



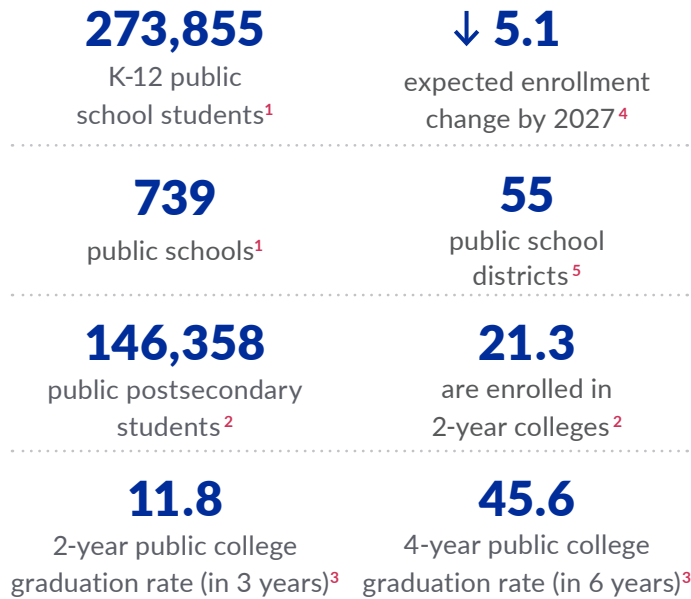
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATORS' FORUM

STATE SUMMARY



THE EDUCATION POLICY LANDSCAPE IN WEST VIRGINIA

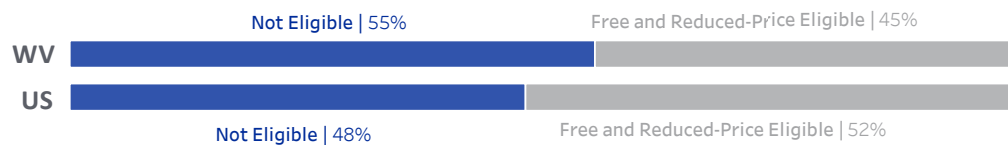
STATE OVERVIEW



VALUE	CATEGORY	STATE RANKING
12,333 ⁶	Per Pupil Expenditures	30
14.15 ⁷	Student-Teacher Ratio	20
35%* ⁷	NAEP 4th Grade Math	39
32%* ⁷	NAEP 4th Grade Reading	36
24%* ⁷	NAEP 8th Grade Math	46
28%* ⁷	NAEP 8th Grade Reading	45
89% ⁸	Public HS Grad Rate	6

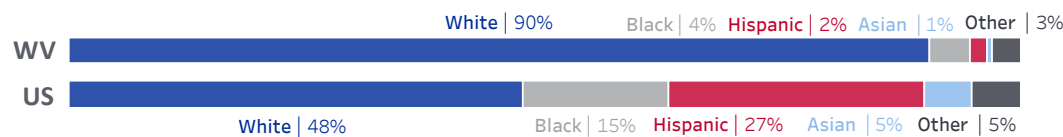
*Represents the percent of students who scored at or above proficient.

K-12 LEVEL OF FAMILY INCOME | 2017⁹



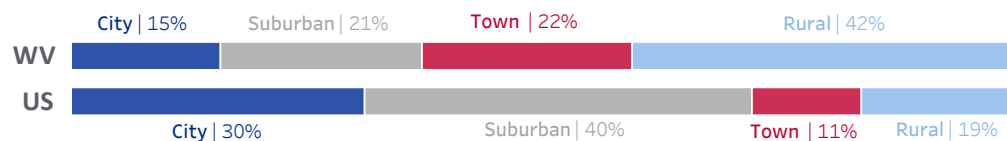
Compared to the national average, West Virginia has a lower proportion of students eligible for free- and reduced-price lunch – a common indicator of poverty in schools.

