

WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS?

- The Next Generation Standards raise the bar for what our students learn in math and English.
- The standards give students the ability to think critically, absorb information, draw conclusions and communicate verbally and in writing.
- The standards are essential to creating an education system that prepares our young people for success in school, work and life.
- The standards ensure students will be prepared for the world that awaits them after graduation.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Recent data from the SAT show that about 42 percent of West Virginia high school students who take the test are ready for post-secondary education. Of the fastest growing jobs in West Virginia, only 15 percent will be available to workers with just a high school diploma. The West Virginia Next Generation Standards set higher, clearer and simpler goals – higher standards so your children can be ready for success.

WHY TRANSITION TO NEW STANDARDS?

- 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.
- The standards focus on developing real world skills students need to be successful in today's workforce.
- The standards focus on a deeper understanding of materials, not just basic memorization and test-taking skills.
- Standards represent the final destination. The curriculum represents the different paths that can be taken to get there.
- Standards are what students need to know and understand. Curriculum is the classwork used to meet the standards.
- Local school districts and their teachers will continue to choose, design and customize their own curriculum.



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.

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|---------|---------------------------|
| \$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

Find out more by visiting wnextgen.org