowledge and skills needed to successfully launch future business ventures. Efforts to expand entrepreneurship are embedded in policy and statewide initiatives. Marshall University, the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative, and West Virginia University are among the partners working with the WVDE to build sustainable and forward-guided innovations to support students' entrepreneurial explorations.

CTE students offer shining examples of successful endeavors. From the Good Gauley Coffee Company at the Nicholas County Career & Technical Center to the Funky Florist Flower Shop at Hundred High School, they are bringing their entrepreneurial spirit to life while still in high school.

Reverse Job Fair

CTE students participated in the Reverse Job Fair in Charleston as part of the state's Construction and Design Expo. They gained real-world job exploration experience and networked with companies looking to hire skilled workers. Students shared their résumés and portfolios at booths while exhibitors and employers engaged with them to discuss future plans and to learn more about the high-quality technical education programs and trainings students receive.

Adult Education

- » Served **7,995** adult learning students
- » Launched the "It's Never Too Late to Graduate" campaign featuring Logan County native, season six winner of America's Got Talent, and a recent High School Equivalency diploma recipient Landau Eugene Murphy Jr.
- » Is ranked above the national average on educational performance indicators

Public Service Training

- » Provided **3,678** training classes to emergency responders throughout the state
- » Served **33,999** adult enrollments
- » **108** International Fire Service Accreditation Congress certifications obtained

EDUCATING AND SUPPORTING THROUGH ADVERSITY

Re-Entry and Recovery Works Conference

This event offered education and job opportunities for participants that have

barriers to employment, such as substance abuse recovery or previous incarceration. Job seekers learned about re-entry and recovery employment opportunities in the state and how to obtain and sustain meaningful employment. Business owners and hiring managers learned about resources and incentives such as federal tax credits, free bonding programs, on-the-job training funding, recovery-friendly best practices, and more.

Ukrainian Actress Speaks to WV Students

Several West Virginia students participated in a real-world learning experience as they spoke with a Ukrainian refugee. Alona Buznitskaya and her elderly mother and uncle fled the war-torn country and settled with a family in Poland. Students from the West Virginia Schools for Diversion and Transition joined an online chat to speak with Buznitskaya and ask questions about her life and the drastic circumstances she has overcome.


HATS OFF TO THE GRAD: Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. served as the face of AdultEd's latest ad campaign, "It's Never Too Late to Graduate."





Emma Frail

Arnoldsburg Elementary



**PUBLIC
SCHOOL
PROUD** *WV*

TEACHING IS A WORK OF HEART

The Public School Proud West Virginia Campaign is an opportunity to celebrate the important role school communities play in the lives of children, families, and the progress of our state.

Through a series of social media assets, including videos, reels, stories, testimonials, and posts, the WVDE is providing a platform for people to

share their appreciation for educators, school personnel, and the public school community as a whole.

Individuals may submit story ideas about their favorite teacher/school personnel, or important programs and initiatives affecting students and communities. The WVDE Office of Communications reviews these requests and

often sends its video team to the location to capture the stories.

Thanks to this campaign and similar outreach, there was a **105% increase** in engagement across all WVDE social media platforms this year.

Follow the fun and general appreciation with **#PublicSchoolProudWV**.

