

21st Century Assessment



Monthly Communication Update

January 31, 2009

From the State Superintendent...

Beginning this January and continuing into March 2009, many West Virginia schools will be participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2009. NAEP, or the Nation's Report Card, will be administered in reading, mathematics and science for grades 4, 8 and 12. From these assessments, state-level results for reading and mathematics will be provided for grades 4, 8 and 12. State-level results for science will be provided in grades 4 and 8. NAEP, which has been conducted since 1969, informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. NAEP compares performance among states, urban school districts, public and private schools, and student demographic groups.

As a member of the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), an independent, bipartisan board that sets policy for NAEP, I want to encourage all of you who will be participating in the 2008-2009 NAEP assessment to take these tests as seriously as possible. Your performance on NAEP assessments represents West Virginia to the nation. In addition, it is important to recall that NAEP content is embedded within our West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives. Students who are being taught using West Virginia's rigorous, 21st century CSOs are already being prepared for assessment that accurately measures the NAEP content framework.

Given the significance of NAEP, it is imperative that all West Virginia schools that are selected for participation and all students who are selected for NAEP actively participate in 2008-2009 testing. For NAEP 2007, West Virginia had the lowest exclusion rate for all tests at all grade levels. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) would like to see this low exclusion rate continued for NAEP 2009. After review of exclusion rates for NAEP thus far, it appears that many schools are following the guidelines for WESTEST 2. Recall that in general, if a child takes WESTEST 2, the child (if selected for NAEP participation) should also take NAEP.

Over the next months, this assessment newsletter will continue to update you on issues and topics related to our state assessment system. As always, the WVDE continues to 1) remain open to your recommendations, and 2) seek your voices in shaping the "doing" of 21st century instruction and assessment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven L. Paine'.

Dr. Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools

West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2)

WESTEST 2 LOGO Art Contest Winners Announced!

Appreciation is extended to all counties that encouraged **more than 3,000 students** who participated in the WESTEST 2 LOGO Art Contest! These art entries were reviewed by a panel of judges consisting of educators and community members. Following the review process, nine finalists, one from each assessed WESTEST 2 grade level, and one overall state winner (chosen from those nine) were selected and announced during the January 14, 2009, West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) Meeting.

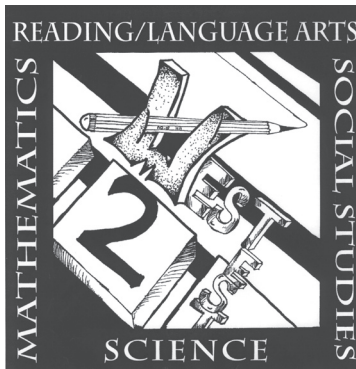
The WVDE Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) hosted a reception prior to the WVBE meeting to honor the eight finalists and one state-level winner. Each art contest finalist received a certificate of recognition, a digital camera, and a framed copy of his/her artwork. The overall state winner also received a laptop computer.

Nine grade-level finalists were selected:

Grade 3: Daisy McCune	Divide Elementary School	Fayette County
Grade 4: Emma Pino	Rosedale Elementary School	Fayette County
Grade 5: Emily McNeil	Woodsdale Elementary School	Ohio County
Grade 6: Bryan Stone	Hamilton Middle School	Wood County
Grade 7: Adam Church	Hedgesville Middle School	Berkeley County
Grade 8: Josh Chancey	Ripley Middle School	Jackson County
Grade 9: Crysta Long	Tyler Consolidated High School	Tyler County
Grade 10: Tori Shepherd	Parkersburg South High School	Wood County
Grade 11: Sonya Mullins	Matewan High School	Mingo County

From these nine grade-level finalists, one overall state winner was selected:

Grade 9: Crysta Long	Tyler Consolidated High School	Tyler County
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Visit the following link to view photos of the WESTEST 2 Logo Contest finalists and state-level winner:
http://wvde.state.wv.us/oa/westest2_logo.html

West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2) (continued)

WESTEST 2 ONLINE WRITING ASSESSMENT

Testing Window: March 2 – May 1, 2009

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES SET TO ADDRESS POLICY 2510 CHANGES!

