



## **How Have State Content Standards and Objectives Been Revised?**

The West Virginia Department of Education has worked to incorporate rigorous 21st century skills and technology tools into the curriculum. The revisions to West Virginia's Content Standards and Objectives broaden the scope of the curriculum, which has been reviewed by local and national experts and deemed to meet world-class status. Most of the updates went into effect for the 2007-2008 school year.

The state Board of Education's efforts increase alignment with national and international assessments. Those include the National Assessment for Education Progress (NAEP), the ACT college entrance exam, Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).

The revised content standards are much more focused and defined not only by grade level and subject but also according to performance task and expectation. The actual number of objectives have been reduced and clarified.

For example, an earlier reading standard stated: "develop an outline using prepared notes to write a paragraph." The revision standard says: "using student-prepared notes, create an outline and use it to develop a written and/or oral presentation using computer-generated graphics (e.g., tables, charts, graphs)."

By focusing on world-class curriculum standards for both content and skills, West Virginia schools will be able to graduate students who have mastered core content while also cultivating an understanding of the world beyond their communities. West Virginia graduates will become lifelong learners who can secure jobs and compete internationally.