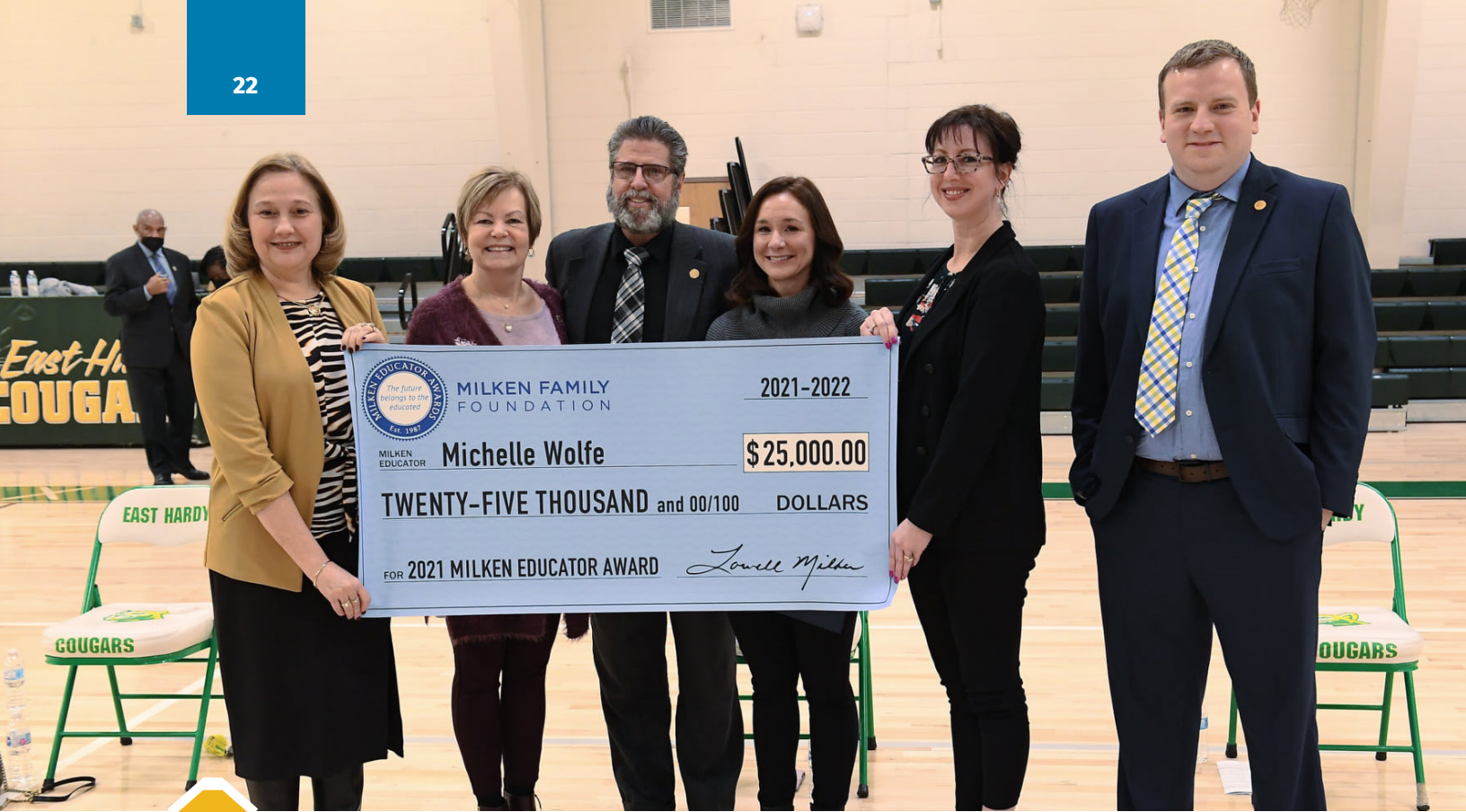
FOLLOW US @WVEDUCATION:    





SUPPORTING EDUCATORS

Educators continue to strive amid change in our schools and communities. West Virginia, like the rest of the world, is moving through phases of the pandemic, and with each step, adjustments are necessary to best support the needs of students. Educators and school personnel kept students and families connected to reliable supports during the heights of the pandemic. Today, they are still serving with consistency, reliability, and resiliency to stabilize student growth, learning, and development so that academic success is possible. The WVDE maintained educator and school personnel supports throughout the pandemic and continues to build infrastructure and capacity around them through core programs and initiatives.



SURPRISE OF A LIFETIME: Michelle Wolfe, an English teacher at East Hardy High School, receives \$25,000 for excellence in teaching from the Milken Family Foundation.

CELEBRATING OUR TEACHERS AND SERVICE PERSONNEL

Teacher of the Year

Brian Casto was named the 2022 West Virginia Teacher of the Year. He is a 13-year educator who teaches middle school history and West Virginia Studies at Milton Middle School in Cabell County. His love of teaching and learning led him to create the YouTube channel, “West Virginia History in Two Minutes or Less” which has received thousands of views.



Brian Casto



Katherine Miller

of her school’s meal pick-up program and school improvement days, and she helps prepare pre-game meals for the football team.

