

2015 Education Position Paper: **Work To Do**

Act Now to Strengthen Education

We all want our children and our grandchildren to have good jobs right here in West Virginia. We know that a good education is key to securing that opportunity.

Especially in times of fiscal austerity we need to **set priorities** and **make wise investments** that will transform our education system.

Ready or Not?

- Seven in ten (73%) West Virginia students are not reading proficiently at the end of third grade
- Fewer than 2 in 10 West Virginia eighth graders are proficient in Math
- 97 schools, or nearly 1 in 7, were identified with the greatest learning gaps among student groups.
- Only 119 of 650 schools met both of the learning and growth performance goals for all students.

Business and industry leaders tell us that they need a high quality workforce to ensure West Virginia's future.

We need immediate action

About The Education Alliance

Founded in July 1983 as the first statewide public education fund in the nation, The Education Alliance is a private-sector initiative to help businesses understand the importance of financially and resourcefully supporting the state's public schools and to give business a voice in public education that advances policies and practices to continually improve public school student achievement in West Virginia.



25,000 STEM Jobs in West Virginia by 2018

	High School Dropout	High School Graduate	Some College	Associate Degree	Bachelor Degree	Graduate Degree	Total
Computer & Math Science	0	1,000	2,000	1,000	4,000	1,000	9,000
Architects & Technicians	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	2,000
Engineers & Technicians	0	1,000	1,000	2,000	4,000	1,000	8,000
Life & Physical Scientists	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	6,000

http://www.usinnovation.org/state/pdf_cvd/CVD2014WestVirginia.pdf

Third grade is a “make or break” point for children to learn to read sufficiently to ensure their future academic success.

- Require immediate, evidence-based interventions in PreK through third grade for struggling readers, especially in schools with high-poverty populations.

West Virginia will add 25,000 jobs by 2018*. We need our students to be critical thinkers, skilled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

- Invest in our local capacity for STEM education across the state by establishing 3-5 Regional STEM Network HUBS.

Learning time matters. Districts and schools need more local flexibility and accountability for dynamic approaches to learning time.

- Increase opportunities for schools to adopt innovative models that use time to motivate and engage students with deeper learning.

What gets measured gets done. We must equip the public with fair and transparent information about the status of their schools.

- Establish fair, rigorous and transparent reports for all schools to annually earn A-F grades.