



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 - 2023



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**



**West Virginia Board of Education  
2023-2024**

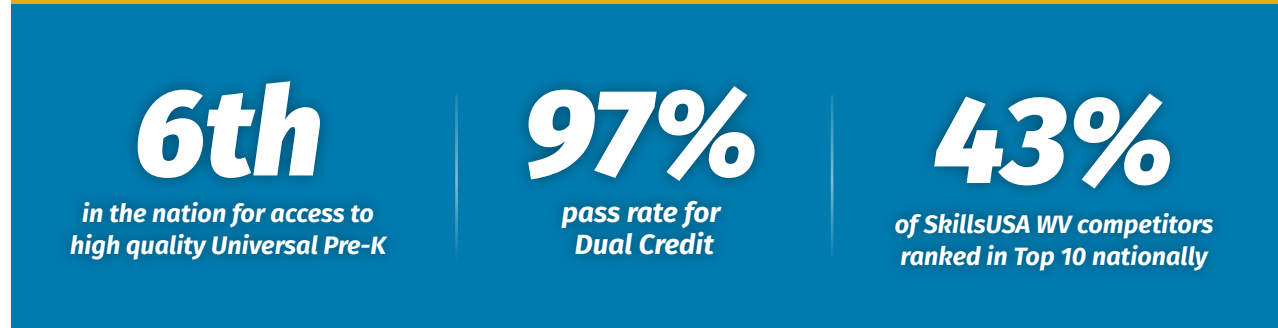
**L. Paul Hardesty**, President  
**Nancy J. White**, Vice President  
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**Robert W. Dunlevy**, Member  
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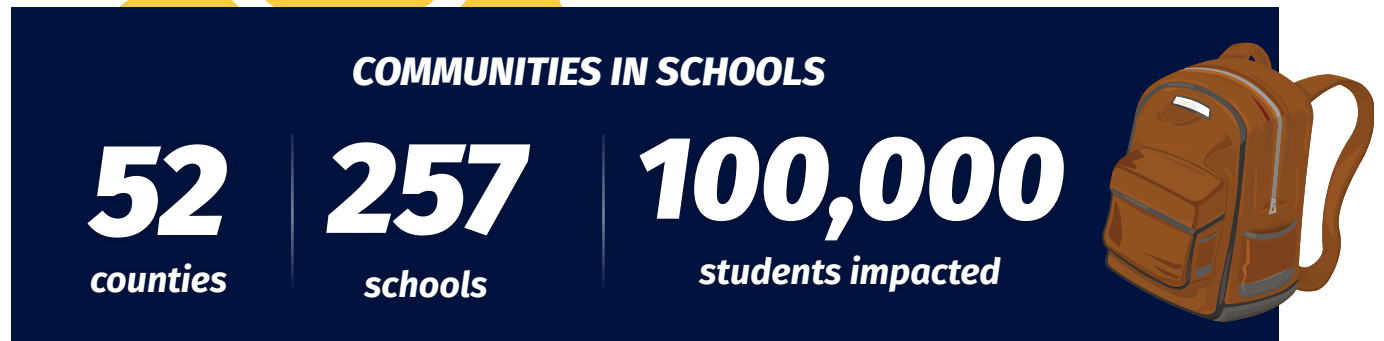
**Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Ph.D.**, Ex Officio  
Chancellor  
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education

**Michele L. Blatt**, Ex Officio  
State Superintendent of Schools  
West Virginia Department of Education

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**POINTS OF PROGRESS**



**29,395**  
 students attended combined  
**280** weeks of Summer SOLE



## **PUBLIC EDUCATION SNAPSHOT** (SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023)

Students	<b>250,049</b>
Schools	<b>637</b>
Elementary Schools	<b>370</b>
Middle Schools	<b>153</b>
High Schools	<b>114</b>
Career Technical Centers	<b>22</b>
Multi-County Centers	<b>7</b>
Alternative Schools	<b>14</b>
Adult Learning Locations	<b>80</b>
Professional Personnel (Teachers, Administrators, & Other Professionals)	<b>24,037</b>
Service Personnel	<b>13,876</b>
Average West Virginia Teacher Salary	<b>\$52,683.65</b>
Average West Virginia Service Personnel Salary	<b>\$31,118.21</b>

## **SPENDING PER STUDENT** (SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022\*)

State Aid per Pupil	<b>\$4,524.84</b>
Per Pupil Expenditure	<b>\$14,102.71</b>

*\*Most recent data available*

# WEST VIRGINIA'S SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

	2013	2023
Education spending as a percentage of total state appropriations	44.95%	33.45%
State population	1,853,619	1,801,049
Workforce Participation ( <i>Monthly, as of May annually</i> )	53.8%	54.6%
Number of Children in Foster Care	4,310	6,142
Economically Disadvantaged Students	140,465	128,224
Economically Disadvantaged Students (%)	49.8%	51.3%
Number of Homeless Students	8,323	13,530
Student Enrollment by School Year	282,309	250,049
Number of Teachers	19,738	18,852

## DATA NOTES AND SOURCES:

### Education Spending as a Percentage of Total State Appropriations:

- [West Virginia Department of Education Office of Internal Operations](#)

### State Population:

- [United States Census Bureau and American Community Survey \(ACS\) Demographic and Housing Estimates \(Five-year estimates\)](#)

### Workforce Participation:

- [Federal Reserve Economic Data \(FRED\) Labor Force Participation Rate for West Virginia \(LBSSA54\)](#)

