



What Professional Development is Available to Teachers?

Teachers are at the core of our Global 21 plan and they are eager to incorporate 21st century skills to their classrooms. The West Virginia Department of Education understands that quality professional development for teachers will determine the success of Global21. Through the Teacher Leadership Institute, the state Department of Education is working to make sure educators get the quality, research-based professional development they crave.

This professional development opportunity focuses on the digital learner, 21st century content in the context of real world applications using 21st century tools, quality instruction design, performance assessment and strategic planning. The summer sessions have been followed up with webinars, regional meetings and extended sessions to continue the transition to the 21st century classroom.

West Virginia started an effort to train more than 300 technology integration specialists. Once trained, the technology specialists take their new skills back to their home schools where they help other teachers integrate technology into their teaching plans to improve student achievement.

The West Virginia Department of Education also has launched Teach 21. The interactive site, which was designed by teachers, allows educators to quickly access 21st century content standards, learning skills, research-based instructional strategies, technology tools and other resources. Teachers can download prepared training materials that include introductory pieces on 21st century education, videos from across West Virginia of exemplary 21st century teachers, a blog, a wiki, and links and references to other useful sites.

The department also has a partnership with The Intel Foundation to train 2,000 teachers through the Intel® Teach Program. More than 50 West Virginia educators will be certified as Intel Master Trainers to deliver professional development to other teachers. Teachers will then learn from other teachers how, when and where to incorporate technology tools and resources into their lessons and to teach thinking with technology.

The West Virginia Department of Education and Oracle Education Foundation also have formed a partnership that will help teachers better prepare students for the 21st century with offerings that include Think.com and ThinkQuest. Both online offerings are used around the world.

In addition, the Verizon Foundation has provided the West Virginia Department of Education a grant to educate teachers across the Mountain State in how to use the online educational resources available at Thinkfinity.org, which is the foundation's free, comprehensive program and online portal to 55,000 educational resources, including standards-based, grade-specific, K-12 lesson plans and other interactive tools and materials.