Implementation of WESTEST 2 Science assessments for grades 9, 10 and 11 will follow the schedule below (Please see <http://wvde.state.wv.us/oa/pdf/westest2/PhysicalScienceBiologyAndChemistry-AssessmentSchedule.pdf>)

Assessment Schedule for Science

2008-09	Grade Level	Assessment
	9	Physical Science
10	Physical Science	
11	Physical Science	
2009-10	Grade Level	Assessment
	9	Physical Science
	10	Biology
11	Biology	
2010-11	Grade Level	Assessment
	9	Physical Science
	10	Biology
11	Chemistry	

Implementation of WESTEST 2 RLA assessments for grades 9, 10 and 11 will follow the schedule shown below.

Assessment Schedule for RLA

2008-011	Grade Level	Assessment
	9	9 th Grade English
	10	10 th Grade English
	11	11 th Grade English Scores on this test represent the student's College Readiness Standards Score
12	College Readiness Standards Retest Only	

Implementation of WESTEST 2 Social Studies assessments for grades 9 and 10 will follow the schedule below (Please see [http://wvde.state.wv.us/oa/pdf/westest2/SocialStudiesAssessmentSchedule%20\(2\).pdf](http://wvde.state.wv.us/oa/pdf/westest2/SocialStudiesAssessmentSchedule%20(2).pdf)):

Assessment Schedule for Social Studies

2008-09	Grade Level	Assessment
	9	World History
10	World History	
2009-10	Grade Level	Assessment
	9	World History
10	American History	

NOTE: Social studies curriculum is changing in grades 9 and 10 this year:

- Grade 9, American History to 1900, is moving to grade 10.
- Ancient World History is moving from grade 10 to grade 9.
- Both grades 9 and 10 are taking Ancient World History this year on WESTEST 2.

Implementation of WESTEST 2 Math assessments for grades 9, 10 and 11 will follow the schedule shown below.

Assessment Schedule for Math

2008-011	Grade Level	Assessment
	9	Algebra I
	10	Geometry
	11	Algebra I 40% Geometry 38 % Algebra II 15 % Trigonometry 7% Scores on this test represent the student's College Readiness Standards Score
12	College Readiness Standards Retest Only	

West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2) (continued)

REMINDER...REMINDER...REMINDER...REMINDER...REMINDER

Schools should be using gridded response formatted questions within their classrooms! Projectable gridded response templates, along with an instruction sheet are located in the file cabinet on the Office of Assessment and Accountability Web site, <http://wvde.k12.wv.us/oa>.

Math and Science Reference Sheets

Reference sheets in math and science are for use with the following grades:

Math Formula Sheet Grades 9-11

http://wvde.state.wv.us/oa/pdf/21247_Math_Formula_Sheet.pdf

Science Periodic Table (page one of two) Grades 5-11

http://wvde.state.wv.us/oa/pdf/21246_Formula_Sheet_Science.pdf

Science Formula Sheet (page two of two) Grades 7-11

http://wvde.state.wv.us/oa/pdf/21246_Formula_Sheet_Science.pdf

WESTEST 2 REPORTS UPDATE!

The following reports for WESTEST 2 results will be provided in the following formats:

Electronic Reports: (Reports are scheduled for delivery to County Test Coordinators on **July 24, 2009**)

- Confidential Item Analysis Summary (CIAS) for school, county and state
- Confidential Summary Report (CSR) for school, county and state
- Confidential College Readiness Indicator (CCRI) for school
- Confidential Roster Report (CRR) for school

Paper Reports: (Reports are scheduled for delivery to County Test Coordinators on **August 6, 2009**)

- Student Report
- Student Label
- Individual Right Response Report (IRRR)

UPCOMING STANDARD SETTING WORKSHOP!!