K-12 RACE & ETHNICITY | 2017¹⁰



West Virginia has much lower proportions of Black and Hispanic students, and a much higher proportion of white students than the national average.

K-12 ENROLLMENT BY LOCALE | 2016¹¹



West Virginia has a higher share of students attending schools in rural areas and towns, and lower percentages of students whose schools are located in cities and suburbs.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN WEST VIRGINIA

As a society, we have critically overlooked the importance of early learning and development before children even enter school. As a growing body of research continues to substantiate, investments made early—beginning with prenatal care and continuing into elementary school—produce returns across the K-12 system and improve a number of life outcomes.

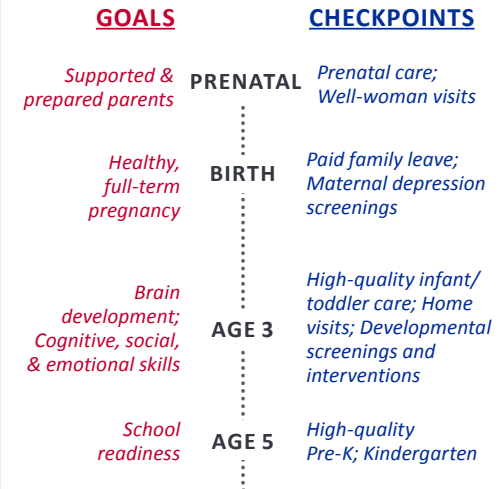
INFANT AND TODDLER SUPPORT

The first three years of life are a unique and critical period of development, during which up to 1 million new neural connections are formed in the developing brain each second. Infants and toddlers develop and learn at exponential rates as they explore and engage with the environments and adults around them. In order to best support their health and development, families need access to information and services.

PREKINDERGARTEN

In 2002, West Virginia became a national leader by establishing the **West Virginia Universal Pre-K program** for all four-year-olds as well as three-year-olds with special needs. The state committed to ensuring that every eligible child in West Virginia would have access to high-quality prekindergarten options by the 2012-13 school year. Universal Pre-K is currently available in all 55 counties across the state.

Checkpoints of the Learning Continuum



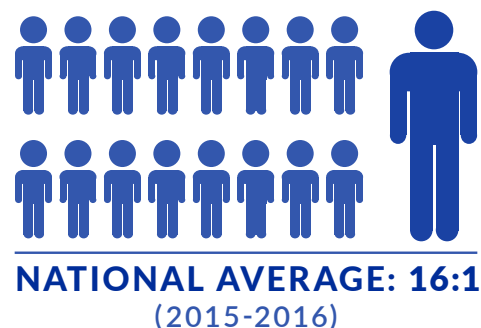
FUNDING ¹²	State Agency	State Department of Education: Office of Early & Elementary Learning; State Human Services Agency: West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Early Care and Education
	Total Spending (2016-17)	\$145,577,256
	Funds by Source	State: \$94,533,303; Federal: \$45,425,337; Non-required local: \$5,618,616
	Dedicated Revenue Source for State Funds?	No
	Agencies Eligible to Receive Funding	Public schools
	Permitted Subcontracting Agencies	Public schools, Head Start, Private agencies, Faith-based centers
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ¹²	Minimum Daily Hours	1,500 minutes (25 hours) per week
	Minimum Days Per Week	At least 4 days per week
	Annual Operating Schedule	Determined locally
	Maximum Class Size	20
	Required Screenings	Vision; Hearing; Height/weight/BMI; Blood pressure; Immunizations; Psychosocial/behavioral; Dental; Developmental; Full physical exam

