

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Test Coordinators

FROM: Steven L. Paine *SLP*
State Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2) Online Writing

DATE: February 10, 2010

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2) in the spring of 2010. The testing window for the first session of WESTEST 2, Online Writing, will be March 1 through April 30, 2010. The remaining sessions of WESTEST 2 will be administered May 17-28, 2010. The WESTEST 2 is aligned to the West Virginia 21st Century Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in the areas of Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Social Studies and Science.

All public school students enrolled in grades 3-11 participate in WESTEST 2 at the grade level in which they are enrolled, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA). The WESTEST 2 Reading/Language Arts (RLA) test is comprised of an online writing section and a multiple choice section. Students must complete both the online section and the multiple choice section to have the opportunity to score as high as possible on the WESTEST 2 RLA.

The parent brochure, *Parent Guide: West Virginia WESTEST 2 Online Writing*, provided with this mailing is to be sent home with each student taking the WESTEST 2 Online Writing. The brochure describes the WESTEST 2 Online Writing and explains how student performance on the writing section is embedded with student performance on the RLA section of WESTEST 2 to obtain a complete scale score and performance level for RLA.

For your convenience, a letter is included as a cover letter to introduce WESTEST 2 Online Writing and the parent brochure, *Parent Guide: West Virginia WESTEST 2 Online Writing*. If you wish, you may draft your own parent letter.

If you have questions with regard to assessment issues, please feel free to contact the Office of Assessment, Accountability and Research at (304) 558-2546.

SP/VR:th

Enclosures

c: County Superintendents

February, 2010

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

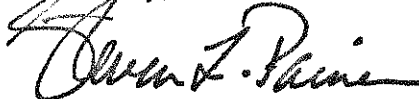
The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2) in the spring of 2010. The testing window for WESTEST 2 Online Writing will be March 1 through April 30, 2010. The multiple choice section of WESTEST 2 will be administered May 17-28, 2010. The WESTEST 2 is aligned to the West Virginia 21st Century Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in the areas of Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Social Studies and Science.

All public school students enrolled in grades 3-11 will participate in WESTEST 2 at the grade level in which they are enrolled, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA). The WESTEST 2 Reading/Language Arts (RLA) test is comprised of an online writing section and a multiple choice section. Students must complete both the online section and the multiple choice section to have the opportunity to score as high as possible on the WESTEST 2 RLA.

To prepare students for the annual administration of WESTEST 2 Online Writing, the Office of Assessment, Accountability and Research has designed a brochure for parents entitled *Parent Guide: West Virginia WESTEST 2 Online Writing* as an informational tool. This brochure describes the WESTEST 2 Online Writing and explains how student performance on writing is included with student performance on the RLA section of WESTEST 2 to obtain a complete scale score and performance level for RLA. The brochure is designed to be a compact, useful guide for understanding WESTEST 2 Online Writing as you help prepare your child for participation this year.

I respectfully request that you encourage your child/children to perform his/her/their best during the WESTEST 2 Online Writing this spring. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the county test coordinator at your county's central office.

Sincerely,



Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools

SP/VR:th