



West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST2)

Understanding the West Virginia Educational Standards Test

Educators in West Virginia are using an assessment called the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST 2) that is based on the learning objectives laid out in the 21st Century Content Standards and Objectives (CSO's). The tests measure a student's level of performance on acquiring the skills and knowledge laid out in the Content Standards and Objectives. The assessments are utilized for a variety of measures beyond individual student proficiency. Through the assessment, areas where there is a need for increased instructional support can be determined and school's progress at educating all children to proficiency levels can be seen.

The purposes of the Content Standards and Objectives are to expand student understanding in core subject areas, align the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives with national standards as seen on tests like SAT and ACT, and to bring 21st century knowledge and skills into learning goals. These goals are assessed on the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST 2) and students are given a level of Proficiency on a five level scale ranging from Novice to Distinguished.

Students in grades 3-11 are tested in four major content areas: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, although Science and Social Studies are not tested at each grade level. There is also an online Writing Assessment given as part of the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST 2) series. Testing is conducted in May, schools and districts provide detailed information on testing times. Students with disabilities receive their required accommodations and there is an Alternate Assessment for students who require that as prescribed in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Format of the West Virginia Educational Standards Test

For students in grades 3-11, the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST 2) is administered in all four of the academic content areas: Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. The tests are given in a multiple-choice and gridded-response format and there is an essay portion in the WESTEST 2 Online Writing Assessment. (On this test, students may hand draft their essay but they are required to submit it electronically, unless stated otherwise in a student's IEP.)

For the Reading/Language Arts Assessment reading passages were designed and questions about them are written to progress towards higher depths of knowledge. There are 45 items on the test; there are two reading passages that the questions are based on. The Mathematics Assessment has 45 questions also; 43 multiple-choice and 2 gridded response items. This test also provides graphic organizers for the students to use.

The Science Assessment has 45 questions, 43 multiple-choice and 2 gridded response with two graphic organizers to assist the student. The Social Studies Assessment also has 45 questions, one of which is a Document Based Question (DBQ). This consists of 4-8 documents with 6-8 multiple-choice questions about the documents. There are two graphic organizers for use to students on this test.

Taking the West Virginia Educational Standards Test

The West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WESTEST 2) is administered in May over a multi-day period. School districts will provide exact information for students and parents. The content that is covered is tied to the frameworks of the curriculum. In Mathematics, students are expected to gain proficiency in numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement and data analysis/probability. In Science, students are expected to gain knowledge in the nature, content and application of science. In Social Studies, areas covered include citizenship, civics, economics, geography, history and reading. In Reading/Language Arts, students need to demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, listening, speaking and media literacy. All the questions on the assessments are designed to measure these learning goals, at a grade appropriate level.

Students are given scores in more than one format. There is the scaled score, the scale of possible scores being specific to each assessment. The scaled scores then correlate to achievement levels students have achieved with the content. The five possible levels of Achievement on any of the assessments are Distinguished, Above Mastery, Mastery, Partial Mastery and Novice. Students scoring in the lowest two achievement levels will require remediation of some sort to help them attain proficiency in the subject. Students are expected to achieve at the Mastery level as a requirement for graduation.

For students taking the WESTEST 2 Online Writing Assessment, essays are scored using a 6 point rubric; this score is combined with the overall Reading/Language Arts score. The rubric describes the expectations of the student's written response in the categories of: organization, development, sentence structure, word choice, grammar usage and mechanics. Essay responses are scored by computers. The WESTEST 2 Online Writing Assessment is given in the Spring prior to the other subject area assessments.

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