EDUCATORS

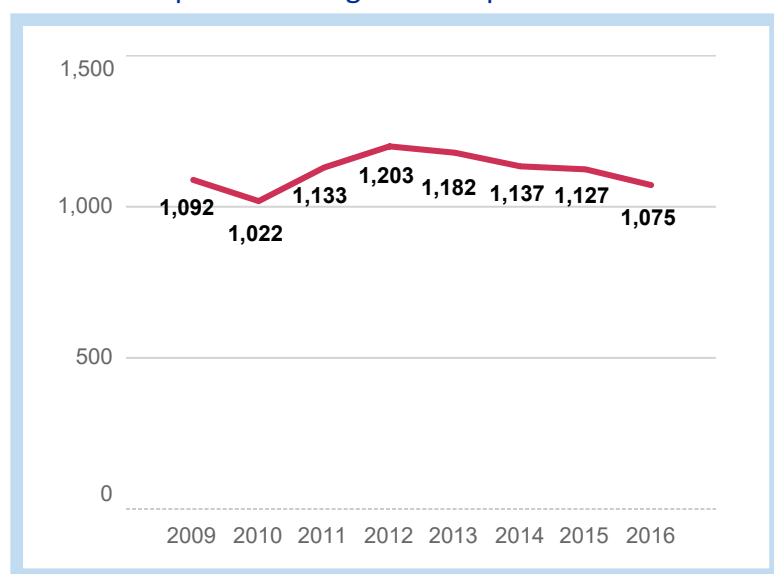
OVERVIEW¹³

19,664
TEACHERS
NATIONAL TOTAL:
3.1M (2015-2016)

14.1 : 1
STUDENT
PER TEACHER
RATIO



Teacher Preparation Program Completers



2%
DECLINE
IN TEACHER
PREPARATION
COMPLETERS

National Average: 27.3% Decline
(2009–2016)

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS¹⁴

All teacher preparation program providers in West Virginia are housed in schools of education at colleges and universities around the state. Teachers earn a bachelor's degree and are eligible for licensure upon graduation. Here are some additional facts about teacher preparation programs in West Virginia:

Entry Requirements

- West Virginia requires a cohort average GPA of 3.0, with an individual minimum of 2.5, for admission to a traditional teacher preparation program. There is also a requirement that the cohort mean score on nationally normed tests be in top 50th percentile.

Student Teaching

- Teacher candidates must complete 12 weeks of student teaching, although this requirement can be waived by college and cooperating public school supervisors.

Program Accountability

- West Virginia does not publish data on teacher preparation program performance on its website.

INNOVATIVE SCHOOL MODELS

There are many factors leading educators both in West Virginia and nationwide to explore innovative school models that can instill an entrepreneurial mindset in students and create career pathways.

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOL MODELS¹⁵

Most redesigned schools incorporate a few or more of these characteristics:

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION
Competency-based education, or mastery learning	To progress academically, students demonstrate that they have mastered specific learning goals, setting their own pace by moving as quickly or slowly as is necessary.
Personalized learning	Some or most of the learning experience is tailored directly to students' needs, interests, and goals. Many schools do this through technology, such as online courses that have been curated specifically for each student.
"Anywhere, anytime" learning	Students may earn credits through opportunities outside of school hours and/or off school grounds, including internships, apprenticeships, service-learning projects, or at-home online learning opportunities.
Hands-on, project-based learning	Project-based learning allows students to engage in long-term, interdisciplinary projects that allow them to apply learning and practice problem-solving skills. This curriculum more closely reflects what occurs in the workforce.
A focus on in-depth preparation for both college and careers	Redesigned schools tend to articulate a goal of preparing students for success through a blend of academic, social-emotional, and technical skills. They blend rigor, postsecondary credits, and hands-on learning to prepare students for the future economy.

One example of an innovative school model is the **Iowa BIG** program, part of the XQ Super School Project, which was created in 2013 by the Cedar Rapids Community School District, the College Community School District, the Gazette Company and other community partners. Based in a dynamic coworking space downtown, Iowa BIG attracts students from across the region and connects them with projects sponsored by local businesses, nonprofits, and government partners. Students pick initiatives from a pool of interdisciplinary projects that have been rigorously co-designed by students, teachers, and partners to meet real needs. The result is a transformational learning system that connects passion, projects and the community to unleash the talents of young people as creators, entrepreneurs and innovators.