School Service Personnel of the Year

Katherine Miller was named the 2022 West Virginia School Service Personnel of the Year. She has served as the cafeteria manager at Wayne High School for 19 years and is a pillar of support for her students and community. She was involved in the development and implementation

Milken Educators

Two West Virginia teachers were named Milken Educators during the 2021-2022 Educator Award Tour. Heather Haught is a first-grade teacher at McNinch Primary School, being the first teacher to receive this award in Marshall County. Michelle Wolfe is a high school English

Language Arts teacher at East Hardy High School and is the first Milken Award winner since 1994 in Hardy County. Both Heather and Michelle received a \$25,000 cash prize. Visit milkeneducatorawards.org for details.

National Board Certification (NBC)

The WVDE honored more than 100 educators during the 2022 National Board Certification Recognition Celebration bringing the total of NBC teachers (NBCTs) in the state to 1,144. West Virginia is one of 25 states that compensates NBCTs (\$3,500 stipend) and one of 21 states that reimburses the \$1,900 applicant fee. West Virginia is ranked:

- » **17th** in the nation for the number of new NBCTs
- » **13th** for the percentage NBCTs

TEACHERS TEACHING AND LEARNING

Leaders of Literacy Podcast

This podcast gives educators access to the most current research and resources on topics of school-readiness, attendance, extended learning, and high-quality instruction across content areas during times that are convenient for them. Each episode is 15 to 40 minutes and released on the third Monday of the month on all major podcast platforms. The podcast has more than **7,000** listens and **55** episodes.

Developing Leaders Among the Teacher Ranks

The Teacher Leadership Framework (HB4804) provides another tool to develop leadership capacity at the local level. The bill identifies designated leadership roles and supports with financial incentives. Locally controlled,

each county determines targeted roles and responsibilities to include in their framework. All districts must submit their framework by Aug. 1 of each year as a part of the state's accountability system.

Summer Professional Learning Opportunities

West Virginia educators enrolled in an online, self-paced professional learning program-of-study titled Examining Content Standards. The three-course offerings include:

- » Course 1 – Grade-Level Standards
- » Course 2 – Analyzing Standards
- » Course 3 – Progression of Standards

Child Nutrition Conference

The Office of Child Nutrition partnered with the West Virginia School Nutrition Association to honor the diligent work of feeding children at the height of the pandemic and beyond. The Child Nutrition team served more than **46 million meals** during the pandemic challenges. The conference also introduced new tools and policies to meet nutritional needs among school-aged children. To learn more, visit https://youtu.be/XA7_bUijY8c.

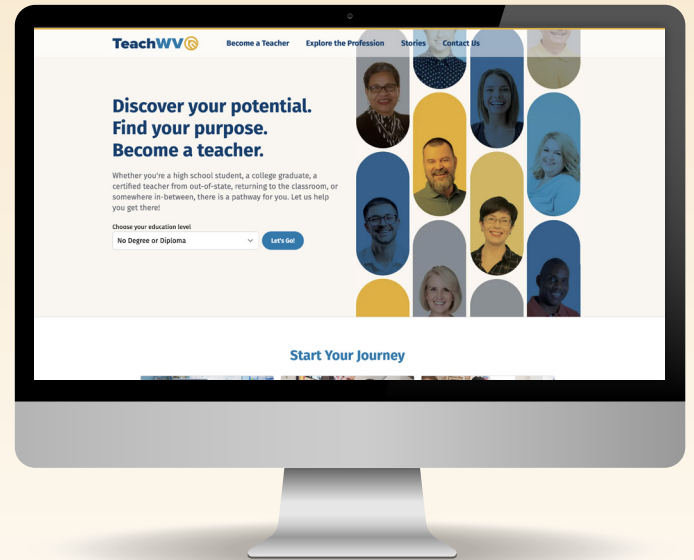
math4life

The WVDE continues to support educator professional learning and student achievement through the *math4life* Initiative. Grants support educators from 35 counties with both professional learning and supplies.