### Number of Children in Foster Care:

- *Counts represent the number of children in foster care in June 2013 and January 2023, which is the most recent data available.*

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

- *ZoomWV Data Dashboard, 2nd Month/October 1st Certified Enrollment Collection. The method of identifying students as economically disadvantaged changed between 2013 and 2023. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, WVDE began reporting the "low SES" subgroup using only the students who are directly certified as eligible for free or reduced-price meals. In SY12-13, all students eligible for nutrition assistance via any mechanism/circumstance were counted in the low SES subgroup.*

### Number of Homeless Students

- *In SY23, the West Virginia Department of Education made a change to the homeless data collection. Previously, students' homeless designations were completely re-set at the start of a new school year, and county homeless liaisons had to re-identify every individual student. With the transition to WVEIS 2.0, the WVDE retains students' homeless designations from one year to the next to ensure consistency from one year to the next.*

### Student Enrollment by School Year

- [ZoomWV Data Dashboard](#)

### Number of Teachers

- [West Virginia Department of Education Office of School Finance](#)

## GETTING BACK TO BEST LOOKING ONWARD AND UPWARD

The 2022-2023 school year provided students, educators, administrators, and communities with opportunities to grow, learn, and challenge the status quo. The more distance we put between ourselves and the COVID-19 pandemic, the more stability we are able to enjoy. With this firmer footing, we feel more confident that our schools are safe havens for learning, social and emotional well-being, and overall development. Our purpose must not be stagnant because we are called to ensure students are able to achieve and to do so at high levels. Well-practiced strategies enable us to reset our priorities and take bold action to provide a robust, high-quality public education.

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is tapping into well-treaded wisdom and insight to improve student achievement and further develop educators. Utilizing proven strategies creates a strong foundation on which to leap confidently and courageously into the future.

The WVDE implemented the Ready, Read, Write, West Virginia literacy initiative to address students' reading proficiency and provide resources to families and educators. The basic and fundamental skill of reading and writing sets the foundation for success in every person. This approach is backed by decades of research known as the Science of Reading, which sets a clear path on how to best improve these necessary skills. Bold, yet basic implementation can lead to the academic and personal success of students.

The UNITE with Numeracy campaign is a comprehensive plan for educators, families, and students to elevate the *math4life* goals initially set by the WVDE. This initiative works to enhance teacher content knowledge, increase student achievement in mathematics, and provide resources to learners, educators, and families so they are successful in math. Rooted in the eight Mathematical Habits of Mind—well-researched strategies mathematicians use to make sense of problems—UNITE with Numeracy embarks on a challenge to prepare future business leaders, scientists, engineers, educators, and more to reach their goals with a foundational and functional understanding of mathematics.

Under the leadership of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE), the WVDE is actively addressing these challenges through innovative initiatives, expert proficiency, and passionate resolve. Failure is not an option when it comes to West Virginia students because student achievement and safety are of the highest priorities. The focus remains on thoroughly preparing students for a lifetime love of learning through various programs, ideas, recognitions, and legislation.

The future of West Virginia is being cultivated in our classrooms as we speak. It is up to all of us to provide our children with every resource and every possibility so they may achieve academically, socially, and emotionally. Their progress is our progress, and we cannot afford to be held back any longer.

The WVBE and WVDE are devoted to the success of West Virginia students and school communities. We are taking innovative steps to improve the academic outcomes of our children. Together, we can go even further.

## MEET THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION



**L. Paul Hardesty,**  
President



**Nancy J. White,**  
Vice President



**F. Scott Rotruck,**  
Financial Officer



**Robert W. Dunlevy,**  
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**Dr. James S. Wilson,**  
Member



**Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker,**  
Chancellor



**Michele L. Blatt,**  
Superintendent

**ARTS ALIVE:** The WVBE poses with Naudia Ng, the 2023 Arts Alive poster contest winner. She is a student at Robert C. Byrd High School.



# MARKING THE MILESTONES

Working with the WVBE, the WVDE marked significant milestones during the transition to a post-pandemic environment. This allowed for a return to large-scale professional development sessions with the INVEST Educational Symposium; the passing of House Bill 3035, the Third Grade Success Act; and the launch of major statewide initiatives.





***INVESTing in our educators.*** The WVDE hosted the INVEST (Infuse, Network, Value, Engage, Support, Target) Educational Symposiums — one in Charleston and one in Morgantown. These were designed to enrich and encourage teachers and administrators to develop their own professional goals while providing opportunities for student achievement. The theme of INVEST was chosen to communicate that West Virginia is ready to invest time and effort into the professional and academic lives of educators and students. **MORE ON PAGE 31.**



***Returning to the basics with literacy and mathematics initiatives.*** The WVDE is dedicating resources to ensure all students master the fundamental skills needed to succeed. Ready, Read, Write, West Virginia and UNITE with Numeracy are Department initiatives determined to improve student achievement that will lay a foundation for lifelong learning. **MORE ON PAGE 16 & 21.**



***West Virginia thrives when teachers thrive.*** Designed to address the state's need for teachers, the Grow Your Own Pathway to Teaching program provides promising high school students a head start toward a career in education. **MORE ON PAGE 24.**



***Career technical education is a vital and viable option for students.*** Engaging learning experiences can broaden horizons and spark interest in the critical skilled pathways in our state. Introducing career technical education (CTE) to middle school students allows them to explore many more options toward a successful life. **MORE ON PAGE 15.**

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We'll start with the best of the best.  
Check out my all-time favorite.  
You don't have to cook or even wash.  
It's done by a super robot chef.  
It makes all the noise and the smells.  
Then it waits and you eat it all!

