

### **Students Must Be Technology Literate by Grade 8**

School systems around the world are prioritizing student information and technology literacy. In the U.S. NCLB requires students be technology literate by the eighth grade. The WVDE and many WV counties are equally committed to this mandate, believing it is in the best interests of our students.

### **Technology Literacy Defined Nationally**

The National Educational Technology Standards define technology literacy to be basic technology competence and “the skills and knowledge students require to learn effectively and live productively in an increasingly digital society.” These include the ability to use digital tools and media to: be creative and innovative; communicate and collaborate; conduct research and use information; think critically, solve problems and make decisions; and practice digital citizenship.

2007, ISTE National Educational Technology Standards for Students, Second Edition

### **Technology Literacy Defined for West Virginia**

In West Virginia, technology literacy is defined by our ‘21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills and Technology Tools’ CSOs, also known as Policy 2520.14. These CSOs, which became effective July 1, 2008, cover and define the national standards within a context of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

### **How Do Students Best Acquire the Required Skills?**

Students acquire technology literacy by learning and applying the skills in the context of their day-to-day learning. They need to practice using technology to learn effectively and efficiently in and across all subject areas. Of course, like any learning, it must also be developmental. So a curriculum that is both integrated and systematic is required.

### **The WV Technology Literacy Resource: techSteps**

To assist you, the WVDE is providing techSteps to all K-8 Schools in West Virginia. techSteps provides six technology integration activities per grade level. The activities are sequenced to introduce technology skills developmentally and in a 21<sup>st</sup> century context. The activities are largely open-ended and flexible, so that they can be integrated into county and school curriculums.

### **When Does My School Get techSteps?**

Your county has a plan to phase techSteps into schools along with professional development support. Talk with county administrators to discuss where your school is placed within that plan, and how you can make the best start for your teachers and students.

### **Assessing the Required Skills**

Each techSteps activity includes a classroom assessment rubric. When a teacher enters a student’s results, techSteps records the associated skills demonstrated for that student. Every student has an ongoing profile showing which of the required skills he or she has demonstrated to date.

### **Reporting Student Progress**

The state is required to report student technology literacy data to the Federal government. Using techSteps, data can be aggregated at the school, county, and state levels.

### **In Conclusion**

The methodology described above allows your students to show they have met national and state standards in a manner that is relevant and conducive to their own personal and lifelong learning.