

WEST VIRGINIA EDUCATION

DOLLARS AND CENTS

\$11,334 per pupil total spending

\$2.021 BILLION in total expenditures on education*

45.5% of general revenue fund appropriations*

6th highest in education spending per taxpayer

*According to FY 2021 budget

WEST VIRGINIA

2019 NAEP SCORE RANKINGS **NAEP PROFICIENCY**

	4 th Grade	8 th Grade		4 th Grade	8 th Grade
Maths	49th	48th	Maths	30%	24%
Reading	48th	48th	Reading	30%	25%

*According to 2019 NAEP scores for WV students

COLLEGE READINESS

*According to the Higher Education Policy Commission

52%

of high school students
enroll into higher education



33%

of these need to enroll in remedial
courses to be prepared for their
entry level college courses

ACT SCORES

AVERAGE SCORE 20

67%

meet English
benchmarks

48%

meet Reading
benchmarks

36%

meet Science
benchmarks

35%

meet Math
benchmarks

*According to official ACT data

**THE LOWEST
IN THE NATION**

480 in evidence based Reading and Writing
456 in Math

CATO INSTITUTE

FIXING THE BIAS IN EDUCATION RANKINGS

A comprehensive study of K-12 education across the country found that **the ranking system is severely flawed**

The study, with the correct attributes, showed **West Virginia spending more than half of the country on education** while ranking 50th in attainment

THE CURRENT SYSTEM ISN'T WORKING

WEST VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC ED

Governor Tomblin's 2012 Independent Education Efficiency Audit Revealed:

"We have encountered no other state that insulates its education system so much from gubernatorial—or voter—control; restricts local initiative so much on the part of districts, building principals, and teachers; and vests so much authority for education at the state level."

via  **publicworks**
making good ideas work for the better

THE STUDY RECOMMENDED:

1. Empowering schools, parents, and students
2. Increasing student flexibility
3. Moving responsibility to the district, school, and classroom levels

2017 STUDY FROM

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

“Our findings thus confirm that non-public enrollment and the competition it provides act to improve, rather than impede, public school performance.”

Non-public competition and public school performance: Evidence from West Virginia, by Richard J. Cebula, Joshua C. Hall & Maria Y. Tackett

The results suggest that efforts to increase choice in education in West Virginia **will not harm** students remaining in traditional public schools.

Richard J. Cebula & Joshua C. Hall & Maria Y. Tackett, 2017. "Non-public competition and public school performance: evidence from West Virginia," Applied Economics, Taylor & Francis Journals, vol. 49(12), pages 1185-1193, March.

A TURNING POINT

WEST VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC ED

2%

of West Virginians rated the state's education system as "excellent"

62%

of West Virginians agree that giving parents more choice about where they can send their kids to school would noticeably improve education

82%

of West Virginians said the COVID-19 crisis has made them more likely to consider alternative education options

A SIMPLE SOLUTION

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

How do ESAs work?

A state deposits public funds in a private account controlled by parents for use on their child's education.

Who may receive an ESA?

The state determines eligibility based on legislative criteria. If eligible, parents sign a contract with the state, and the parent is issued a restricted-use account to pay for approved education expenses.

How much may a family receive?

Amount varies, but typically a portion of the state per-pupil funds allocated for that child in the school funding formula.

So, what's the benefit?

With these funds, parents can pay private school tuition, buy online classes, hire a personal tutor, save for college, or purchase discrete public school classes.

17 states with active legislation to fund students instead of systems

18,706 students use ESAs (as of 2019 data)

100% of ESA families say they are satisfied with the freedom and functionality of ESAs

Why are ESAs the future of education?

By choosing the education your child receives, it recognizes the importance that every child is unique.

ESAs also allow families of modest economic means to have the same opportunities as those more fortunate.

What are some examples of approved educational expenses?

- Textbooks
- Tutoring
- Education therapy
- Unused funds may be saved for college
- Standardized testing fees