A photograph of three young children sitting on a wooden floor in a kitchen. On the left, a girl with blonde curly hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue floral dress, looks down. In the center, a girl with long dark hair, wearing a pink shirt, looks towards the right. In the foreground, the back of a child's head with blonde hair is visible. The background shows a wooden cabinet and a black chair.

# SUPPORTING STUDENTS & FAMILIES

There are numerous challenges facing students and families in our public school system. The WVBE and the WVDE are committed to providing resources, support, and aid to individuals and communities. As issues are addressed, it is also vital to acknowledge the triumphs happening every day. The manner in which we interact within the community can have an important impact on student outcomes.

## SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

### *Communities In Schools Continues Statewide Expansion*

First Lady Cathy Justice, the WVDE and site coordinators have further expanded Communities In Schools (CIS) with more counties anticipated in the near future. Currently, **52** counties and **257** schools are participating in West Virginia impacting more than **100,000** students with extensive dropout intervention supports. More than **99%** of case-managed students subsequently stayed in school. The Friends with Paws initiative, championed by the First Lady, has placed **12** therapy dogs in CIS schools across the state.

### *Guys and Ties Visit Area School*

Gentlemen from the WVDE attended the “Guys and Ties” mentoring event at Dunbar Middle School in April 2023. Young men in the eighth grade class learned how to tie a tie from the adults and shared a delicious breakfast. The men had the opportunity to provide words of wisdom and encouragement to the young

learners. This was just one of many events that brought WVDE staff to schools throughout the year.

### *West Virginia Tiered System of Support (WVTSS)*

Through inter-office collaboration, the WVDE has adopted the West Virginia Tiered System of Support (WVTSS) which provides a framework that supports the whole child. Schools implementing WVTSS encourage appropriate challenge, safety, health, active engagement, and support for all students. The three components of academics, behavior, and mental health are supported by family and community, culture and climate, leadership and teams, and assessment.

### *Summer SOLE*

Summer Student Opportunities for Learning and Engagement (SOLE) continued for a third year in counties throughout the state. These programs provide interactive and highly engaging

**GUYS AND TIES:** Employees from the WVDE attended a mentoring event at Dunbar Middle School.





**BATTLE OF THE BRAINS:** *The Academic Showdown is growing, with 51 additional teams participating in its second year. Morgantown High School Team 1 was crowned the grand champion.*

activities that support students' academic and social-emotional needs. SOLE was created through Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER II) funds and included at least four weeks of programming with full-day opportunities for K-8 students. Transportation and meals were also provided.

#### **Summer SOLE 2022 Highlights**

- » **24,395** students served
- » **468** sites across the state
- » **68.8%** of attending students either maintained or made gains on county-selected pre- and post-assessments for English Language Arts
- » **64.8%** maintained or made gains in mathematics

#### **Purple Star Awards Expand**

The WVDE and Common Ground Compact recognized schools and districts committed to meeting the needs of military-connected children by awarding them the Purple Star

Award. Counties are recognized for having 100% of their schools participate in the program. In total, **270** schools and **14** counties have won the award.

## **ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS**

### **West Virginia Academic Showdown**

The West Virginia Academic Showdown returned in 2023 with a field of **71** high school teams from **26** counties — an increase of **51** teams since the inaugural year. This scholarly competition tested students' knowledge in topics such as literature, math, history, science, sports, pop culture, and more.

The Academic Showdown is a partnership between the WVDE, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History, and West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

The WVDE, the West Virginia Legislature, American Electric Power, and Microsoft® provided prize money.

- » **Grand Champion:** Morgantown High School Team 1, Monongalia County: \$10,000 with each team member receiving \$2,500
- » **Second Place:** George Washington High School, Kanawha County: \$8,000 with each team member receiving \$2,000

For a full list of team rankings and prize money, visit the [Academic Showdown webpage](#).

### Golden Horseshoe

This year marked the **307th** anniversary of the Golden Horseshoe legacy, and it remains the longest-running program of its kind in the country with annual state recognitions dating back to 1931. The WVDE recognized **226** Knights of the Golden Horseshoe this year with approximately **15,000** eighth grade students recognized since its inception.

Following the success of the 2022 Golden Horseshoe Sword Smithing Design Contest, First Lady Cathy Justice invited high school

students to submit designs for a new knighting bench for the ceremony. Designing students worked with career technical education centers to bring their creations to life.

Austin Morrison and Marin Wickline from Cabell County Career Technology Center won the top honor with their Buckingham Palace inspired design. Fabrication artisans assisting with the construction included Caden Stephens, Alex Stephens, Kylee Call, Carsyn Ward, Joey Jones, Laiken Brotherton, Samb Board, Katherine Wilson, Austin Shoemaker, Kane Ray, Nick Prichard, and Hunter Huff.

### West Virginia Social Studies Fair

More than **470** elementary and middle school students participated in the 2023 West Virginia Social Studies Fair, making it one of the largest fairs in recent years. Entries included more than **300** projects exploring topics from anthropology and political science to history.

**HONING THEIR CRAFT:** Inset from left, Cabell County Career Technology Center students Austin Shoemaker, Kane Ray, Carsyn Ward, and Austin Ward stand with First Lady Cathy Justice after winning the Golden Horseshoe Bench Design Contest.