HIGHER EDUCATION – OVERVIEW AND STATE FUNDING

Education can be a pathway to economic and social mobility for people across the country, and higher education is a crucial step in that pathway. The education continuum starts from birth, continuing through early learning opportunities, prekindergarten, and K-12 education. Higher education, also called postsecondary education, is the bridge that students need to move into the workforce.

Higher Education Landscape

Number of postsecondary students in West Virginia: **146,358**

2-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS		4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS		4-YEAR PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS		FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS	
# of Institutions	9 ¹⁶	# of Institutions	13 ¹⁶	# of Institutions	10 ¹⁶	# of Institutions	13 ¹⁶
% of All Current Postsecondary Students	12% (WV) ¹⁷ 30% (U.S.)	% of All Current Postsecondary Students	46% (WV) ¹⁷ 44% (U.S.)	% of All Current Postsecondary Students	6% (WV) ¹⁷ 20% (U.S.)	% of All Current Postsecondary Students	36% (WV) ¹⁷ 6% (U.S.)
Completion Rate*	N/A (WV) ¹⁸ 38% (U.S.)	Completion Rate*	59% (WV) ¹⁸ 65% (U.S.)	Completion Rate*	N/A (WV) ¹⁸ 76% (U.S.)	Completion Rate**	48% (WV) ¹⁹ 38% (U.S.)

N/A means that data is not available.

* The rate of students who completed a degree within six years.

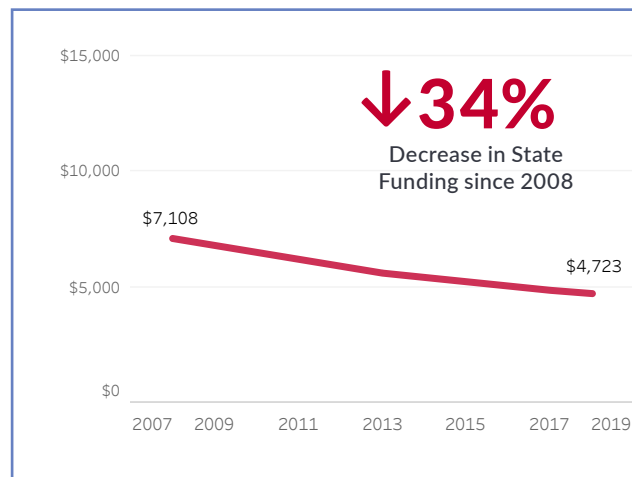
** The rate of students who completed a degree within six years at a four-year institution or within three years at a two-year institution.

STATE FUNDING AND STUDENT DEBT²⁰

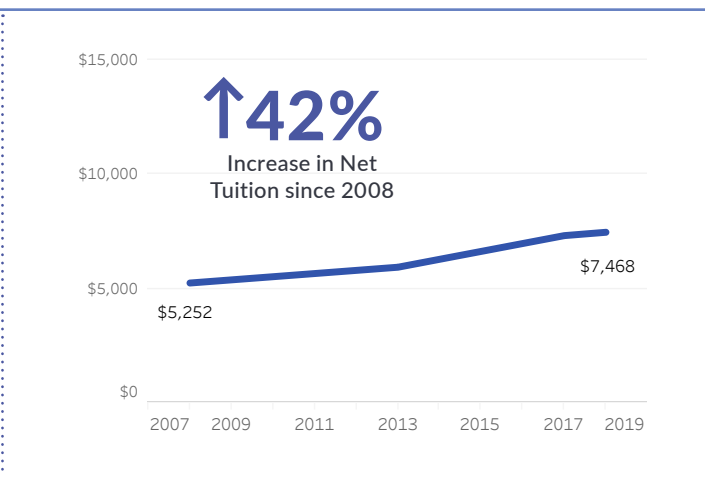
One point to keep in mind when discussing the cost of higher education is that many public institutions of higher education (IHEs) receive state funding. However, West Virginia (like most states) decreased the funding they provide to institutions in the wake of the 2008 economic recession. The first chart below shows how higher education appropriations per student have changed over time since the economic recession in West Virginia. Decreases in state funding have resulted in students and their families having to pay more in net tuition – often referred to as the “student share” of higher education costs.

