

**West Virginia Family Engagement Center
Other Organization Resources**

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Community Math Nights (via REL Appalachia)
(Numeracy Achievement)

- **Contact: Kerry Friedman, SRI Education (kerry.friedman@sri.com)**
 - Community math nights are designed to engage educators, children, and family members in learning and talking about mathematics, helping family members participate in their child's learning and support their child's academic success. The math night activities are intended to create a shared understanding of the math concepts and raise expectations for math knowledge and achievement at home and school.
 - https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/appalachia/events/event_4-10-19_math-nights.asp

Energy Express (Summer, Elementary)
(Literacy Achievement)

- **Contact: Andrea Price (aprice6@mail.wvu.edu)**
 - Energy Express is an award-winning, 8-week, summer reading and nutrition program for children living in West Virginia's rural and low-income communities. With Energy Express, more than 3,000 children statewide gain or maintain reading levels during summer months through creative, colorful and captivating uses of art, drama and vocabulary. Our program also provides children with two nutritious meals each day during the program, helping to ensure our youths are fed each day even after the school year comes to an end.
 - <https://extension.wvu.edu/youth-family/youth-education/energy-express>

Greater Recovery and Community Empowerment (GRaCE) Recovery Coach Academies
(via ReClaimWV)

(Opioid-Use Disorder; Substance Abuse)

- **Contact: John Unger (john@strengtheningrace.com)**
 - WV Recovery Coach Academy – promotes recovery by removing barriers and obstacles to recovery and serving as a personal guide and mentor for people seeking or already in recovery.
 - <https://www.strengtheningrace.com/>

Healthy GrandFamilies

(Support for Grandparents; Support for Foster Care; Support for Kinship Care; Support for Families Affected by Incarceration)

- **Contact: Bonnie Dunn (parsonsb@wvstateu.edu)**
 - Healthy Grandfamilies is a free initiative led by West Virginia State University to provide information and resources to grandparents who are raising one or more grandchildren. Designed as a series of nine discussion sessions and follow-up services, Healthy Grandfamilies is taught by an education professional with more than 40 years of experience who also happens to be the product of a grandfamily.



Each session provides valuable resources along with childcare for attendees and refreshments. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate of completion, a gift card and three months of follow-up services with a Licensed Social Worker.

- <http://healthygrandfamilies.com/about/>

Marshall University

(Mental Health; Trauma; Social, Emotional, and Physical Health Initiatives)

- **Contact: Dr. Sandra Stroebel** (stroebel@marshall.edu)
- Professional development to parents, students, and school providers on a range of mental health topics tailored to individual school needs. These topics may include, but are not limited to: social-emotional learning; trauma-informed practices; drug and alcohol prevention and treatment; risk identification and crisis support (including suicide and threat prevention and responsive services); safe and responsible gaming and technology use; mental health disorders, behavior management, 504 plans, and alternatives to suspension.
- When desired by individual schools, direct services to parents and families at high needs schools will be provided on a monthly basis in the form of support groups with emphasis on meaningful partnerships, self-care, and coping techniques, etc.
- Coordination with high school staff, students, and families to partner with state universities and Division of Rehab Services to ensure more students with disabilities, including mental disorders, are successfully transitioning to 2- and 4-year colleges in West Virginia.
- Informational supports for parents/caregivers to help them navigate community resources for mental health and related services: mental health diagnoses and manifestation of these disorders in children and adolescents (typical and atypical development), mental health agencies and behavioral healthcare providers that are available in their communities, guidance on transportation and payment sources related to obtaining mental health services.
- <http://www.marshall.edu>

Marshall University

(Mental Health; Trauma; Social, Emotional, and Physical Health Initiatives)

Contact: Behavior and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center

(<http://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/request-for-assistance/>)

- Marshall University's WV Behavior/Mental Health Technical Assistance Center trains on trauma and strategies as well as positive behavioral interventions and supports, compassion fatigue, mental health first aid, and more. You may see their menu of training options and submit a request here: <http://www.marshall.edu/bmhtac/request-for-assistance/>

The EdVenture Group, Inc.