SCAN TO WATCH  
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



**ROCKET BOY COMES HOME:** West Virginia author Homer Hickam was the featured speaker at Young Writers Day in May 2023.



### **West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair**

Students prepared amazing scientific displays and experiments at the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair, and 2023 highlights included **206** students from **26** counties presenting **161** projects.

### **Young Writers Day**

West Virginia Young Writers Day celebrated **40** years of student writing. Keynote speaker and West Virginia author Homer Hickam addressed **208** students in attendance. Participants also engaged in writing workshops with local authors.

### **Arts Alive**

This was the **17th** year of the premier arts showcase featuring West Virginia's most talented pre-K-12 students in the visual and performing arts.

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

## **EXPANDING PATHWAYS AND INNOVATING EDUCATION**

Students and families are discovering the benefits of CTE and the impact it has on success after high school. West Virginia's CTE programs empower students to explore potential careers in various hands-on, technical training programs. These opportunities not only teach students real-world knowledge and skills, but also provide opportunities for industry-recognized credentials and meaningful work-based learning experiences. The WVDE continues to explore and expand CTE options for students in high school and middle school.

Approximately **95%** of West Virginia CTE students were positively placed in the following options after high school:

- » Education (Post-Secondary): **52%**
- » Employment: **40%**
- » Enlistment (Military): **3%**

### **Work Readiness (NOCTI)**

- » **59%** of students met the workforce entry score
- » **410** students received the Governor's Workforce Credential
- » **2,554** students earned college credit
- » **50%** of students exceeded state averages
- » **46%** of students exceeded national averages

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Career Technical Education Office:

- » Launched CareerTech WV initiative to promote CTE programs to parents, students, and business leaders across the state
- » Developed [careertechwv.com](http://careertechwv.com) website, videos, and marketing materials to use when promoting CTE

| CONTINUED on Page 17



# Focusing on the Future

It all starts with reading. The WVDE launched the Ready, Read, Write, West Virginia Initiative in January 2023 to address student proficiency in reading. A child who cannot read is a child who cannot succeed in the classroom and in life. Reading is the foundational skill upon which other learning is built. Progress on the campaign includes:

- » Creating a website for administrators, teachers and families/guardians that provides curated and continuously updated resources
- » Hosting county teams of administrators and educators at INVEST conferences to develop strategies to implement the initiative in their schools
- » Passing of House Bill 3035, the Third Grade Success Act, providing much needed support, structure, and funding to the focus on student learning
- » Implementing the Leaders of Literacy Advisory Council to advise and assist in promoting the initiative
- » Producing earned and paid media to build awareness of the importance of reading and WVDE campaign

Ready, Read, Write, West Virginia is rooted in the

Science of Reading, a body of research that proves how the brain learns to become a proficient reader and writer. The strategy is built on the Five Pillars of Reading — phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Ready, Read, Write uses these pillars plus writing to focus on early reading proficiency among the earliest learners.

**ReadyReadWriteWV.com:** This website was designed to assist core audiences with resources to support student learning and progress. Administrators, teachers, and families/guardians have access to an array of literacy materials, websites, videos, and other assets to build literacy skills for a lifetime of learning.

**Leaders of Literacy:** More than 30 individuals representing government, businesses, non-profits, education, families, and communities joined the WVDE's literacy campaign to offer support and guidance. Collectively known as the Leaders of Literacy Advisory Council, these individuals work to engage a broader network of stakeholders in the statewide literacy effort.





**THE FUTURE IS YOURS:** Students learn about aerospace engineering through hands-on instruction at the James Rumsey Technical Institute in Martinsburg.

| CONTINUED from Page 15

- » Developed a CareerTech WV Guide that features the **16** national CTE career clusters, potential careers and job outlook data.
- » Kicked off a new CTE Spotlight Series that highlights outstanding teachers, students, and administrators explaining why they love CTE. More than **50** spotlights have been posted to websites and social media.
- » Partnered with West Virginia Public Broadcasting and The Space Gal Emily Calandrelli to film season 2 of The Future Is You. The series features young women pursuing careers in aerospace and robotics through CTE programs at James Rumsey Technical Institute in Martinsburg.

**Middle School Initiative**

Middle School CTE allows students to find their passion and envision themselves doing something they love. During the 2021-2022 school year, **11,000** middle school students completed at least one CTE course.

The WVDE offers three middle school initiatives that allow students to explore CTE in their classrooms.

- » **Discover Your Future** is a middle school course designed to introduce students in 6th – 9th grades to future career opportunities across the 16 career clusters. Discover Your Future is being implemented at **54** schools across **34** counties.
- » **The Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway** program helps students build knowledge and skills in the pathways of computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. There are currently **41** Gateway schools across **19** counties.
- » **The Empowerment Collaborative** is a school-wide environment/instructional shift focused on content and career exploration through community-based, student-driven projects. There are currently two pilot schools.





**SWEET SWING:** This “Almost Heaven” swing is located at Bluestone Lake.

## Things are in Full Swing

Students from the Nicholas County Career Technical Center partnered with the West Virginia Department of Tourism to construct handcrafted “Almost Heaven” swings to be placed at scenic locations around the state. CTE has provided these students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience and learn the vital skills they will need to prepare for gainful employment following graduation.

SCAN TO SEE THE SWINGS IN ACTION



- » The WVDE is also working to connect businesses with middle schools for a guest speaker series. The WVDE has a database with more than **300** businesses to help middle school teachers connect students with local business and industry leaders.