- » **60** *math4life* Classroom Educator Grants have funded a total of **\$53,955**
- » **25** *math4life* County Mathematics Professional Learning Grants have funded a total of **\$124,750**



TeachWV



GROWING OUR OWN

This year, the WVDE relaunched the TeachWV Initiative to expand the pipeline to the teaching profession. The result of collaborative work through the Educator Preparation Taskforce (established by HEPC Chancellor Sarah Tucker and Superintendent Burch), TeachWV creates multiple pathways to teaching:

The Grow Your Own West Virginia Pathway to Teaching removes barriers of cost and time to becoming a certified teacher and allows counties to harvest students from their communities and prepare them for teaching careers in their communities. High school students begin coursework before entering college and benefit from financial, academic, and professional supports that would not be available otherwise.

The pilot begins in the 2022-23 school year with **29** counties working with partnering colleges and universities. Students will:

- » Receive mentor support throughout high school from veteran educators
- » Take their core Praxis **free-of-charge** their senior year of high school
- » Graduate with up to **30** credit hours toward their bachelor's degree in education
- » Begin field experiences and classrooms observations while in high school
- » Be able to earn a salary, benefits, and seniority while completing college requirements

TeachWV.com

This re-designed website serves as a one-stop shop for anyone interested in teaching, regardless of academic attainment level. Easy navigation and accessible resources allow individuals to explore pathways regardless of where their journey begins. Links to college and university teacher prep programs as well as student and educator testimonials are readily available for those curious about teaching or those ready to dive into the profession.

TeachWV Tour

Teacher of the Year Brian Casto and several Milken educators joined Dr. Carla Warren, Superintendent Burch, and others on a statewide tour to talk to students about the TeachWV Grow Your Own Pathway. Casto reflected on his calling to teach and the early years of his experience that served as the foundation of a successful career. Students received program information and special program stickers and magnets.

Registered Apprenticeship

The WVBE and the WVDE registered the K-12 Teaching Occupation as a Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) with the U.S. Department of Labor to support the Grow Your Own WV Pathway to Teaching in spring of 2022. This designation elevates the program with wage-earning field experiences beginning the junior year of high school and continuing through the student's final year of college.

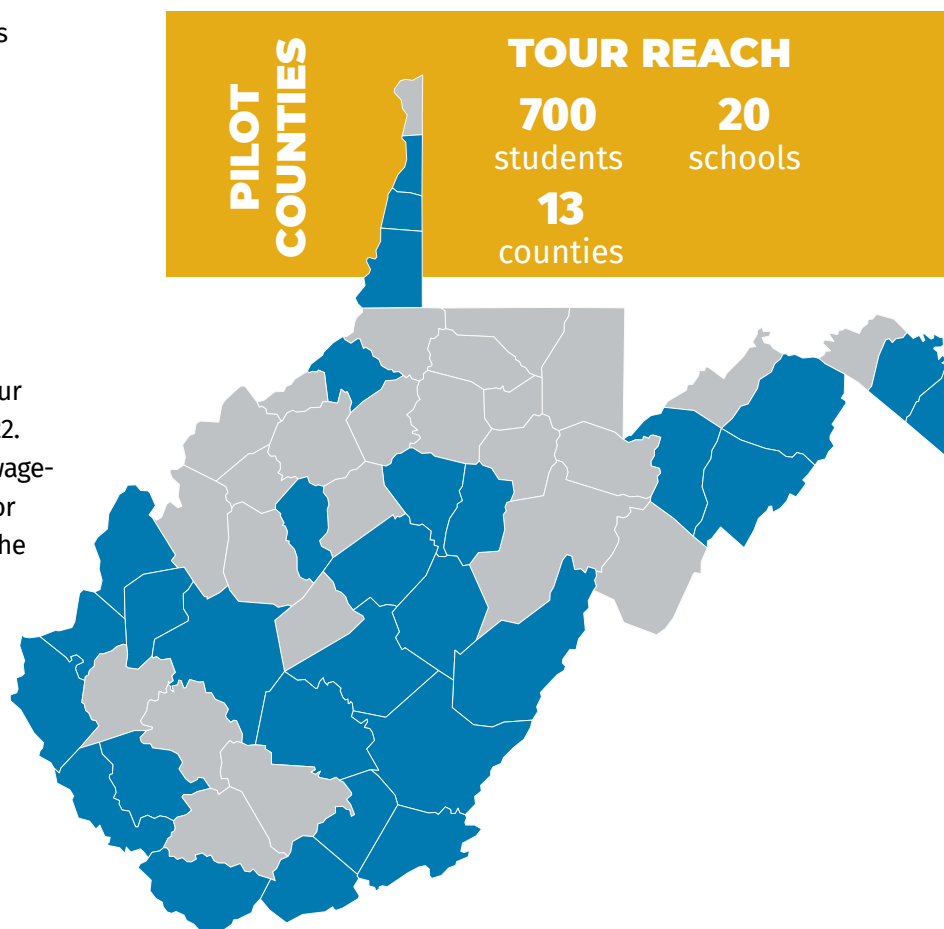
Veterans' Resources

Specialized information and supports are available to veterans interested in teaching. The WVDE recognizes veterans'

