



## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **CERTIFICATION**

According to its Title II report, the state of West Virginia issues Type A, Type B, and Type C certificates. Provisional Professional certificates are issued to candidates who have completed at least a bachelor's degree through an accredited institution of higher learning, met the general requirements, and met the testing requirements. Certificates are endorsed in order to indicate the specializations and grade levels at which the candidate may be assigned.

#### **Elementary Certification**

No specific information has been located at this time.

#### **Middle-Level Certification**

No specific information has been located at this time.

#### **Secondary Certification**

No specific information has been located at this time.

### **STANDARDS**

#### **Standards for Teachers**

In its Title II report, the state of West Virginia refers to its initial licensure standards in Policy 5100 and 5200. In regard to specific content standards, the state lists NCATE standards and national content standards.

#### **Standards for Students**

The Social Studies Standards and Objectives in West Virginia are based upon five core areas: citizenship, civics/government, economics, geography, and history. The History Standard, Standard 5, consists of the following:

❖ Students will

1. examine, analyze, and explain historical relationships using chronology to sequence and organize events and people in history (chronology);
2. use the processes and resources of historical inquiry to gather, examine, compare, analyze, and interpret historical data (skills and application);
3. examine, analyze, and synthesize historical knowledge of major events, individuals, cultures, and the humanities in West Virginia, the United States, and the world (culture and humanities);
4. use historical knowledge to analyze local, state, national, and global interdependence (interpretation and evaluation); and
5. examine political institution and theories that have developed and changed over time (political institutions).

For each grade level the standards are listed (in each of the five core areas) and objectives have been written pertaining to each of the standards. Performance descriptors follow each of the standards sets, and the levels of distinguished, mastery, and partial mastery are described. The following areas are studied at specific grade levels in West Virginia, as explained in the standards.

- ❖ Kindergarten: Social studies in kindergarten will introduce children to the lives of interesting people in history, time sequence including historic events, geographic direction, and economic choices. The social studies program brings the formal introduction of what constitutes a good citizen.
- ❖ First Grade: Social studies in grade one explores the role of the citizen in the schools, family, and community.
- ❖ Second Grade: Second-grade social studies expands the roles of citizenship.
- ❖ Third Grade: Third-grade social studies presents a study of the broader community to introduce state and nation.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Fourth-grade social studies is an introduction to the growth of the United States from exploration and colonization (“When the Three Worlds Meet”) to the conclusion of the American Revolution.
- ❖ Elementary West Virginia Studies: The objectives for West Virginia Studies explore historic, geographic, economic, and civic concepts. These objectives shall be taught as a K–4 integrated unit or as a separate fourth-grade unit.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: The fifth-grade social studies program is a basic overview of the United States from its emergence as a new nation.
- ❖ Sixth Grade: Sixth-grade social studies provides an interdisciplinary examination of selected world regions: North America, South America, Western Europe, and the Middle East.

- ❖ Seventh Grade: The seventh grade is a study of geography through the six essential elements: the world in spatial terms, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and uses of geography.
- ❖ Eighth Grade: The eighth-grade program of study consists of a comprehensive course on West Virginia from the pre-Colombian period to the present day.
- ❖ Ninth Grade: This program of study follows the evolution of the Constitution as a living document and the role of participatory democracy in the development of a rapidly changing technological society.
- ❖ Tenth Grade: This study of the world emphasizes the historic, economic, geographic, political, and social structure of various cultural regions in the world from the dawn of civilization to the interdependent world of the 20th century.
- ❖ Eleventh Grade: The focus of this course is an identification and study of the interaction of geographic, political, economic, and historical factors.
- ❖ Twelfth Grade: No standards are indicated.

It should be noted that Technology Standards follow the Social Studies Standards in the document.

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM**

Students in West Virginia need 21 units of credit in order to graduate from high school. Of these 21 units, 3 units must be in social studies. The required units include

- ❖ The World: To the Age of Exploration (1500 AD)—one unit;
- ❖ The Emergence of the U.S. into the World (1500–1900)—one unit; and
- ❖ The U.S. and the World: 20th Century—one unit.

### **Exit Exam**

No information has been located at this point.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The West Virginia Statewide Assessment Program consists of the Metropolitan Readiness Test (for kindergarteners), the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (for grades 1–11), the West Virginia Writing Assessment (grades 4, and 10), and the ACT EXPLORE (English, mathematics, reading, and science for 8th graders). The SAT-9 assesses students in reading, mathematics, language, spelling, listening, study skills, science, and social science.

