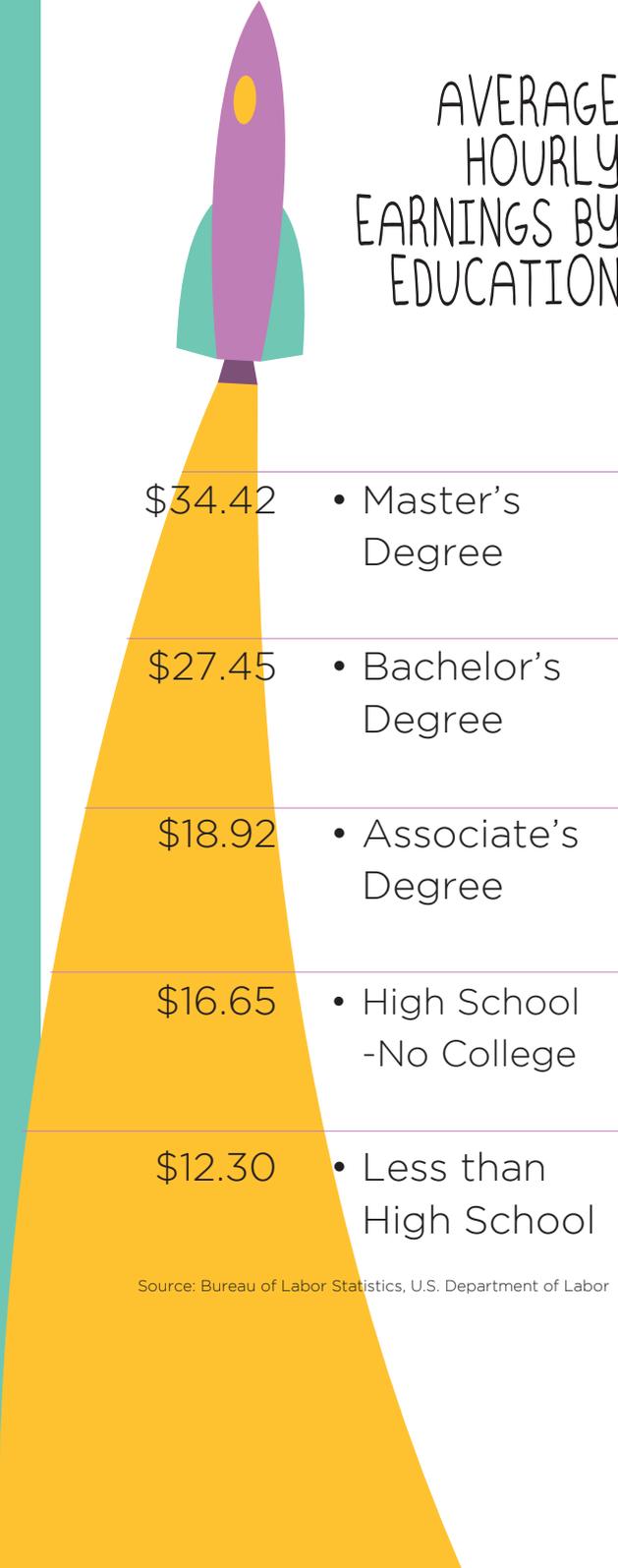


# WHAT CAN I DO?

Families play a crucial role in the educational process. There are many ways that families can extend learning opportunities for their children outside of the classroom. Here are a few examples:

- Encourage questions and explore answers (especially questions whose answers are not yes or no).  
*Why do you think the leaves fall off the trees every year?*
- Explain and discuss issues or problems in your house, neighborhood and community. Brainstorm solutions.  
*How can we resolve conflicts with our brothers and sisters?*
- Compare how things are alike and different.  
*What do all of your favorite movies have in common?*
- Give reasons - you to them and them to you.  
*I decided to go to the grocery store first because the traffic will be heavier during rush hour.*  
*Why do you think we should have \_\_\_\_\_ for dinner?*
- Look for patterns.  
*What do you notice about the way these flowers are planted? Why would they be in a straight line on the east side of the house?*
- Tell your children what you value and why.  
*I enjoy reading the newspaper every morning to know what's going on in our community and our world.*
- Encourage and celebrate opinions.  
*I can tell you put a lot of thought into your response. It makes a lot of sense to me.*
- Talk to your kids about life-long learning and its impact on average hourly earnings.

## AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS BY EDUCATION



\$34.42	• Master's Degree
\$27.45	• Bachelor's Degree
\$18.92	• Associate's Degree
\$16.65	• High School -No College
\$12.30	• Less than High School

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

# WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

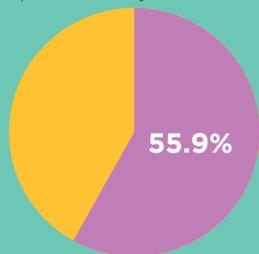


## WHY TRANSITION TO NEW STANDARDS?

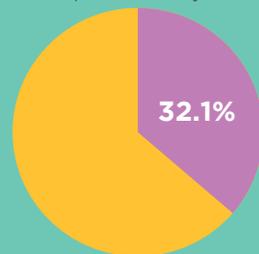
West Virginia chose to set higher expectations for students by adopting Next Generation Standards for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in 2011. Our state's policymakers, legislators, business leaders and parents were concerned that West Virginia students are not prepared for college and the workforce. Thirty-two percent of West Virginia graduates take remediation courses in postsecondary education. Twenty-three percent of West Virginia graduates do not return to postsecondary education the second year. By moving to the West Virginia Next Generation Standards, West Virginia is ensuring that our students are held to the same high expectations as students across the country. West Virginia Next Generation Standards for mathematics and ELA were designed by nearly 100 educators from across the state who reviewed and customized the Common Core State Standards.

The new standards, which became fully effective in the 2014-15 school year, focus on developing students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and writing skills – real world skills students need to be successful in today's workforce. In addition, West Virginia's new standards focus on a deeper understanding of materials, not just basic memorization and test-taking skills. Finally, the new standards are clear and focused, allowing teachers to explore important topics in-depth, rather than skimming the surface of numerous topics to prepare students for tests.

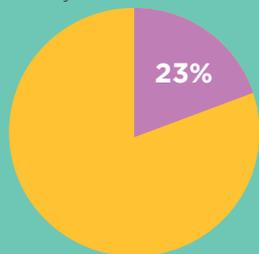
WV graduates going onto postsecondary education\*



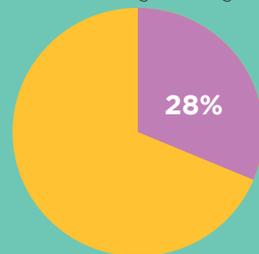
WV graduates who take remediation courses in postsecondary education



WV students who do not return to postsecondary education the second year\*\*



WV population who have an Associate's degree or higher



\*Includes both in-state and out-of-state, two-year/four-year institutions

\*\*Includes only four-year institutions for 2012/2013 first-time freshmen

Source: West Virginia Department of Education and West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

## WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS?

The West Virginia Next Generation Standards are a set of higher expectations in mathematics and ELA that were developed by state leaders to ensure every student graduates high school prepared for the future. These new standards replace West Virginia's former set of expectations for students. The West Virginia Next Generation Standards are essential to creating an education system that prepares our young people for success in school, work and life. The West Virginia Next Generation Standards raise the bar for what our students learn in math and ELA, giving them the ability to think critically, absorb information, draw conclusions and communicate verbally and in writing. The standards emphasize mastery of the 21st century skills necessary to be life-long learners; ensuring students will be prepared for the world that awaits them after graduation.

## HOW ARE STANDARDS DIFFERENT FROM CURRICULUM?

The West Virginia Next Generation Standards set goals for what students should be able to know, understand and do at each grade level, but they are not a curriculum. Local school districts and their teachers will continue to customize, choose and design their own curricula. The West Virginia Department of Education provides a list of state-approved instructional materials to assist counties with this process. Teachers continue to create individual lesson plans with learning goals and instructional practices that are utilized daily in their classrooms. If the standards represent the finish line or final destination, the curriculum represents the different paths that can be taken to get there. To ensure all teachers are prepared, education leaders at the state, regional and local level have worked diligently since 2011 on training efforts.

## WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE STANDARDS?

The new standards are designed to be relevant, reflecting skills students need to succeed in college and careers. These skills reflect grade-level appropriateness by increasing in complexity and rigor as students progress to higher grade levels. The new standards are clear and focused, allowing teachers to explore in-depth important topics in both mathematics and ELA.

The ELA standards require that students become critical readers, not only of fiction, but also of informational texts. Students must show they are able to read and comprehend texts of steadily increasing complexity as they progress through school; in doing so, students become critical readers and thinkers who can independently read a range of texts. The standards also require students develop written and verbal communication skills to effectively relate ideas and information.

In mathematics, the West Virginia Next Generation Standards are built on progressions. A basic mathematical concept introduced in kindergarten may be taught on a six-year-old level, only to grow more complex and rigorous as the child progresses through the grades. Students have the opportunity to deeply learn math concepts through exposure, experience and building prior knowledge. Each grade level teacher is expected to fully develop concepts which will build upon skills the student will use in the next grade level.

## WITH REVISED STANDARDS COME NEW ASSESSMENTS

Beginning with this (2014-2015) school year, West Virginia will administer a new statewide general summative assessment for children in grades 3-11. West Virginia teachers, as well as individuals from the West Virginia Department of Education, partnered with others from nearly two dozen states as part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) to write and review assessment items aligned to the standards.

The statewide general summative assessment will be delivered online and will include the Smarter Balanced Assessments for mathematics and ELA. The statewide general summative assessments will accurately measure how well students are meeting the learning goals identified as part of the West Virginia Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives. Furthermore, these assessments will help teachers and parents monitor each student's individual progress and will help ensure that all students are college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school.