unique qualities and provides resources and guidance to assist in their transition to teaching. WVDE staff can assist them as they navigate through licensure, testing, and other certification requirements, and it all begins with a visit to [TeachWV.com](https://www.wvde.com).

Practicing for the Praxis

The WVDE Praxis Support Program is designed to help improve candidates' skills in specific areas assessed by the Praxis test. This online program, offered free-of-charge, uses a series of pre-test study guide modules and post-tests developed by math and science educators from West Virginia. Additionally, mentor supports are available to assist candidates in their journey to certification. Visit the WVDE Educator Development Support page at wvde.us/educator-development-and-support for details.







SUPPORTING DISTRICTS

“Building a plane as we fly it.” This is how some districts described living, learning, and working through the pandemic. As situations and circumstances evolved, county leaders had to quickly pivot and provide guidance to thousands of families so learning could continue. The new normal borne out of the COVID-19 journey requires continued adjustments and continual discoveries as the impact of two years of pandemic learning is revealed daily. The WVBE and WVDE have partnered with counties offering open lines of communication and enhanced technical, financial, and programmatic supports to assist in the recovery efforts.



Courtesy of Charleston Gazette-Mail

BEHIND THE WHEEL: Dave Baber, director of School Transportation at the WVDE, sits in the driver's seat of GreenPower's electric bus. He and Delegate Chris Toney of Raleigh County check out the dashboard.

Southern Regional Education Board Award

The WVDE won the 2022 Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) State Leadership Award for creating systems of support for new and experienced educators. The award, among the highest awarded by the SREB, recognizes states that have established continuous improvement structures and processes to help transform school and classroom practices.

Students Benefiting from COVID-19 Relief Funding

The Office of Federal Programs continued its support of districts offering guidance in the administration and use of COVID-19 relief funding. Counties addressed student academic learning loss and support through staffing and program enhancements. Additionally, many districts sought to maintain and increase academic support staff, such as interventionists; instructional aides; classroom teachers; Option Pathway teachers; special education teachers; and curriculum and instruction support staff.

Academic Coaches

Additional supports were provided for English learners (EL) throughout the state as the pandemic was especially hard on EL students and their families. Districts took advantage of the additional funding to provide further intervention and translation services to target this group.

Through continued funding efforts, the purchase of technology programs and devices made it possible for districts to begin or maintain one-to-one initiatives to support academic recovery, virtual learning, and innovation programming including:

- » Learning management systems
- » E-gaming design curriculum
- » Wi-Fi hotspots for families experiencing deficient services
- » Virtual (locally operated) help desks to support families and school staff with technology needs

Clean School Bus Program

The WVDE Office of School Operations and Finance assisted counties applying for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program by answering questions and offering guidance. The program allows counties to replace up to 25 buses in their fleets with zero-emission and low-emission vehicles. All counties in the state have priority status, and funds are available through FY 2026.

WVDE Networked Improvement Community (NIC)

The WVDE Office of Support & Accountability began the WVDE Networked Improvement Community (NIC) in conjunction with Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). The NIC kicked off in the summer of 2021 with the SREB Making Schools Work Conference. During the 2021-2022 school year, 10 schools in four counties received a Curriculum and Instruction Review, with team members from SREB, WVDE, and other schools in the network.

WVEIS 2.0

The WVDE Office of Data Management and Information Systems launched WVEIS 2.0. Technology specialist with the WVDE offered extensive training to the counties on the enhanced student information system in preparation for the rollout. New features include improvements to creating course catalogs, scheduling, updating enrollments and transfers, and increased efficiencies in entering and tracking attendance, grades, and more.

