

Test Results

The following information will appear on the individual reports for your student:

Performance Levels (PL) provide explanations, called Performance Level Descriptors, of the skills and knowledge that are demonstrated by your student at that level. Each content area has five levels of student performance. Your student'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 2 is one indicator of how well your student mastered the CSOs in the areas of reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

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

Scale Score Range (SSR) are specific points (cut scores) on a scale that define the score ranges for the five performance levels in West Virginia. Your student's score will be within the scale score range of a performance level and will be reflected on the student report.

Scale Scores (SS) are derived scores that are used to compare your student's score to the range of scores within a content area and determine progress from one grade to the next.

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

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

ASSIST Assist the teacher by discussing with your student the importance of setting and achieving educational goals.

REASSURE Reassure your student WESTEST 2 is given to determine strengths and weaknesses, and therefore, aids the teacher in planning appropriate instruction. Ensure that your student consistently gets a good night's rest.

ENCOURAGE Encourage your student to work to his/her potential and strive to perform his/her best on a daily basis.

NURTURE Nurture your student by promoting good nutritional habits, a balance of rest and relaxation and a positive attitude for setting educational goals.

TEACH Teach your student that doing his/her best is always important. Information from both formal and informal assessments are used to improve your student's learning and prepare for his/her future.

SUPPORT Support your student by staying involved and encouraging good study habits, reading activities, checking homework and discussing other school related issues.



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2008-2009

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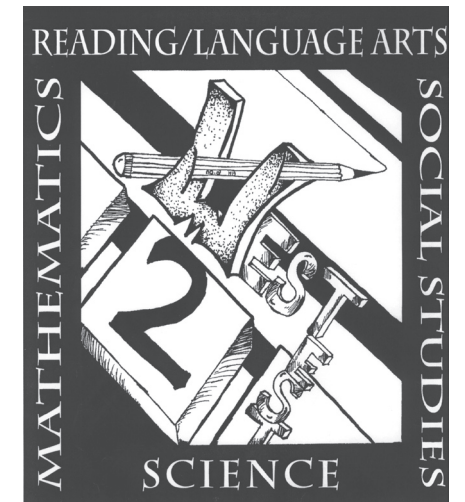
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Dr. Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools

Preparing for the West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2)



**Office of Assessment
and Accountability**

West Virginia Department of Education

FOREWORD

The purpose of the West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2) is to provide information about your student's academic strengths and weaknesses. WESTEST 2 measures and identifies your student's levels of performance on the West Virginia 21st Century Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs). All CSOs were designed and developed by the West Virginia educational community. Students enrolled in grades 3 through 11 will participate in the WESTEST 2 this year. I encourage you to ask your student to put forth his/her best efforts on the WESTEST 2.



Dr. Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools

What is WESTEST 2?

WESTEST 2 is a custom-designed assessment for West Virginia students. The assessments measure a student's levels of performance on clearly defined standards and objectives and skill levels.

Student scores are based on test questions that have been developed and aligned to the West Virginia 21st Century CSOs. The assessment results provide information about a student's academic strengths, as well as areas that need improvement. The parent/guardian will receive a student report that indicates levels of performance in each of the content areas.

Your student'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 student's teacher and principal to improve student learning.

Descriptions of the Tests

WESTEST 2 is an untimed summative test of West Virginia's 21st Century CSOs in the areas of online writing, reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies and science for grades 3 through 11.

Reading and Language Arts Test

Session 1 of the WESTEST 2 **Online Writing Test** measures the writing ability of West Virginia students. The student logs onto the secure Web site, receives a randomly selected narrative, descriptive, informative or persuasive passage and prompt and writes a composition addressing this assigned genre of writing. These passages and prompts emphasize 21st century skills, including real-world applications, critical thinking and problem solving. Students do not have to have specific content or technical knowledge in order to address the topic. Compositions are scored electronically, based on the West Virginia Writing Rubric, which includes the analytic traits of Organization, Development, Sentence Structure, Word Choice/Grammar Usage and Mechanics. The Online Writing will be combined with the WESTEST 2 Reading and Language Arts score to determine student performance.

Sessions 2 and 3 of the WESTEST 2 **Reading and Language Arts Test** measures reading comprehension skills and writing strategies/skills in a high interest, 21st century context. Students are tested in a multiple-choice format with the reading questions measuring reading for literary and informational purposes, critical thinking, synthesis of data and reasoning. The test also measures knowledge of the writing process and writing skills, including multiple editing skills and selecting and evaluating sources.

Social Studies Test

The Social Studies Test measures student ability to process content knowledge, apply social studies skills and demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving to reach valid conclusions in real-world situations. Students demonstrate conceptual understanding of content in the areas of citizenship, civics/government, economics, geography and history. This test is also comprised of items that emphasize ethical behavior, global awareness, financial literacy, civic participation and health and wellness. Graphic organizers are used to aid students in their analysis of information requiring the synthesis of complex concepts. Each test includes one Document Based Question: an item set that requires students to analyze and synthesize information from several sources to reach an informed conclusion.

Science Test

The Science Test measures the content of science application and nature of science by using multiple-choice and two gridded response (shown in the next column) items. Each item emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving skills. In 2009, grades 9, 10 and 11 test items are based on the physical science CSOs.

Mathematics Test

The Mathematics Test measures the areas of number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis and probability. High school mathematics will be tested according to these subjects: ninth grade algebra and 10th grade geometry. The 11th grade test will be comprised of 40 percent algebra I, 38 percent geometry, 15 percent algebra II and 7 percent trigonometry, which align items with the ACT and college readiness.

Calculators will be permitted on all mathematics tests. The format for this test includes multiple choice items and two gridded response questions per grade level. On the gridded response items, students will not select an answer choice; they will solve the problem, record the answer in the boxes and fill in the corresponding numbers on the grid. An example of the grid for a gridded response is shown below.

Grades 3-5

0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9

Grades 6-11

/	/	/	/	/
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0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9

College Readiness

The WESTEST 2 grade 11 scores in mathematics and reading and language arts will be used to determine if students have mastered the knowledge and skills students need to be successful in entry-level credit-bearing college courses. Students in grade 11 not meeting the College Readiness Index for mathematics will be expected to take a college transition mathematics class in grade 12.