

## Parents of Students Grades 9-12

*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 Global 21.*

### How is public education changing?

- The content taught in West Virginia schools has been updated to be as challenging as any content taught nationally or internationally.
- The content focuses on core curriculum as well as performance skills like critical thinking, communication and collaboration.
- Lessons now include development of skills valued in the workplace, such as leadership; ethical behavior; respect for others; personal responsibility; considering the impact of your actions on others; taking the initiative to plan and execute tasks; and interacting productively as a member of a group.
- Students are working in teams to experience and explore relevant, real-world problems, questions, issues and challenges.
- Investments in technology now allow many students to use a variety of digital tools to learn information not in their textbooks.
- Teachers are learning new ways of teaching students that include applying knowledge to real-world problems and using technology skills to present information in multiple ways.
- The focus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century moves from fact memorization to what students know and can do after the details are forgotten.
- West Virginia schools are including social and economic themes to help broaden children's understanding of the world.

### In the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment, students in ninth through 12th grade will

- be literate in reading, math, writing, science and social studies;
- use 21<sup>st</sup> century digital tools and resources instead of only textbooks for learning and problem solving;
- work in pairs or teams to creatively solve problems and apply solutions;
- work with a partner or a group in reaching solutions;
- be self-directed motivated learners;
- use technology to take courses that may not be available at their neighborhood school.

### What should I do ?

- Learn more about Global21 by visiting [global21.k12.wv.us](http://global21.k12.wv.us).
- Be an active participant in your child's education.
- Volunteer in your child's school, talk with your child's teacher and talk with your child about what is going on that is new and different in your child's school.
- Support the increase of high-speed Internet access in schools.
- Support school schedules that provide time for teachers to plan and to learn new skills and knowledge related to digital technology.
- Share your interest in and understanding of 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning with your child's teachers.
- Provide opportunities for your child to explore college and career options.
- Visit the Teach 21 Web site to read the academic expectations for students (CSOs) at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21>.
- Visit the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) parent Web site for additional resources and the reasons for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning <http://wvde.state.wv.us/21stparents>.

