



# WEST VIRGINIA

## State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	Yes	5,017 students enrolled in AP courses in 2003-2004 academic year. The West Virginia Department of Education is working with the state's Center for Professional Development to establish an academically rigorous curriculum of pre-AP and AP courses from grades 6-12 in 28 schools in 9 targeted underachieving counties.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disadvantaged students</li> <li>Low-achieving students</li> <li>Racial and ethnic minority students</li> </ul>	Yes	The state has received a grant that targets schools in high poverty areas. By statute, schools must offer advanced learning opportunities.
<b>Bridge Programs</b>	Yes	Example: <a href="#">Classic Upward Bound (CUB) Program</a> ; 6-week summer residential bridge program where students can earn up to 6 hours of college credit.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First-generation students</li> <li>Low-income students</li> </ul>	Yes	Federal funding
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	No details known or available	No		Yes	State policy
<b><a href="#">Distance Learning/ Virtual School</a></b>	Yes	There are online learning options, including a virtual high school and GED program through online programming.	No		Yes	The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and the West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority (EBA) are cooperating in the distribution of distance learning grant funds.
<b>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</b>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Called "college courses for high school students"</li> <li>In 2004-2005, 19 colleges and universities enrolled 6,623 students (9,182 course enrollments).</li> </ul>	No		Yes	State statute requires higher education to provide college learning opportunities to high school students; Guidelines have been developed.
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	No		No		No	
<b><a href="#">GED in College Settings</a></b>	Yes	A+ advantage GED program through distance learning	Yes	Dropout students	Yes	West Virginia Board of Education funding

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<u>High Schools That Work</u>	Yes	Blends the essential content of traditional college-preparatory studies, mathematics, science and language arts, with quality vocational and technical studies	Yes	Career-bound students	Yes	State funding based on FTE
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	Yes	Blends the essential content of traditional college-preparatory studies, mathematics, science and language arts with quality vocational and technical studies	Yes	Career-bound students	Yes	State funding based on FTE
<b>Tech Prep</b>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Called the <i>Earn a Degree-- Graduate Early (EDGE)</i> program</li> <li>• Students take selected high school courses for community and technical college credit.</li> <li>• When combined with college courses offered in the high school, a student could earn an Associate’s Degree upon graduation from high school or within a year thereafter.</li> <li>• Courses are career-focused.</li> </ul>	No		Yes	Federal Perkins funding and state legislation

**Summary of academic pathways:**

Dual credit courses are widely available in the state of West Virginia. The Tech Prep-based program, called *Earn a Degree--Graduate Early (EDGE)* allows students to take advanced coursework in a career area, saving college tuition and graduating students with an Associate’s Degree one or two years early. Students may choose from professional, technical, or entry-level career-oriented academic pathways. Distance learning is considered a priority as geography makes it difficult to retain teachers in rural areas.

**Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:**

- The Tech Prep Earn a Degree- Graduate Early (EDGE) program
- [The Virtual School](#)

**Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:**

State emphasizes that all academic pathways are open to all students and deemphasizes targeting to meet the needs of specific student populations.



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### Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

The state encourages students to begin college level work while in high school through dual credit or participation in AP or IB courses. Some federal funding is available for capital expenses related to online learning. Federal funding is also supporting wider access to AP courses and exams.

### Lessons learned by state officials:

- College courses for high school students are much desired and serve an important purpose.
- Mandating something doesn't guarantee it will happen if funds are not provided. Implementation in these circumstances may be slow because few schools can afford to add offerings. Tech Prep and dual credit grew quickly because funding was available.

### Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Distance Learning/Virtual School	West Virginia Department of Education	Brenda Learning	--	(304) 558-7880
Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment	Marshall University	Sarah Denman	--	(304) 696-3007
Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment	West Virginia University at Parkersburg	Joe Badgely	--	(304) 424-8000x428
Tech Prep	West Virginia Department of Education	John Riddle	--	(304) 558-2389

### State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bruce Flack	Former Director of Academic Affairs	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	<a href="mailto:flack@hepc.wvnet.edu">flack@hepc.wvnet.edu</a>	(304) 558-0261
*Mark Stotler	Interim Director of Academic Affairs	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	<a href="mailto:stotler@hepc.wvnet.edu">stotler@hepc.wvnet.edu</a>	(304) 558-0262
Deborah Williams	Executive Director of Instructional Services	WV Department of Education	<a href="mailto:dsbrown@access.k12.wv.us">dsbrown@access.k12.wv.us</a>	(304) 558-7805

(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett and Eunyoung Kim/ January, 2006/ \*State official reviewed this state profile.)