

ReThinking HIGH SCHOOL

West Virginia's graduation requirements

The state has made changes to its graduation requirements twice in the last four years.

Technology in the classroom

West Virginia schools ranked well in access and use of technology, according to a Technology Counts study. Here are Technology Counts' 2007 and 2008 data on West Virginia and the nation.

	W.Va.		Nat.	
	'07	'08	'07	'08
Access to Technology	A	A	C	C
Use of Technology	A-	A-	C+	B-
Capacity to use Technology	C	A	C	C
Overall Grade	B	A	C+	C+

Percent of students with a computer in the classroom jumped from 68.5 percent in 2007 to 100 percent in 2008. Percent of students in a school with a media center jumped from 86.5 percent in 2007 to 97 percent in 2008. The national percentages for both also increased significantly to 95 and 83 percent, respectively.

Thomas Marsh/The Herald-Dispatch

	2004-05	2005-06	2008-09
<i>Core requirements:</i>	17 credits	18 credits	18 credits
<i>Reading and Language Arts:</i>	4 credits (English 9, 10, 11 and 12)	4 credits (same)	4 credits (same)
<i>Mathematics:</i>	3 credits (two of which will be Algebra I or above)	3 credits for freshmen in 2005; 4 credits for freshmen in 2006	4 credits (same)
<i>Science:</i>	3 credits (CATS 9, CATS 10 and one course above CATS 10 level)	3 credits (same)	3 credits (Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Life Science or Earth Science)
<i>Social Studies:</i>	4 credits (U.S. to 1900, World Studies to 1900, 20th and 21st Centuries and Civics/Government)	4 credits (same)	4 credits (World Studies to 1900, U.S. Studies to 1900, 20th and 21st Centuries Studies, Civics for the 21st Century)
<i>P.E., Health and the Arts:</i>	1 credit each	1 credit each	1 credit each
<i>Electives:</i>	3 credits	3 credits	2 credits
<i>Career Concentration Courses:</i>	4 credits In the professional or skilled pathway, a fourth math credit is required; in the professional pathway, a fourth science credit and two credits in one foreign language also is required. Two credits in a foreign language, for all others, is strongly encouraged.	3 credits In the professional or skilled pathway, a fourth math credit is required; in the professional pathway, a fourth science credit and two credits in one foreign language also is required. For students entering ninth grade in 2006, a fourth math credit is required among all three pathways. Two credits of foreign language is only required for students in professional pathway.	4 credits In the professional pathway, a fourth science credit is required, with the class being above physical science. Also required are two credits of foreign language and one additional elective. In the skilled pathway, all that is required is four additional credits related to the selected career concentration.