



Talking Points

West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST2) 2011

GENERAL TALKING POINTS

- The drop in the number of schools making Adequate Yearly Progress in 2011 was expected BUT what we **VALUE** in West Virginia is **CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT** and **STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH**.
- Two years ago, what students needed to learn and be able to do became more intense as part of *Global21: Student's deserve it. The world demands it*. That meant that the WESTEST had to align with the more rigorous course material.
- To view examples of questions found on the WESTEST2, visit <http://wvde.state.wv.us/parents21/westest2.html>
- Last year, the score a student needed to reach to be considered proficient under No Child Left Behind dramatically increased. For example, on the math section, third graders needed to score 557 points to be considered proficient in 2009. In 2010, they needed to score 581 points to be proficient.
- No Child Left Behind requires that ALL students in the United States are proficient by 2014.
- To reach that goal, each year a greater number of students must reach or exceed the proficient level on the WESTEST for a school to meet AYP.
- This year, an additional 16 percent of students had to get to the proficiency mark.

- In addition, this year the federal government required every state use a new graduation calculation. Now states can only consider students who finish in four years as graduates.
- The significant increase in the number of students required to meet proficiency in 2011 is not realistic to many in the educational community.
- Our goal is that students are ready to be successful whether they go to college or enter the workforce.
- Again, what we **VALUE** in West Virginia is **CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT** in and **STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH**.

Liza Cordeiro

Executive Director

Communications Office



Building 6, Room 262

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25305-0330

304.558.2699 P

304.558.0882 F

E-mail: lcordeir@access.k12.wv.us

wvde.state.wv.us

