

**Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability Report
H. B. 4593 - Compulsory School Age Raised to 17
July, 2013**

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 April 16 – 17, 2013* and included the following topics:

- Early Warning System - is a web-based tool available to all counties to help educators identify at-risk students grades 6-12 from research-based indicators (attendance, behavior and course performance).
- High School Graduation Improvement Act study - examines the impact of raising the dropout age from 16 to 17 beginning with the 2011-12 freshman cohort.
- West Virginia Board of Education's Drivers' License Certification Policy (4150) - impact on dropout prevention efforts (which includes requirements for attendance, behavior and course performance in order for students to receive their drivers' permits).
- WVDE Option Pathway - requirements and benefits for students who participate in the Option Program.
- Mountaineer Challenge Academy - offering struggling students an alternative way to receive a West Virginia Diploma.

Data Summary: The total number of 16 year olds who dropped out decreased 52% from the 2011 to 2012 school year. The total number of 9th graders who were 16 years old who dropped in 2011 to 2012 decreased by 36%. The data for the 2013 year report will be available in the December, 2013 LOCEA report.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Total # of 16 year olds who dropped out	*694	*359	**0
Total # of 9 th Graders who were 16 years old who dropped out	*344	*125	**0
Total # of 16 year olds included in the 9 th grade cohort to be impacted by raising the compulsory school age to 17		*1231	

*These figures are calculated using students' birthdates

**This data is collected from the 10th month report and will be provided in December, 2013 LOCEA report

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
 - expanded High Schools that Work from 10 to 30 sites
 - expanded Technical Center that Work from 7 to 13 sites
 - expanded Advanced Career Programs from 3 to 6 high schools
 - implementation in fall of 2013 of 21 Simulated Workplace pilot sites

- ✓ In 2011-2012, 18,001 students graduated with EDGE (Earn a Degree-Graduate Early) credits, and 2,047 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 2204 credit recovery courses during the 2012-2013 school years.
 - Twenty-eight counties registered students for credit recovery courses during the 2012-2013 school year
- ✓ The Option Pathway is a blend of Career Technical Education (CTE) and the state approved high school equivalency assessment (HSEA).
 - Over 800 students were enrolled in the Option Pathway during the 2012-2013 school years, with over 370 Option Pathway seniors earning high school diplomas. This is an indication more diplomas were issued this school year than the total enrollment of 357 students in the 2010-2011 school year.
- ✓ Mountaineer Challenge Academy graduated 52 students in 2012-2013 school years with a West Virginia High School Diploma through the Option Pathway.
- ✓ The WVDE partnered 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 and McDowell counties.
- ✓ School-based probation officers serve in eight counties: Cabell, Logan, Mercer, Greenbrier, Monongalia, Wayne, Boone and Putnam.
- ✓ Alternative education programs enrolled 3,410 students during the 2011-12 school years. From 2009-2012 counties have been asked to gather data with regard to graduation and Option Pathway completion for students placed in alternative education programs. Preliminary data are as follows for years 2009-2012:
 - Alternative Education Graduation Rate – 75.81%
 - Alternative Education Option Pathway – 14.45%
 - Alternative Education On-Time Completion – 55.64%
- ✓ A total of \$2.2 million dollars in Dropout Innovation Zone Grants were distributed to 11 grantees in 2013.
- ✓ 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) to co-host Student Success Summit August 5 -6, 2013