State Higher Education per

Student Funding in West Virginia



Net Tuition per Student in West Virginia



It is also important to note that **65 percent** of higher education graduates in West Virginia have student loan debt – **this is the fifth highest percentage in the nation.**²¹

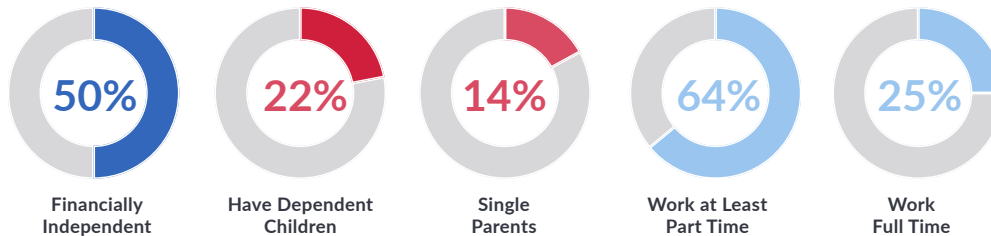
HIGHER EDUCATION – STUDENT POPULATIONS AND ATTAINMENT

STUDENT POPULATIONS

A traditional college student is generally considered to be someone who enrolls in college full time immediately after graduating from high school, is financially dependent on their parents, and does not work while attending college. However, a demographic breakdown of the current higher education population shows that many students do not fit that traditional definition:

Characteristics of Today's Higher Education Student Population in the U.S.²²

The average college student is twenty-six years old.



POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT GOALS²³

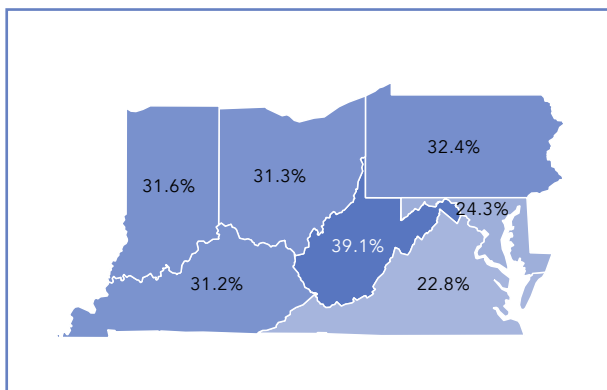
In order to meet the increasing demand for middle-skill jobs in our economy, state policymakers must develop strategies to increase the number of adults who attain some sort of postsecondary degree beyond a high school diploma.

West Virginia's postsecondary attainment goal states that by **2030**, **60%** of **25-64-year-olds** will attain a **certificate or higher**.

PROGRESS TO ATTAINMENT GOAL

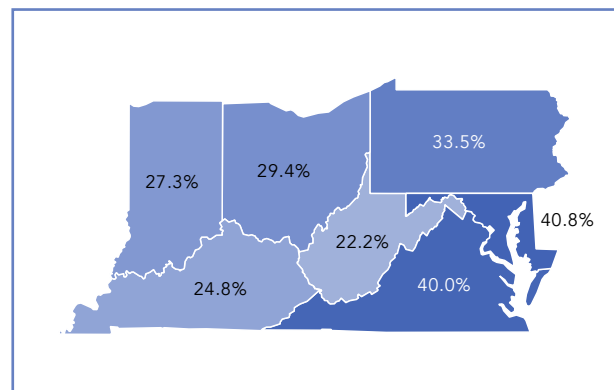


Percentage of Adults with a High School Diploma as Their Highest Degree²⁴



[Data Source](#)

Percentage of Adults with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher²⁵



CITATIONS

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