

West Virginia VIRTUAL SCHOOL

ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Policy 2510 recommends “that all students complete an online learning experience during grades 9-12.” A quality online learning experience is a combination of structured and meaningful learning activities accessed via the K-12 telecommunications network. An online learning experience must exhibit all of the following characteristics to be considered a quality experience:

- Focus on 21st Century Skills – the experience will encourage students to access, analyze and evaluate information sources, incorporate various types of communications skills, and practice problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
- Teacher Involvement – the teacher will be a critical partner in the experience as he/she facilitates and monitors student activity.
- Focus on Safety and Ethics – the experience will reinforce important concepts of Internet safety, personal responsibility, copyright, and ethics.
- Collaboration – the experience must allow students to be involved in developing working relationships with other students and teachers.
- Integration – the experience must be aligned with the state-approved content standards and objectives and the Southern Regional Education Board’s Standards for Quality Online Teaching.
- Sustainability – the experience must provide the opportunity to practice using technology tools and network-based resources including a learning management system.



Quality online student experiences may include:

- Enrolling in a teacher-led, online course through the West Virginia Virtual School (<http://virtualschool.k12.wv.us>) .
- Enrolling in a blended-delivery course hosted through WVLeads and taught by the classroom teacher (<http://wvlearns.k12.wv.us>).
- Completing a unit/project from the WVLeads Learning Object Repository (<http://wvlearns.k12.wv.us>).
- Participating in a project-based learning unit (<http://www.thinkquest.org/en/>).
- Regularly utilizing teacher-facilitated online collaboration and communication tools.
- Working through a self-paced online learning project (assuming the student is a highly independent learner who demonstrates self-initiative and requires little guidance for successful completion).
- Routinely utilizing and combining a variety of aligned resources and/or online simulations across the curriculum such as those found in Teach21 (<http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21>), Intel Teach (<http://wvde.state.wv.us/intel>), SAS in School Curriculum Pathways (<http://wvde.state.wv.us/sas>), and Thinkfinity (<http://wvde.state.wv.us/thinkfinity>) for a rigorous and relevant online learning experience.
- Developing and utilizing an electronic portfolio.
- Other activities that meet the characteristics listed above that will prepare students for future utilization of online learning in higher education or the world of business and industry.

The method of validating the online learning experience will be determined by each county. WVLeads will provide the opportunity for students to utilize the eportfolio to house such evidence.

...WHERE THE COURSES ARE VIRTUAL, BUT THE LEARNING IS REAL