### **Operation Christmas Crumble Culineering Challenge**

Nine teams of culinary, engineering, computer science, and robotics students designed and constructed mobile sleighs made from gingerbread and mechanical attachments to compete in the inaugural Operation Christmas Crumble Culineering Challenge at James Rumsey Technical Institute. Based on the Netflix® series Baking Impossible, this competition promoted the collaboration of STEM, culinary, and hospitality pathway students.



### **A TASTE OF COMPETITION**

- » Check out highlights from the Operation Christmas Crumble Culineering Challenge

### **Advanced Career Education**

Advanced Career Education (ACE) offers high school graduates the opportunity to earn certifications, licenses, and on-the-job training experience in growing industries across the state, creating a highly skilled talent pipeline for West Virginia.

- » ACE programs in West Virginia include the fastest growing industries including construction, healthcare, hospitality and tourism, manufacturing, human services, and transportation.
- » ACE students can earn credentials in high-demand fields including Commercial Driving (CDL), Licensed Practical Nursing, Heavy Equipment Operations and more.

## Adult Education

West Virginia Adult Education (WVAdultEd) programs offer adults opportunities to acquire and improve the skills necessary to enhance their quality of life. Designed to help adult students learn, train, and succeed, these programs foster a pathway to productive employment, personal and family growth, self-esteem, and enhanced dignity. Adult Education courses are offered at no cost to the participant.

- » Served **9,986** adult students in 2022.
- » Collaborated with all nine West Virginia community colleges to offer CMS Certification course. This course offers deep math remediation, and those who complete the course can receive general education math requirement toward an associate degree.
- » Signed a memorandum of understanding with New River Community and Technical College to award students up to **17** college

credits for earning industry-recognized certifications.

- » Developed support and training modules for the West Virginia School Service Personnel Association to assist individuals in applying and testing for service personnel openings across the state.
- » Expanded awareness of the “It’s Never Too Late to Graduate” campaign with Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. by partnering with West Virginia University and Marshall University athletic departments.

## Option Pathway

The Option Pathway program provides high school students who are at least 16 years old and who are at-risk of not graduating with their cohort, the opportunity to remain in school and earn a high school diploma or high school equivalency (HSE) diploma. This program consists of three options which can be found at <https://wvde.us/adult-education>.

**NEVER TOO LATE TO GRADUATE:** WVAdultEd Spokesperson Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. sang the National Anthem at Marshall University and West Virginia University sporting events to raise awareness of adult education programs.



SCAN TO WATCH  
LANDAU PERFORM



**SERVING COMMUNITIES:** *Students perform Auto Extrication Technician skills learned through West Virginia Public Service Training.*



**Option 1:** Students earn a diploma by passing the high school equivalency exam and complete a state-approved CTE program.

**Option 2:** HSE Credit Recovery allows high school seniors to recover core credits by passing corresponding content or HSE tests.

**Option 3:** HSEA Opportunity provides students who are 17 or 18 years old and want to drop out the ability to take the HSE test while enrolled in school so they can earn their HSE diploma before leaving school.

Since the Option Pathway's inception, more than **9,500** Option 1 and Option 2 students have received their high school diplomas. In addition, more than **800** high school equivalency diplomas have been awarded to Option 3 students.

### **Mountaineer Challenge Academy (MCA)**

This 22-week program is designed for academically challenged youth, 16 to 18 years old, and offers them a second chance to obtain their basic education through the Option Pathway. Upon completion they earn a diploma from their home high school.

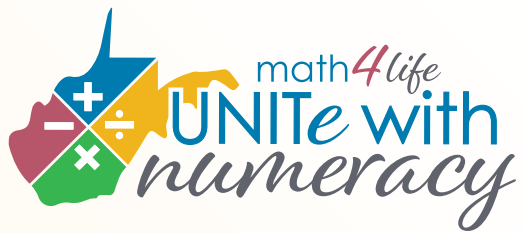
- » The high school graduation pathway for MCA is a blend of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program courses and the high school equivalency test. Upon successful completion, students earn their high school diploma from their home high school.
- » More than **1,700** cadets have successfully completed this rigorous pathway.

### **Public Service Training**

- » West Virginia Public Service Training prepares individuals for a wide variety of career opportunities to serve their communities in the areas of Emergency Medical Services, Firefighter/Officer, Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Operations and Technician, and Water/Wastewater Operator.
- » In fiscal year 2022, **39,444** students were served, **4,041** training classes provided, and **108** International Fire Service Accreditation Congress certifications obtained.

**CHALLENGE ACCEPTED:** *Mountaineer Challenge Academy provides cadets with a safe and structured learning environment as well as hands-on career training.*





# Becoming Math Masters



Mathematics is a universal language that transcends culture, socioeconomic status, religion, and language. It is a foundational skill used in nearly every aspect of life. That is why the WVDE refocused attention on the essential building blocks of student progress through the UNITE with Numeracy initiative. This comprehensive plan for educators, families and students strives to elevate the current *math4life* program that began before the pandemic. Goals include enhancing teacher content knowledge, improving teacher pedagogy, increasing student achievement and engagement, and providing resources to supply learners with the tools they need to be successful mathematicians.

### UNITE with Numeracy Soft Launch

The Department introduced the new math effort with a soft launch that included an introductory video, brochures, assets, and supports introduced at the summer INVEST conference. Approximately 250 school teams attended the conference to focus on math strategies to take back to their classroom.