Special Circumstance Reviews

The WVDE Office of Support and Accountability continues to assist counties through Special Circumstance Reviews. These reviews are designed to address areas of non-compliance in a conducive and collaborative environment using a broad range of resources, insights, and strategies. Counties may request reviews to assist in addressing specific local needs. Reviews included Berkeley County, Jefferson County, Lincoln County, Summers County, WVSD, and Wetzel County – Short Line Elementary.



MOVING FULL STEAM AHEAD

The **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) TAC** was launched with a bang in Morgantown. A partnership between the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative housed at West Virginia University and the WVDE, the TAC enhances educational opportunities among West Virginia middle school students by focusing on all content areas and promoting problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

STEAM TAC Stats:

- » **96** School Visits
- » More than **11,500** Participating Students
- » **175** Participating Teachers
- » **47** Participating Counties

Summer STEAM Experiences:

- » **33** Participating Schools (multiple schools combined at central county location)
- » **50** Participating Teachers
- » **625** Students Impacted
- » **11** Participating Counties



**SCAN TO WATCH
THE TAC LAUNCH**

Aspiring and Beginning Superintendents' Network

For the first time, WVBE Policy 5202 allowed for a partnership with the WVDE and the West Virginia Association of School Administrators (WVASA) to provide professional learning for aspiring superintendents to earn an Additional Endorsement for Superintendent Leadership through the Aspiring and Beginning Superintendents' Network.

- » **38** participants completed the requirements of the 2021-2022 co-hort

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP NETWORK

- » During the 2021-2022 school year, **86** new principals completed the West Virginia School Leadership Network

Technical Assistance Centers (TACs) Launched

The 2021-2022 school year witnessed the launch of several Technical Assistance Centers (TACs) and the re-dedication of an existing one. The WVDE supports these facilities in partnership with Marshall University, West Virginia University, and the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Early Learning TAC

Hosted by Marshall University's June Harless Center, the Early Learning Technical Assistance Center (ELTAC) offers high-quality professional learning and support related to the P-5 West Virginia College- and Career- Readiness Standards. The ELTAC exists to ensure a unified commitment to excellence and equity in P-5 education. Highlights include:

- » **102** professional learning sessions
- » **3,911** participants

Behavior and Mental Health TAC

This TAC is the first center established by the WVDE and is housed at the Autism Training Center at Marshall University. It was created as a response to local providers needing assistance related to student behavior/mental health. Additionally, it helps provide continuity of existing interventions in public schools. Trainings include:

Early Childhood Positive Behavior

- » **1,652** Professionals
- » **60** Coaches

School-wide Positive Behavior

- » **271** School Teams

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

- » **210** MHFA Trainers
- » **8,878** Professionals

Accessibility and Transitions TAC

The TAC for Accessibility and Transitions is located on the campus of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDDB) in Romney and offers supports to counties and schools statewide to meet the needs of students who require modifications to access curricula. Additionally, the TAC has a comprehensive services facility on the WVSDDB campus that serves as a one-stop shop for individuals and families requiring services. The TAC also houses the state's Instructional Resource Center (IRC), which provides services for visually impaired students and their educators. Highlights include:

- » **44** professional development/ training sessions
- » **55** counties and the WVSDDB provided with universal trainings
- » **18** counties provided with targeted/ intensive assistance
- » **665** visually impaired students served



Students, staff show resiliency after tragedy

When the WVSDB Administration Building caught fire early on the morning of February 26, 2022, the WVDE enlisted statewide partners to step into action immediately. Within hours, State Superintendent Burch and a WVDE delegation were on campus to assist faculty and staff and address a variety of critical needs. Students were away on their weekend break and had to remain there for a week of hybrid learning after the fire destroyed communication infrastructure. Gov. Jim Justice offered emergency resources and made a special request to Frontier Communications to quickly complete the necessary repairs to the network. A week after the fire, students returned to campus, and increased counseling services were made available to students and staff.

To celebrate the resiliency of the campus and community, the WVDE and WVSDB staff ensured prom was extra special by collecting gowns, suits, and accessories for students. WVDE staff (and their families) traveled to Romney to assist school staff with altering clothes and doing hair and makeup. Students had a night to remember and extended their appreciation to all who made it possible.





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