(Professional Development; Technical Assistance; Customized Training)

- **Contact: Dr. Lydotta Taylor** (lmtaylor@edvgroup.org)
 - The EdVenture Group is dedicated to creating customer-specific strategies and programs that meet the unique needs of K-12 educational environments. We tailor



each of our offerings and build programming from the ground up to ensure that schools are supported throughout the program duration.

- Key areas of focus include: Program Development and Delivery; Program Management; Research and Evaluation; Family, School, and Community Engagement; Entrepreneurship Education; School Culture; Professional Development; STEM Innovation; and Emerging Technologies.
- <http://www.theedventuregroup.org>

UniCare LifeLine Training: This is Not About Drugs

(Opioid-Use Disorder; Substance Abuse)

- **Contact: Natalie Robinson (natalie.robinson@anthem.com)**
 - Overdose Lifeline, Inc. (ODL) has created the first youth-focused educational program addressing the opioid public health crisis. “This is (Not) About Drugs” (TINAD) is an in-class, universal program designed to raise awareness to substance misuse, with a special emphasis on prescription opioids. The brief intervention is a complement to foundational evidence-based programs such as Botvin Lifeskills and Too Good for Drugs. The outcome-driven, science-based program incorporates NIDA principles, risk and protective factors, is designed to fit within school time constraints, and aligns with the most common health curriculums.
 - This is Not About Drugs is designed for students grades 6-12th as an effective lesson for raising awareness to the risks of misusing prescription opioids. How misusing prescription opioids can lead to addiction, heroin use, and overdose. Youth will also learn how to recognize the symptoms of an opioid overdose, the availability of the opioid reversal drug naloxone and the importance to call 911 to get help for person in need. The program encourages students to make good choices and to ask for help and gain support and provides information and resources for making decisions about their own body and health.
 - <https://www.overdose-lifeline.org/opioid-heroin-prevention-education-program.html>

Mission West Virginia Relatives as Parents Program (WV RAPP) (via ReClaimWV)

(Support for Grandparents; Support for Kinship Care)

- **Contact: Kelly Thompson (kthompson@missionwv.org)**
 - The WV Relatives as Parents Program (WV RAPP) is sponsored by Mission West Virginia, the WV Bureau of Senior Services and the Brookdale Foundation. WV RAPP provides information and nonfinancial assistance such as: Phone support providing information, advocacy and a “listening ear” to relative caregivers or those considering relative caregiving; Facebook support group for relative caregivers or those considering providing relative care; Training for relative caregivers and professionals; Educational resource development; Community networking, organization and advocacy
 - <https://www.missionwv.org/rapp>



National Center on Improving Literacy (Family Engagement Pilot Tutorial)
(Literacy Achievement)

- **Contact: Sarah Sayko (saykos@rmcres.com)**
 - The National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL) is a partnership among literacy experts, university researchers, and technical assistance providers, with funding from the United States Department of Education. NCIL's Mission is to increase access to, and use of, evidence-based approaches to screen, identify, and teach students with literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia.
 - <https://improvingliteracy.org/family>

Prevent Suicide WV (via ReClaimWV)
(Mental Health; Trauma)

Contact: Barri Sky Faucett (Barri.Faucett@prestera.org)

- Prevent Suicide WV provides resources, training and technical assistance throughout WV on suicide prevention.
<https://www.sprc.org/states/west-virginia>

West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children
(Support for Special Education)

- **Contact: Susan White (sawhite2012@gmail.com)**
 - The West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (WVACEEC) is mandated by state Code §18-20-6 and charged in part with advising decision makers regarding the unmet needs of exceptional children which includes students with disabilities and students identified as gifted. The mission adopted by the Council is to influence the State Board of Education, public policy makers, and West Virginia's citizens in ways that continuously improve educational outcomes for children with exceptionalities.
 - <https://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/advisorycouncil.html>

