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## ***P.A.R.E.N.T.S.***

***PARTICIPATE*** Participate in your child's school learning activities. Studies have shown that parental participation and influence have long-term positive effects on student performance.

***ASSIST*** Assist the teacher by discussing with your child the importance of listening to and following the directions.

***REASSURE*** Reassure your child that this test measures learning and shows strengths and accomplishments, as well as areas needing improvement. Ensure that your child gets a good night's rest before testing!

***ENCOURAGE*** Encourage your child to work to his/her potential and strive to complete each subtest.

***NURTURE*** Nurturing and nutrition are important. Provide your child with a nutritional breakfast as hunger can have a negative effect on performance.

***TEACH*** Teach your child that doing his/her best on tests is important. Information from tests is used to improve your child's learning and prepare for his/her future.

***SUPPORT*** Stay involved by shaping good study habits, encouraging reading activities, checking homework and other completed schoolwork.

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Dr. Steven L. Paine  
State Superintendent of Schools  
West Virginia Department of Education

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# **Preparing for the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST)**



**West Virginia  
Educational  
Standards  
TESTS**



**OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**West Virginia Department of Education**

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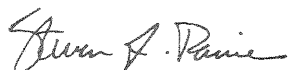
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## FOREWORD

The purpose of the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (**WESTEST**) is to provide information about your child's academic strengths and weaknesses. **WESTEST** measures and identifies your child's levels of performance on the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs). All CSOs were designed and developed by the West Virginia educational community.

Students enrolled in grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 will participate in the **WESTEST** this year. I encourage you to ask your child to put forth his/her best efforts on the **WESTEST**.



Dr. Steven L. Paine  
State Superintendent of Schools

## WHAT IS WESTEST?

**WESTEST** is a custom designed test for West Virginia students. The assessments measure your student's levels of performance on clearly defined standards and objectives and skill levels (see <http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies> - 2520.1, 2520.2, 2520.3, or 2520.4).

Your child's scores are based on test questions that have been developed and aligned to the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs). The test results provide information about your child's academic strengths and academic areas that need improvement.

Your child's performance is compared to academic standards rather than to the performance of a national sample population of students. Results of the tests will be used by your child's teachers and principal to improve student learning.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TESTS

**WESTEST** is a test of West Virginia's Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in the areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, social studies and science for grades 3 through 8 and reading/language arts, mathematics and science for grade 10.

**Reading/Language Arts Test** measures vocabulary and reading comprehension skills for gaining information, performing tasks and reading for literary experience. Additionally, the test measures writing skills to include language mechanics and language expression.

**Mathematics Test** measures conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge, problem solving, and mathematical skills in the areas of number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis and probability.

**Social Studies Test** measures conceptual understanding and social studies skills in the areas of citizenship, civics/government, economics, geography and history.

**Science Test** measures conceptual understanding, scientific investigation and practical reasoning in the following areas: history and nature of science, science as inquiry, unifying themes, science subject matter, scientific design and application, and science in personal and social perspectives.

## TEST RESULTS

The following scores shall appear on the individual reports for your child:

**Performance Levels (PL)** Performance levels provide explanations, called performance level descriptors, of the skills and knowledge that are consistently demonstrated by your child at that level. Each content area has five levels of student performance. Your child's scores will fall into one of the following West Virginia performance levels:

Distinguished Performance Level  
Above Mastery Performance Level  
Mastery Performance Level  
Partial Mastery Performance Level  
Novice Performance Level

In West Virginia, the **WESTEST** is one indicator of how well your child mastered the CSOs in the areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

**Performance Level Descriptors (PLD)** The descriptors define the skills and knowledge that are consistently demonstrated by your child at that level.

**Scale Score Range (SSR)** The specific points (cut scores) on a scale define the score ranges for the five performance levels in West Virginia. If your child's score is within the scale score range of a performance level, it is included in that performance level.

**Scale Score (SS)** A derived score that can be used to compare your child's scores to the range of scores within a content area and allows you to determine progress from one grade to the next.

Office of Assessment and Accountability  
<http://osa.k12.wv.us/>

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