

West Virginia Press Release

Education Plan Outlined

Intelligencer & Wheeling News-Register (WVA)) (02/06/09)

Connors, Fred

On Feb. 5 at Wheeling Park High School, West Virginia Superintendent of Schools Steven Paine told teachers and administrators from the Northern Panhandle the state's public school system could undergo a transformation so that students are given the skills they need to succeed in the global economy. He discussed the West Virginia 21st Century Learning Program, which involves the creation of curriculum standards, a concentration on pre-kindergarten programs, the integration of technology and skills in the classroom, and research-based instruction, among other things. According to Paine, "The program is a systematic approach to help West Virginia compete not only globally, but to thrive. From the classroom to the district office to the state Department of Education, the program is a bold acknowledgment that we must change how we operate if we expect to change what and how children learn. At its core is the mission to develop self-directed, motivated learners who demonstrate the skills and knowledge that are fundamental to becoming successful adults in the digital world." He emphasized the importance of project-based study that merges critical thinking and problem-solving skills into test questions. Paine noted, "In addition to the traditional curriculum, students need to understand leadership, problem solving, innovation, relationships, self-direction, commitment, perspective, and decision making." For more information about the West Virginia 21st Century Learning Program, click <http://wvde.state.wv.us/21st/>.