### Grant Support Continues

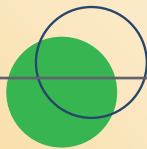
The WVDE continues to support educator professional learning and student achievement through the *math4life* grants to educators from 29 counties with both professional learning and supplies.

These include:

- » **38** Classroom Educator Grants totaling **\$34,060**
- » **23** County Mathematics Professional Learning Grants totaling **\$109,110**
- » **13** Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics Grants for books for professional learning totaling **\$123,500**

### What's on Deck

During the 2023-24 school year, the math initiative will move to full implementation. This, along with the new math standards, will target advancing student proficiency leading to a new generation of mathematicians.





# SUPPORTING EDUCATORS

Educators remain at the forefront of our schools. Their passion and dedication to West Virginia students is unparalleled. Educators are ushering in the next generation of pioneers who will drive innovation and strengthen the workforce. The WVBE and the WVDE maintain educator and service personnel support throughout all challenges, continuing to build resources that promote personal and professional development.



***West Virginia Teacher of the Year Amber Nichols  
embraces a student in her classroom.***

*Courtesy of Rebecca Kiger/Education Week*



**TELL US YOUR 'WHY':** High school scholars participating in the Grow Your Own initiative attend the Milken Educator Forum to learn from exceptional educators.

### Milken Educator

The Milken Educator Award is a national award often referred to as the "Oscars of Education." Andrea Trio is West Virginia's 2023 Milken Educator and was surprised with the award during a ceremony at Madison Elementary in Wheeling where she is the principal. Trio builds genuine, trusting relationships with students and keeps track of them as they move to middle school and beyond. Madison's motto is "Stronger Together," a fitting description of the ties Trio builds among students, families, staff, and the larger community.



Andrea Trio

national ranking. The gold standard credential in education, NBC represents accomplished teaching practices that profoundly impact student learning. The process can take one to three years and requires the candidate to complete four rigorous components including content knowledge, differentiated instruction, teaching practice and learning environment, and effective/reflective practice. West Virginia is ranked:

- » **13th** in the nation for percentage of NBC teachers
- » **17th** in the nation for newly certified NBC teachers

### West Virginia Teachers of the Year Council

The West Virginia Teachers of the Year Council consists of former winners dedicated to supporting and sharing current WVDE initiatives and programs. Using its experience

### National Board Certification

West Virginia's commitment to National Board Certification (NBC) is reflected in its



and expertise, the council uplifts West Virginia educators and utilizes the resources of the WVDE to improve schools and communities. This group is committed to actively supporting public education in West Virginia.

### **Milken Educator Network Forum**

The West Virginia Milken Educator Network hosted **40** TeachWV Grow Your Own Pathway to Teaching high school students during the 2023 Milken Educator Network Forum at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston. Attendees received greetings from Governor Jim Justice and First Lady Cathy Justice. Milken Educators facilitated small groups to share their expertise and insights with the students in attendance.

### **Leaders of Literacy Podcast**

The West Virginia Leaders of Literacy Podcast is designed to strengthen early literacy in the Mountain State by providing teachers and educational stakeholders with research and resources centered around school-readiness, attendance, extended learning, and high-quality instruction. The 15 to 20 minute episodes feature insights from educational leaders. It is available on all major podcast platforms with more than **60** episodes.



## **Educators, Personnel Unite**

### **Teacher of the Year**

Amber Nichols is the 2023 West Virginia Teacher of the Year and supports educators and initiatives across the state. She is a kindergarten teacher at Eastwood Elementary School in Morgantown, and one of the spokespersons for the Ready, Read, Write initiative. She and her class were featured in training and promotion videos, and a commercial that aired on TV and radio stations statewide.

### **School Service Personnel of the Year**

Jessica Grose is 2023 West Virginia School Service Personnel of the Year. A special education aide at Hodgesville Elementary School in Buckhannon, she understands the importance of connections with students and families. Grose travels the state in support of school service personnel and other important programs.





# READY. SET. GROW.

## *Teacher prep programs remain focus of efforts*

Educators continue to be at the forefront of our schools. Their passion and dedication to West Virginia students is unparalleled. The West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education maintain educator and service personnel support throughout all challenges, continuing to build resources that promote personal and professional development.

Teacher preparation programs are the cornerstone of these efforts. The Grow Your Own (GYO) Pathway to Teaching initiative is currently in its second year. Forty counties are participating and students are making strides with:

- » **250** high school students enrolled
- » Average **3.6** GPA
- » **\$90,000** in tuition savings for families.

### *Celebrating Future Teachers*

The WVDE welcomed members of the first cohort of GYO scholars to Charleston to celebrate their achievements. Graduating seniors received a stole embroidered with the logo and “first class” to recognize their early involvement in the program. All students who were enrolled in the first class will receive the same stole when they graduate.

### *Apprenticeship Grants*

With the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) approval of the WVDE as a Registered Apprenticeship Program for the K-12 Teaching Occupation, more opportunities are opening for future teachers.





**HOMEGROWN HERO:** Jazzlyn Teter from Pocahontas County High School signs on as the first teacher apprentice through the TeachWV Grow Your Own Pathway to Teaching Program.

Additionally, the DOL has awarded West Virginia with grant funding of up to **\$2.5 million** over the next five years to support teaching apprenticeships. This allows high school students to pursue a teaching career and earn a wage to do so. Seven counties are participating in the apprenticeship program. For more information, visit [TeachWV.com](https://www.teachwv.com).

