

*"I believe that too often we define our state's educational system from the aspect of our deficits. We must begin to focus on our strengths and to tell our state and nation the West Virginia success story. Instead of viewing our challenges as obstacles, I view them as opportunities to make improvements for our young people."*

– Dr. Michael Martirano

## West Virginia Above National Average for High School Graduation Rate Increases

- From 2012-13 to 2013-14, West Virginia saw the fourth-greatest increase in high school graduation rates in the nation – an increase from 81.4 percent to 84.5 percent. That trend continues when compared to the following year's increase in graduation rates. From 2013-14 to 2014-15, the state's graduation rate increased from 84.5 percent to 86.5 percent, ranking West Virginia 18th in the nation for graduation rate.
- 47 high schools achieved exemplary graduation rates of 90 percent or higher during the 2014-15 school year.



## State School Board Votes to Repeal, Replace Academic Standards

- Following an extensive community review, which included input from more than 5,000 individuals and generated more than 250,000 individual comments, the West Virginia Board of Education adopted a new set of standards called the "West Virginia College and Career-Readiness Standards." The revised standards were reviewed by West Virginia educators and are unique to West Virginia. The standards increase rigor, ensure developmental appropriateness and provide a foundation to ensure students are equipped with the skills needed for college, careers and the 21st century world of work.

## West Virginia Students Show Gains in Proficiency on Assessments

- West Virginia students scored higher on this year's West Virginia General Summative Assessment than on the 2015 test in both math and English language arts. Preliminary results show approximately 1 in 2 students is proficient in ELA and 1 in 3 students is proficient in math. The state's overall proficiency in ELA increased 2 percentage points, from 45 to 47 percent and students' overall math proficiency increased 3 percentage points, from 27 to 30 percent.
- West Virginia was also the only state in the country to see an increase in eighth grade reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

## Statewide Accountability System Implemented

- West Virginia's new A-F accountability system has been implemented statewide and grades will be issued to all public schools in November 2016. The new system is designed to provide parents and communities with an annual update on multiple measures that together show how well students are learning, growing and achieving. An A-F grading scale is used to show where schools have success, and areas that need improvement using language that parents and the community can understand.



## West Virginia Leads Nation in Developing Children's Literacy Skills

- West Virginia's longstanding commitment to early learning efforts is evident across early learning programs; specifically, the state is one of a few states in the nation with free, full-day, five-day kindergarten for all children and voluntary universal pre-K to all four-year-old children. The state's Universal pre-K program ranks fifth in the nation with regard to the provision of access to high-quality pre-K services for the state's four-year-olds.
- A recent study released by New America's Education Policy Program identified West Virginia as one of the top five states making solid strides toward comprehensive birth to third grade policy.
- West Virginia's Universal pre-K system recently joined an elite group of 5 other states that meet all 10 benchmarks for high-quality pre-K programming, according to the National Institute for Early Education Research.



## More Students Enroll in Dual Credit Courses to Prepare for College

- West Virginia has seen a positive trend in enrollment of dual credit courses. In 2016, 39 counties offered dual credit courses and 10,648 students enrolled.



## West Virginia's Simulated Workplace Program a Model for Other States

- West Virginia's Career Technical Education program, Simulated Workplace, creates work-ready employees and engages more than 13,000 students statewide.
- The Southern Regional Education Board recognized West Virginia's 29 career and technical education centers with the *2016 Exceptional Transformation of CTE Centers Statewide Award*.



## West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition Recognized as National Leader

- In February 2015, West Virginia ranked first in the nation for serving school breakfast in the 2013-14 school year by the Food Research and Action Center.
- The USDA ranked West Virginia first in the nation for school breakfast participation during Fiscal Year 2013-14.



## West Virginia Ranked 33rd in the Nation by Education Week's Annual Quality Counts Publication

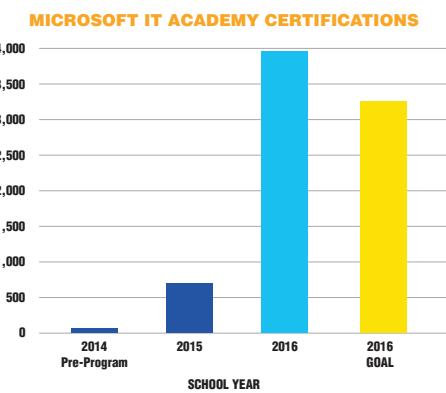
- Education Week's annual publication, Quality Counts, ranks West Virginia's public school system 33rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

## West Virginia Ranked 39th in the Nation by Annie E. Casey Foundation's Annual Kid's Count Report

- The Annie E. Casey foundation ranked West Virginia 39th in its national rankings of child well-being, making it one of the states with the biggest improvement in overall rankings in one year.

## Microsoft Program Helps Students Prepare for the 21st Century World of Work

- Microsoft Imagine Academy is available in all high schools and Career and Technical Centers throughout West Virginia. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin was instrumental in allocating funding for the program which enables students across West Virginia to graduate with informational technology certifications. By participating in the program, schools provide training on fundamental technology skills and offer technical courses which enable students to graduate with industry-recognized credentials. In 2016, nearly 4,000 certifications were earned by students and teachers.



## West Virginia's Student Data Privacy Policy a National Model

- Among the 33 states with data privacy laws, West Virginia stands out as a model for ensuring that student data is protected without hampering innovative uses to help students.

## Schools Met 180-Day Benchmark and Attendance Rates on the Rise

- Counties worked to develop school calendars that maximized instructional time and all counties met the 180-day requirement during SY 2015 -2016.
- The West Virginia Board of Education adopted Policy 4110 to ensure accurate data collection regarding attendance of students.



## More West Virginia Students taking Advanced Placement (AP) Tests and Scoring a Three or Higher on Exam

- The number of West Virginia high school students who took AP exams in 2016 increased by 3.4 percent, from 7,335 in 2014-15 to 7,588 in 2015-16. Additionally, among those students who took the exam, those earning a score of 3, 4 or 5 increased 3.9 percent to 5,199 students.

## West Virginia Receives National Recognition for Physical Activity in Schools

- West Virginia received a national recognition for becoming the first state in the nation to enroll all 441 public elementary school in Let's Move! Active Schools – the national initiative to ensure 60 minutes of physical activity a day is the norm in schools across America.



## Superintendent Martirano Visits all 55 Counties on One Voice Tour

- Dr. Martirano visited 157 schools, interacted with more than 15,000 students and hundreds of educators, school service personnel, state and local elected officials and county school board members.



## Looking Ahead: 2016 – 2017

- Continue to address equity and access opportunity gaps
- Implementation of the Statewide Accountability System
- Improve graduation rate to 90% statewide
- Recruit and retain highly qualified teachers while ultimately reducing the number of teacher vacancies
- Create equity and parity among our educational facilities
- Increase student achievement to ensure all students graduate college and career ready