

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In spring 2015, your child participated in a new state test called the West Virginia General Summative Assessment. I am proud to say this massive undertaking by our schools was met with great success.

This online test, which replaced the WESTEST 2, was designed to measure student performance on the West Virginia Next Generation English Language Arts/literacy (ELA/literacy) and mathematics standards in grades 3-11. Students in grades 4, 6 and 10 also were assessed in science.

Results from this test, along with your child's performance in the classroom, will give you a more accurate picture of your child's progress toward graduating high school equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college and the 21st century world of work.

This test represents a new starting point for student performance and should not be compared to previous test scores. Because the standards are more rigorous, the test is more challenging for students. The new scores are setting a new, more accurate baseline from which progress can be measured moving forward.

The assessment is like an academic checkup. It helps teachers and parents see how students performed after a year of learning. The results can reveal areas where your child is excelling and where your child may need extra help. They also provide valuable information your child's school can use to improve student learning to ensure all students are ready for college and careers when they graduate high school.

Now is a good time to work together with your child, child's teacher and principal to utilize the results for instructional decisions. As parents and guardians, your involvement is key to your child's success. Our education system relies on parents to support the learning that occurs in the classroom.

Each student who took the 2015 West Virginia General Summative Assessment will receive separate individual student reports for each content area tested. In grades 3-11, students will receive score reports for ELA and math. Students in grades 4, 6 and 10 will receive an additional report for science.

Included with this letter and your child's individual student reports, you will find a document titled "How to Read an Individual Student Report" and an information sheet that includes descriptions of each content area test. These documents can help you better understand your child's test results and can provide a basis for conversations with your child's teachers.

For more resources that can be used at home to help your child with this more rigorous schoolwork, the West Virginia Department of Education has a family website at <http://wvnextgen.org/family.html>. Together, we can ensure our children will be prepared for global success in college, in the workplace and in life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Martirano".

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools