

Parents of Students Grades 5-8

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 do we measure student progress in the 21st century?

- Adding rigor to what students learn is not about making tests harder. Instead, 21st century learning challenges students to excel in core classes as well as learn real-world skills such as working in teams, problem solving and critical thinking.
- Measuring learning is an integral part of the learning process. That is why state, national and international assessments, such as WESTEST 2, NAEP, ACT, SAT, PISA and TIMSS, are used to measure student learning. Such measurements indicate your child's competitiveness in a global economy.
- Global21 includes a more challenging assessment in WESTEST 2. Because of the added rigor, it may take time before some students perform as well as they did on previous state standardized tests.
- Supporting teachers and schools throughout the learning process and testing process is key to the success of your student.

20 th Century Assessment	21 st Century Assessment
Fact memorization	Understanding concepts
True/false tests	Open-ended questions
Teacher-graded assignments	Peer review
Student essays/research papers	Student blogs/journaling
Open-book tests	Online research to answer questions
Individual assessments	Project-based group assessments
Questions at end of chapter	Mastery of West Virginia Content Standards

What can I do to help my child?

- Discuss with school faculty your child's performance on the WESTEST 2 in grades 5-8.
- Visit global21.k12.wv.us for more information about WESTEST 2 and what your child is learning in school.
- Encourage your child to learn a second or third language.
- Expect your child to take the ACT Explore in eighth grade. This assessment measures academic progress and helps students explore career options, develop a high school coursework schedule and plan for life after high school graduation.
- Practice problem solving and critical thinking with your student while at home.
- Model acceptance of others.
- Volunteer in your child's school, talk with your child's teacher and principal and talk with your child about what is new and different in school.
- Know with whom to talk in your child's school if you think there is a problem at school.
- Visit the West Virginia Department of Education Web site for additional resources and the reasons for 21st

