

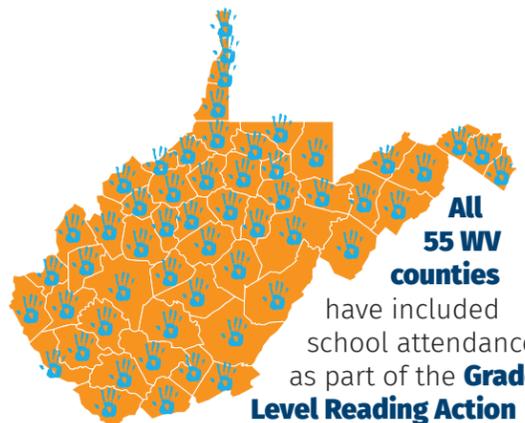


2017 West Virginia Early Learning Spotlight

October 2017

Closing the 3rd Grade Literacy Achievement Gap in West Virginia through a Transformative System of Support for Early Learning

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



All 55 WV counties have included school attendance as part of the **Grade Level Reading Action Plan**.



In its third year of implementation, the State's Transformative System of Support for Early Learning serves as a catalyst for the development and subsequent growth of a comprehensive approach to early learning in West Virginia.

To assist West Virginia in closing the literacy achievement gap by the end of the third grade, recent legislation and subsequent state code and policy have resulted in development of a statewide Transformative System of Support for Early Literacy (WVBE Policy 2512). This systemic process is designed to ensure the success of all young children in West Virginia.

Known as the **West Virginia Leaders of Literacy: Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**, this system of support for early literacy was developed to assist all 55 West Virginia counties in closing the literacy achievement gap in West Virginia by the end of the third grade. These efforts are supported by the West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Board of Education, and the West Virginia Legislature.

Components of the WV Leaders of Literacy: Campaign for Grade-Level Reading



School Attendance



Extended-Day & Extended-Year Learning



School Readiness

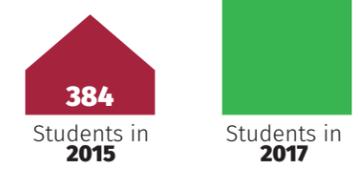


High Quality Instruction



EXTENDED-DAY & EXTENDED-YEAR LEARNING

- » WVDE has engaged with **Extended Day/Year Learning partners** to develop a framework for extended day and year programs.
- » Counties are tracking the **number of students served in extended day/year programming** for the first time, and are also engaging with local extended day/year partners to share resources and training opportunities.
- » Participation in the **WVDE's Summer Reading Challenge** has skyrocketed



SCHOOL READINESS

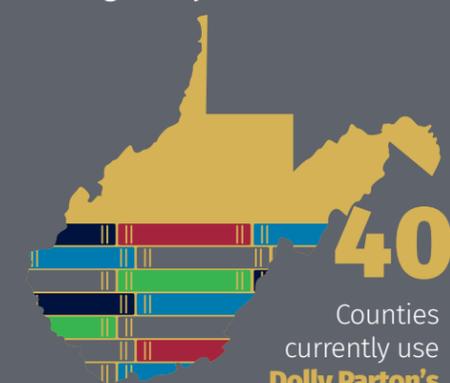
School readiness includes the transitions for families, schools and communities to work together to provide all children opportunities to succeed and become lifelong learners up to and during the pre-k and kindergarten years of school.

- » **WV Universal Pre-K** has continued to grow in participation, quality, and collaboration. **West Virginia's Universal Pre-K** program serves as the original catalyst that led to the development of a statewide comprehensive approach to early learning.

- » Work with **County Collaborative Early Childhood Teams** has continued to emphasize the importance of early literacy practices.



5-year-old kindergartners participated in WV Universal Pre-K the previous year



40 ▶ 27,268

Counties currently use **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** to ensure children ages birth through 5 receive a new children's book monthly through their 5th birthday.

children, birth through age 5, have early access to books through **Imagination Library.**



ONE of FIVE states to meet ALL 10 NIEER current benchmarks for quality pre-k programming

ONE of SIX states to meet 9 OR MORE of the 10 NEW quality benchmarks for quality pre-k programming

- » Year Two preliminary findings indicate West Virginia Universal Pre-K Classrooms are generally of average quality. Emotional support scores are high and demonstrate nurturing and safe environments for children. Classroom organization scores are relatively high. West Virginia Kindergarten classrooms from the sample are generally above minimal quality.



Increased student achievement in preparation for college and career readiness is the key goal of the WV Leaders of Literacy: Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Ensuring all students have access to high-quality classroom instruction assists with achieving this goal.

To support integration of standards-focused content into the classroom, regional orientations recently concluded to acclimate county chief instructional leaders to the intent and structure of the **WV College and Career Readiness ELA Standards**. Using the Learning Schools model, educators will become cognizant of their professional learning needs to ensure they have a strong knowledgebase of the standards.

Ongoing and upcoming work to support high-quality instruction:

- » Foundations of Early Learning Project
Schools participating in the Early Learning Foundations Project will be provided support by the Early Literacy Specialists as they implement the Learning School Model to design their own professional learning based on the identified needs of students and teachers. Differentiated support will be provided to each school according to their identified needs. The goal of the project is to enhance their professional learning communities in order to improve high quality instruction by focusing on both teacher effectiveness and student development.
- » Menu of E-Learning Courses focused on Early Literacy
Teachers of pre-k through fifth grade have seven eLearning courses to choose from regarding early literacy. These courses are offered to promote instructional best practices for early learning foundational skills. Participants in the courses are encouraged to use a variety of strategies around assessment, instruction, and evaluation in order to best respond to their individual students' needs. Through action research, thoughtful discussion, and self-reflection, participants should complete the course with a better understanding of the early literacy concept as well as how to intentionally apply the methods to their classroom. All seven-week long courses are offered free of charge for the Fall 2017 term. Professional Learning Community guides are also available for selected courses.
The courses available are:
 - *Balanced Reading Diet Grades Pre-K Through 5 Active Educators*
 - *Building Reading Fluency Grades K Through 5 Active Educators*
 - *Early Numeracy Grades Pre-K Through 1 Active Educators*
 - *Rethinking Vocabulary Instruction Grades Pre-K Through 5 Active Educators*
 - *Text Sets Grades K Through 5 Active Educators*
 - *Word Study Grades K Through 5 Active Educators*
 - *Writing Stages and Development Grades Pre-K Through 5 Active Educators*
- » TREE Resources
The WV TREE is a one stop, grade specific site highlighting WV College- and Career-Readiness Standards and resources that are essential to the classroom teacher. The resources include grade specific lessons, professional learning, and guidance documents crafted to help enhance teaching practice and guide the classroom teacher in the art of teaching. The links will connect teachers with web pages essential to the profession as well as relevant policies that are critical to specific grade and/or content levels. The TREE is designed with the teacher's busy schedule in mind and tailored for the professional educator.

NAEP COMPARISON DATA 2013-2015

Grade 4 NAEP Reading National Rankings:



Since 2013, WV's 4th grade NAEP scores have *increased* in rank by **six** states.
2017 NAEP Data is slated to be available during winter 2018.