

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** County Test Coordinators

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

**SUBJECT:** West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 Field Test (WESTEST 2 Field Test)

**DATE:** August 5, 2008

The West Virginia Department of Education will be administering the West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 Field Test (WESTEST 2 Field Test) in early fall. The WESTEST 2 Field Test is aligned with the West Virginia 21<sup>st</sup> Century Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in the areas of mathematics, reading/language arts, science and social studies.

The testing window for the WESTEST 2 Field Test is September 22 – October 3, 2008. All counties' public school students enrolled in grades 4-12 are invited to participate in the WESTEST 2 Field Test, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Performance Task Assessment (APTA).

For your convenience, a cover letter is included to introduce the WESTEST 2 Field Test to the parents/guardians of West Virginia students who will be taking the WESTEST 2 Field Test. If you wish, it is acceptable to draft your own parent letter.

Educators from across the state, as well as other West Virginia stakeholders, have been involved in the development process of WESTEST 2. For example, over 250 West Virginia teachers were involved in some process of development such as item writing, alignment of items and content/bias review of items. This West Virginia educator/stakeholder involvement is one of our proudest accomplishments.

We sincerely wish you a very successful administration of the WESTEST 2 Field Test. If you have questions with regard to assessment issues, please feel free to contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at (304) 558-2546.

SP/BJ:th

Enclosure

c: County Superintendents

September, 2008

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer a field test, the West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 Field Test (WESTEST 2 Field Test) for the new assessment, WESTEST 2, this fall. The field test will be administered September 22 – October 3, 2008. Your county will determine the exact testing days within this two-week period and notify you of the dates your child will be participating in the field testing.

The field test is a step in the development process enabling the West Virginia Department of Education to analyze student performance prior to implementing the WESTEST 2 in May of 2009. This new assessment known as WESTEST 2 will replace the WESTEST given this past May.

To help prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century living, we have developed an assessment tool capable of measuring the skills outlined in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs), which were developed to guide classroom instruction. The WESTEST 2, in alignment with 21<sup>st</sup> Century CSOs, has been developed with increased rigor and will challenge students to apply those learned skills.

Public school students in grades 4-12 will participate in this field test in two of four content areas (Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies), as well as a norm referenced Terra Nova test. This combination of tests will be predetermined and assigned to each school by the test publisher.

By participating in this field test, your child will gain insight into the style of questions appearing on the actual WESTEST 2 in May 2009. I encourage you to discuss with your child the importance of performing to the best of his/her ability during the WESTEST 2 Field Test.

Our web site [www.westest.k12.wv.us](http://www.westest.k12.wv.us) provides additional information for you regarding the WESTEST 2 Field Test. 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