- WVDE and CTB/McGraw-Hill will conduct a WESTEST 2 Standard Setting Workshop
- **February 17, 18, 19, 20, 2009**
- For grade levels 3-11 in RLA, math, science, social studies
- For selected educators and educational stakeholders
- Will provide WESTEST 2 cut scores used for accountability as per No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

NAEP 2008-2009 UNDERWAY!

2008-2009 NAEP administration is January 26, 2009 through March 6, 2009.

Westat field personnel have been visiting each NAEP school to coordinate all details necessary to successful administration of NAEP.

The WVDE would like to thank each school for their patience and flexibility in accommodating all weather-related changes to the field personnel visits!

For NAEP 2007, West Virginia had the lowest exclusion rate for all tests at all grade levels!

WVDE would like to see this low exclusion rate continued for NAEP 2009. After review of exclusion rates for NAEP thus far, it appears that many schools are following the guidelines for WESTEST 2. THANK YOU to those schools!

- If a child takes WESTEST 2, the child should also take NAEP.
- For Grade 12, if the student took WESTEST in grade 10, then s/he should take NAEP now.

West Virginia Benchmark/Classroom Assessments

ACUITY

Acuity is an all-in-one system for improving student knowledge and achievement. It assists teachers in determining students' understanding of West Virginia state standards on a consistent basis. In addition, Acuity helps teachers to target instruction for whole class, small group, or individual learning with instructional activities that are embedded into the Acuity platform and aligned to state standards. Teachers can create customized classroom testlets based on the content that they are currently teaching and then students and teachers receive immediate and actionable feedback that informs future instruction.

The three components that Acuity provides to local school districts include the following:

Benchmark Testlets

- 45 counties participated in Benchmark 1
- Benchmark 2 was released on January 15, 2009
- This release included science benchmark testlets for grades 4 and 6, and high school physical science
- Benchmark 2 was shortened to 25 questions for reading/language arts (RLA) and mathematics and 20 questions for science

West Virginia Benchmark/Classroom Assessments (continued)

ACUITY

- Detailed reports regarding student performance on the first and second benchmarks are available on the Acuity Web site
- Benchmark 3 will be released and available for local school districts on March 17, 2009
- Benchmark 3 will include science testlets for grades 3-8 and high school physical science
- All benchmarks will be available to school districts on a continual basis in order to accommodate schools having modified schedules

Teacher-Developed Testlets

- Teachers can create their own testlets based on local curriculum maps, pacing guides and classroom needs
- Items for teacher-developed testlets are available from the West Virginia Custom Bank, Acuity Item Bank and Benchmark testlets
- Reports for all teacher-developed testlets are immediately available
- Longitudinal data is available for both benchmark and teacher-developed testlets in order to determine student progress year-to-year.

Instructional Resources

- Resources provide guided, step-by-step instruction for students, independent practice, and immediate, interactive feedback
- Resources can be assigned from district/school/class/student reports or from specific CSOs or skill sets
- Resources can be used for scaffolding student learning of challenging content, or for providing content acceleration
- Teachers can use reports from these instructional resources to monitor student progress

10th Grade PSAT Pilot

We are pleased to report that 40 counties and 138 schools participated in the PSAT 10th Grade Pilot! During October 2008, there were 7,383 10th grade students who took the PSAT compared to 2,668 in 2007. This represents an increase of 177%.

The PSAT measures critical reading, mathematics problem-solving, and writing skills. PSAT scale scores range from 20 to 80.

10TH GRADE PSAT PILOT RESULTS

2008 Pilot PSAT Results			
	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing Skills
Nation	41.9	44.3	41.3
West Virginia	40.3	41.5	39.9

A survey will be sent to each participating school to gather information on a variety of implementation/usage issues and to gather input to assist WVDE in determining the continuance of the PSAT project.

Questions/Answers

We encourage you to submit your comments, questions, concerns and recommendations to Dr. Diana L. Smith at dllsmith@access.k12.wv.us. We will address them in the 21st Century Assessment Monthly Communication Update. It is our goal to support the changes in instruction and assessment in order to successfully implement 21st century learning and meet the needs of our children.

Questions for the 21st Century Assessment Monthly Communication Update can be submitted at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/questions.html>.