

Parents of Students Grades PreK-4

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 like 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 your child's success.

20 th Century Assessment	21 st Century Assessment
Fact memorization	Understanding concepts
True/false tests	Open-ended questions
Teacher-graded	Peer review assignments
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 3-4.
- Visit global21.k12.wv.us for more information about WESTEST 2 and what your child is learning in school.
- Volunteer in your child's school, talk with your child's teacher 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.
- Support and encourage your child to stay healthy, safe, engaged and challenged. See <http://www.wholechildeducation.org>.
- Volunteer in your community as a family.
- Visit your child's school so that you can learn with whom to talk if you think there is a problem at school.
- Share your experience and expertise with your child's school.
- Learn to use a computer or other technology with your child.
- Model acceptance of others.
- Visit the West Virginia Department of Education Web site for additional resources and the reasons for 21st century learning: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/21stparents>.

