

## Educators

*This school year West Virginia added world-class rigor to traditional core subjects and aligned state standards with national and international standards. We call it Global21.*

### How is public education changing?

- The West Virginia Department of Education collaborated with educators, parents and community members to create frameworks for high-performing schools and classrooms.
- Teams of master teachers statewide then developed rigorous world-class curriculum standards for all content areas.
- These more stringent, research-based content standards and objectives, not textbooks, drive instruction.
- The content focuses on core curriculum as well as performance skills like critical thinking, communication and collaboration.
- Instead of passive, teacher-centered instruction, learning now is more active and student centered with the teacher as a facilitator.
- The focus in the 21st century moves from fact memorization to what students know and can do after the details are forgotten.

### In the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment, as educators you will

- develop lessons that build on knowledge, comprehension and application to include higher-order thinking skills, such as problem solving, synthesis, analysis and evaluation;
- free students to work on their own and collaborate with others on group projects to foster greater comprehension;
- use integrated and interdisciplinary curriculum to spur student interest and make the most of their experiences and talents;
- orchestrate learning in a technology-rich environment that includes blogs, multimedia projects, wireless Internet access, smart boards and projectors, among other tools;
- engage students in real-world problems and issues important to humanity and global harmony;
- set high expectations for all students.

### What should I do?

- Visit the Teach 21 Web site at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21> to access model lessons, unit plans, instructional guides and Project Based Learning units that provide examples of 21<sup>st</sup> century instruction.
- Change will not happen without your enthusiastic support and leadership because parents and students will turn to you for guidance.
- Make a personal commitment to learn and understand all components of 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning.
- Be proactive in transforming your classroom into a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning center.
- Work with other teachers at your grade level or in your content area to critically study, identify and explain the requirements in each objective of the West Virginia 21<sup>st</sup> Century Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs). See <http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/csos.html>.
- Incorporate technology, Project Based Learning and real-world instruction practices into your classroom daily.
- Notify your principal or superintendent that you would like to attend a Global21 professional development session offered by school, county or state leadership to learn more about standards-focused instruction.
- Be an advocate for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning in your school and community.

