



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: County Test Coordinators
FROM: Steven L. Paine *SLP*
State Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST)
DATE: March 20, 2007

The West Virginia Department of Education will be administering the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST) in May 2007. The WESTEST is aligned with the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in the areas of Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Social Studies and Science.

The testing window for WESTEST is May 14-18, 2007. Make-up testing will be conducted the following week, May 21-25, 2007. All public school students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 10 will participate in WESTEST 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).

A parent brochure, *Preparing for the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST)* is provided with this mailing for each student in your county. The parent brochure describes the assessment and explains how the test results are used to measure students' levels of performance on the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives.

For your convenience, a letter is included as a cover letter to introduce WESTEST and the parent brochure. If you wish, it is acceptable to draft your own parent letter.

It is important to note that over 250 West Virginia teachers were involved in the WESTEST development process. These tests could not have been developed without our West Virginia educators. The educator stakeholder involvement is one of our proudest accomplishments in the WESTEST development process.

I sincerely wish you a very successful year of administering the WESTEST. If you have questions with regard to assessment issues, please feel free to contact Sandra Starr in Office of Assessment and Accountability at skstarr@access.k12.wv.us or (304) 558-2546.

SP/SS:jh

Enclosures

c: County Superintendents