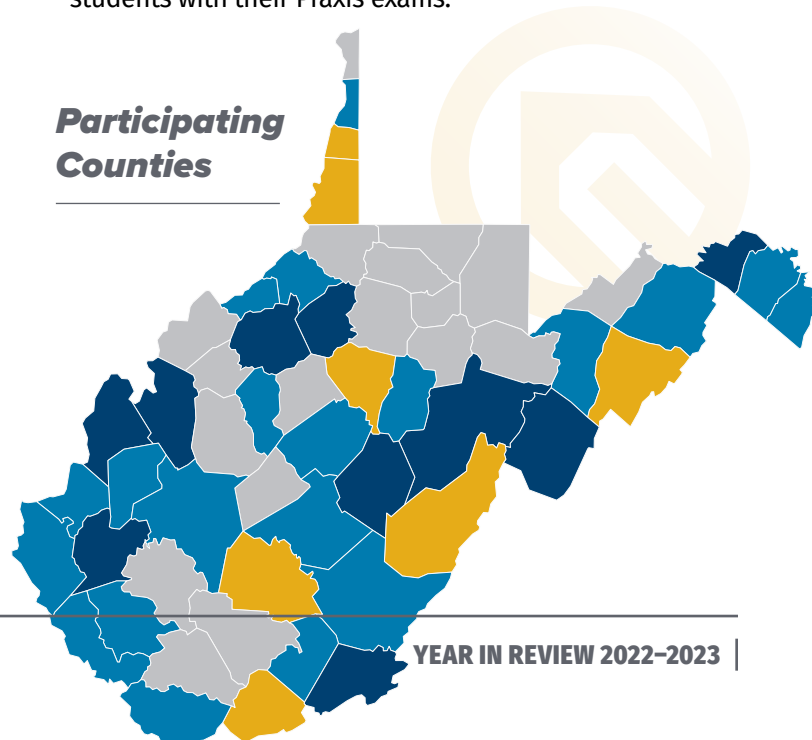
Other supports include:

- » Gov. Jim Justice, the West Virginia Department of Commerce, and Workforce West Virginia provided **\$400,000** to support the state's Registered Apprenticeship Program, which also ensures funds are available to support the paraprofessional pipeline to teacher licensure.
- » The Benedum Foundation covers the cost of

dual credit courses for GYO students through a \$240,000 grant.

- » Study.com and Passage Preparation offer test preparation materials at no cost to assist students with their Praxis exams.

### Participating Counties



#INVESTWV

Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

West Virginia  
EDUCATION

Virginia  
UNIVERSITY



WEST VIRGINIA



INVEST

WVDE



# SUPPORTING DISTRICTS

The 55 counties of West Virginia are unique, independent districts that ultimately have the same goal: providing high-quality education and care to West Virginia students. The West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education collaborate with county leaders to ensure all children in each district receive the support and resources they need to prepare for a lifetime of learning.

2023 EDUCATION



**RIDING IN STYLE:** Melissa Bane, a specialist from the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics Technical Assistance Center (STEAM TAC), shows off the center's newly upgraded van. The STEAM TAC is hitting the road visiting middle and high schools across the state to promote STEAM learning.

### **Third Grade Success Act (HB 3035)**

The WVDE worked closely with leaders of the West Virginia Legislature in support of the Third Grade Success Act (HB 3035). This bill passed during the 2023 session and creates a statewide comprehensive approach to early literacy and numeracy in grades K-3. The legislation includes components related to pre-and in-service teacher training, additional support personnel in first through third grade classrooms, benchmark assessments to identify students struggling with literacy and numeracy including indicators for dyslexia and dyscalculia, multi-tiered systems of support, intervention, parent notification, and extended year programs.

This bill aims to advance overall education programs and operations by creating additional educational requirements to close the reading and mathematics gaps, increase

the functionality of classroom operations, and to create a program that encourages West Virginia students to remain in their communities, post-graduation.

### **West Virginia K-12 Job Bank**

The WVDE launched the West Virginia K-12 Job Bank during the 2022 school year as a tool for job seekers to discover career opportunities in public education. Applicants create a profile online and can apply to numerous education vacancies across multiple counties/districts with ease. It is a centralized job portal for K-12 public education positions within all county school districts, the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Schools of Diversion and Transition, and the State Department of Education. To learn more, visit [www.applitrack.com/wvde/onlineapp/](http://www.applitrack.com/wvde/onlineapp/).

### **INVEST Educational Symposium**

Charleston and Morgantown hosted teams of educators during the summer INVEST conference. The WVDE's latest initiatives, Ready, Read, Write, West Virginia and UNITE with Numeracy were on display. Teachers, administrators, and education leaders learned new techniques and best practices in addressing student achievement. This also served as an opportunity to collaborate and share strategies with educators from around the state.

- » More than **500** administrators and teachers attended the Charleston INVEST Conference.
- » More than **700** administrators and teachers attended the Morgantown INVEST Conference.

### **Special Education Office Provides Additional Supports for Identified Schools**

During the 2022-2023 school year, the WVDE's Special Education Office worked with approximately 50 West Virginia schools falling into the category of Comprehensive Support and Improvement - Additional Targeted Support Schools (CSI-ATS). The identified schools struggled to meet proficiency requirements within the special education subgroup, as identified under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) using the Balanced Score Card results from the General Summative Assessment (GSA).

