

**Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability Report
Including:**

H. B. 4003 – Grants dual jurisdiction to counties where a student lives in one county and attends school in another to enforce truancy policies across county lines

And

H. B. 2764 – Authorizes the county attendance director and the assistants to both have authority relating to compulsory school attendance.

December, 2014

West Virginia School Law §18-8-3 requires the employment of a county director of school attendance. The West Virginia Department of Education Coordinator of Attendance provides professional development to county attendance directors regarding changes in both federal and state laws. The issues of both truancy and dropout prevention continue to be the focus of bi-annual attendance directors' meetings. The last meeting was held October 1-2, 2014 and included the following topics:

- A general discussion of Policy 4110 and Policy 2510
- Information from the Betty Jo Jordan, Executive Assistant, Office of Superintendent on home school, homebound and enrollment issues
- Update on McKinney-Vento "Homeless" and Neglected and Delinquent information, Rebecca Derenge, McKinney-Vento and N&D Coordinator, WVDE
- "All Things Data" including ZOOMWV updates, graduation rate and WVDE data collections by Sara Harper
- Early Warning System and addressing the dropout challenge presented by Justin Boggs, WVDE
- Department of Motor Vehicles and student drivers' license questions, Don Estep, DMV
- Enrollment and immunization questions by Becky King, Office of Special Programs
- English as a second language enrollment issues by Mami Itamochi, ESL Coordinator, WVDE
- Title I set-aside for "homeless" and allowable expenses and ESEA monitoring sections
- Visit from Amy Peterson, U. S. Department of Education, Rural Dropout Prevention Grant

Data Summary: The total number of 16 year olds who dropped out decreased 37% from the 2013 to 2014 school year. There was a decrease of the total number of 16 year olds who dropped out from 2012 to 2013 by 24%.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total # of 16 year olds who dropped out	694	359	86	32
Total # of 9 th Graders who were 16 years old who dropped out	344	125	25	12
Total # of 16 year olds included in the 9 th grade cohort to be impacted by raising the compulsory school age to 17		1231	1165	1057

These figures are calculated using students' birthdates

West Virginia Department of Education Collaborative Dropout Prevention Initiatives:

The West Virginia Department of Education is committed to developing ways to help young people stay in school and provide them with the support they need to be successful. WVDE is a collaborative partner in several initiatives to increase attendance and graduation rates:

- ✓ Career Technical Education Opportunities for 2013-2014 school year:
 - expanded High Schools that Work to 32 sites
 - expanded Technical Center that Work from 14 to 20 sites
 - expanded Advanced Career Programs from 12 to 14 high schools (with 5 additional interested)
 - expanded Simulated Workplace pilot sites to 269 for the 2013-2014 school year

Innovation Zone Grants

On October 7th, 2014, 3-year Innovation Zone Grants were awarded to McDowell County, Barbour County, and Clay County (H. E. White Elementary School) and a 1-year project to Ohio County (Madison Elementary School). These projects continue the work to reduce dropouts and increase graduation rates through priority areas that include: career development, redesign of instructional time, personalized learning through technology, community school partnership, entrepreneurship and comprehensive literacy development for elementary schools.

The second round of Innovation Zone Grants for the 2014-2015 school year was submitted to WVDE on December 1th, 2014, giving counties yet another opportunity to compete for money to support dropout prevention programs and activities.

Five 3-year grants were awarded to Mingo County Schools, Grant County Schools, Lincoln County (Ranger Elementary and Midway Elementary), Mercer County Schools and Greenbrier County Schools. A 1-year Innovation Zone grant was awarded to Arnoldsburg Elementary School in Calhoun County to support expanding their literacy program as an early intervention method of dropout prevention.

- ✓ In 2013-2014, 11,257 students graduated with EDGE (Earn a Degree-Graduate Early) credits, and 269 students applied for EDGE credits at a West Virginia community and technical college.
- ✓ West Virginia Department of Education Virtual School currently offers 43 credit recovery courses.
 - West Virginia students registered for 4932 credit recovery courses for the 2013-2014 school year
 - Thirty-two counties registered students for credit recovery courses for the 2013-2014 school year
- ✓ The Option Pathway is a blend of Career Technical Education (CTE) and the state approved high school equivalency assessment (HSEA). New information will not be available until the middle of August for the complete 2013-2014 school year.
 - 1124 students were enrolled in the Option Pathway to date for the 2013-2014 school year, with over 553 Option Pathway seniors earning high school diplomas. 125 students received a high school equivalency diploma before leaving high school.
- ✓ Mountaineer Challenge Academy graduated 124 students on December 13, 2013 with a West Virginia High School Diploma through the Option Pathway.
- ✓ The WVDE continues a partnership with the Supreme Court of Appeals and Judicial Systems to create Community Awareness and Action on truancy and dropout prevention.
- ✓ Juvenile Drug Courts are operating in Boone/Lincoln, Brooke/Hancock, Cabell, Greenbrier/Pocahontas, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Logan, Mercer, Monongalia, Putnam, Randolph, Wayne, Wood, Ohio (new) and McDowell counties.

- ✓ School-based probation officers serve in eight counties: Cabell, Logan, Mercer, Greenbrier, Monongalia, Wayne, Boone and Putnam.
- ✓ Alternative education programs enrolled 3,054 students during the 2013-2014 school year. The 4-Year graduation average from 2009-2014 for alternative education students is 74.15%.
- ✓ WVDE partnered with several advocacy organizations:
 - Education Alliance Frontline Network – *Communities Unite for High School Success and Dropout Prevention in West Virginia*
 - Legal Aid of West Virginia through “Youth M.O.V.E. West Virginia”
 - Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and the West Virginia Department of Education co-hosted the Student Success Summit July 30-31, 2014.