By the close of the school year, each school received a targeted on-site review to determine areas of needed improvement or additional support. The schools are concluding the first of a three-year process in which special education subgroup goals are set and addressed through a plan of action to provide students with disabilities a rigorous and inclusive education.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS (TAC)**

### **STEAM TAC**

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics Technical Assistance Center (STEAM TAC) in Morgantown enhances educational opportunities among West Virginia middle school students statewide by focusing on all content areas and promoting problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Since January 2022, the STEAM TAC has visited all **55** counties, **248** schools, impacted **31,353** students, and driven more than **60,000** miles.

### **STEAM TAC BY THE NUMBERS**

- » **173** schools, **18,988** students, and **246** teachers participating

### **Early Learning TAC**

The Early Learning Technical Assistance Center (ELTAC) is hosted by Marshall University's June Harless Center and offers high-quality professional learning and support related to the PK-5 West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards. The ELTAC strives to be a resource which educators across the Mountain State can use to elevate their educational practices to improve reading and writing achievement for all children as they progress through PK-5 education.

- » ELTAC reached **2,780** participants across 125 professional learning sessions and technical assistance meetings.
- » ELTAC specialists traveled **22,063** miles across all **55** counties.

### ***Behavior and Mental Health TAC***

The Behavior and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center is housed at the Autism Training Center at Marshall University and was created as a response to local providers needing assistance related to student behavior/mental health. The center offers training and technical assistance in a variety of areas including early childhood positive behavior, school-wide positive behavior, and mental health.

This TAC helps provide continuity of existing interventions in public schools based upon the national models and research related to multi-tiered systems of support and interconnected systems framework. Projects include:

#### ***Early Childhood Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports***

- » **1,800** Professionals Trained
- » **69** Coaches Trained

#### ***School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports***

- » **281** School Teams Trained
  - Elementary: **146**
  - Middle: **64**
  - High School: **42**
  - Alternative Learning Centers: **6**
  - Other: **23**

#### ***Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)***

- » **210** MHFA Trainers Trained
- » **10,970** Professionals Trained

### ***West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition***

The West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition (WVSDT) maintain the important

role of providing educational services to more than **6,000** juveniles and adults housed in residential and state-operated facilities. The WVSDT also prepares these students to successfully transition to public school, employment, and to life in their communities as responsible, productive citizens.

Additionally, the WVSDT works with county school districts, local probation officers, judges, and the Bureau of Juvenile Services to share resources and provide counseling and mentoring to students who are in danger of not graduating due to truancy. The WVSDT partnered with **11** local school districts to deliver education-based truancy diversion efforts to **408** students.

### ***West Virginia Outreach Center for the Deaf and the Blind***

The West Virginia Outreach Center for the Deaf and the Blind (WVOCDB) is a comprehensive facility created to serve as a WVDE Technical Assistance Center. The facility, located in Romney, provides services and resources that support all deaf/hard of hearing (DHH), visually impaired, and deafblind students statewide. The impact is growing in response to the statewide need and shortages.

Reach includes:

- » **411** students with a primary exceptionality of DHH
- » **284** students with a primary exceptionality of blind/low vision
- » **257** direct services (in-person and virtually) provided by Birth to Five specialists
- » **93** services provided by K-12 specialists



# CHALLENGE & THRIVE

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDDB) received a grant from the Save the Music Foundation to purchase new instruments and the Hampshire County Community Foundation Grant to plant a pollinator garden at the school for students and staff to enjoy. This school year also saw the return of sports and clubs including swimming, track, basketball, goal ball, Student Government, and National Honor Society. E-Sports was also introduced for students who wished to participate.

Sen. Joe Manchin invited students from the school to the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. During the trip, students had accessible tours of the Capitol featuring American Sign Language presentations and tactile access to the displays. The WVSDDB Tapestry students were also invited to sing for state legislators at the West Virginia State Capitol. The WVSDDB recognized their seniors planning to attend college and provided resources for parents and families. Furthermore, the school released multiple promotional videos highlighting the school and various programs offered to students throughout the year.



West Virginia Schools  
for the Deaf and the Blind



### **School Improvement Supports School Success**

School improvement is realized through intensive supports offered by the WVDE's Office of School Improvement. In fall 2022, 33 of 34 schools in 17 counties exited Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) status. These schools were identified through the 2018 West Virginia Balanced Scorecard as those in most need of intensive support. As a result, each school received on-site support and professional learning, coaching, and mentoring.

In fall of 2022, a new round of CSI schools was identified with 21 schools in 16 counties. The Office of School Improvement completed a comprehensive diagnostic review and report for each school. Each school will receive intensive support over the next three years focused on the West Virginia Standards for Effective Schools.

### **Local Food Sources Support Child Nutrition**

The Office of Child Nutrition is assisting counties to explore options that address

supply chain disruptions and also strengthen regional food supply lines. During the 2022-2023 school year, West Virginia received federal grants equaling \$2,787,804 in Supply Chain Assistance funds and \$1,222,078 in funding through the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement. The Office of Child Nutrition is disbursing these funds to school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Using a prescribed formula, each School Food Authority (SFA) receives a base level of \$5,000, and then an additional amount based on their total enrollment. This includes all public schools, private schools, Residential Child Care Institutions and charter schools that participate in the NSLP program. The proportional amount is intended to provide resources that scale with the size of the student population served by a SFA while ensuring that all districts receive some amount of funding.

Both sources of funding significantly increase the opportunity for school districts to purchase local foods.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Buena Vista Farm, located in Hardy County, serves several area schools with locally-grown strawberries. New federal funding strengthens local food supply chains by allowing schools to purchase local foods.







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