West Virginia Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (via WVDE)
(Literacy Achievement)

- **Contact: Maggie Luma (mvelencsi@k12.wv.us)**
 - All West Virginia children deserve the opportunity to become immersed in a culture supportive of their ongoing literacy development. The West Virginia Department of Education, under the auspices of the West Virginia Board of Education, is well-poised to elevate the importance of literacy development in the state to close the reading achievement gap by third grade.
 - Growing literate, competent children today will result in positive impacts on career and college readiness tomorrow. The West Virginia Leaders of Literacy: Campaign for Grade Level Reading serves as the organizing body to help achieve this work. To yield long term gains in student achievement, partnerships between stakeholders at the national, state, and local levels will help ensure all young



children in West Virginia are provided ample opportunities to establish positive dispositions toward literacy learning.

- <https://wvde.us/early-and-elementary-learning/wv-leaders-of-literacy-campaign-for-grade-level-reading/>

West Virginia Center for Children’s Justice (Handle with Care) (via ReClaimWV)
(Mental Health; Trauma; Support for Families Affected by Incarceration)

- **Contact: Andrea Darr (Andrea.L.Darr@wvsp.gov)**
 - The West Virginia Defending Childhood Initiative, commonly referred to as “Handle With Care,” is tailored to reflect the needs and issues affecting children in West Virginia. The Initiative, a result of a collaborative effort of key stakeholders and partners, builds upon the success of proven programs throughout the country. The goal of the Initiative is to prevent children’s exposure to trauma and violence, mitigate negative affects experienced by children’s exposure to trauma, and to increase knowledge and awareness of this issue.
 - Model Handle With Care (“HWC”) programs promote safe and supportive homes, schools and communities that protect children, and help traumatized children heal and thrive. HWC promotes school-community partnerships aimed at ensuring that children who are exposed to trauma in their home, school or community receive appropriate interventions to help them achieve academically at their highest levels despite whatever traumatic circumstances they may have endured. The ultimate goal of HWC is to help students to succeed in school. Regardless of the source of trauma, the common thread for effective intervention is the school or child care agency. Research now shows that trauma can undermine children’s ability to learn, form relationships, and function appropriately in the classroom. HWC programs support children exposed to trauma and violence through improved communication and collaboration between law enforcement, schools/child care agencies and mental health providers, and connects families, schools and communities to mental health services.
 - <http://www.handlewithcarewv.org/handle-with-care.php>

West Virginia Department of Education Office of Early and Elementary Learning
(Early Childhood Education)

Contact: West Virginia Department of Education (ph: (304) 558-9994)

- The Office of Early & Elementary Learning was established to support and implement a pre-k through fifth-grade system of support that: Advances a unified commitment to excellence and equity in early learning education; Establishes strong foundations for early learning from school readiness through fifth grade; Supports programs to help close the literacy achievement gap by 3rd grade; and Ensures all children are on target to achieve career and college readiness.
- The Office of Early & Elementary Learning is committed to the development of a cohesive system of early learning education based on research and best practices. Through a collaborative, intentionally-designed, and well-implemented pre-k



through fifth-grade approach, not only will closing the literacy achievement gap by third Grade be possible, but West Virginia children will be better prepared for school and set on a course for career and college readiness.

- <https://wvde.us/early-and-elementary-learning/>

West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation Bureau of Juvenile Services *(Support for Families Affected by Incarceration)*

- **Contact: Denny Dodson (denny.e.dodson@wv.gov)**
 - The Division of Juvenile Services is committed to providing effective, beneficial services to youth in the Juvenile Justice System that promote positive development and accountability, while preserving community safety, and sustaining a work environment predicated upon principles of professionalism, with dignity and respect for all.
 - <https://dcr.wv.gov/>

West Virginia Early Head Start Program *(Birth-3 Initiatives and Early Childhood Education)*

- **Contact: Lori Milam (wvhsa@frontier.com)**
 - Head Start is a Federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. These programs help build relationships with families that support family well-being and many other important areas.
 - Early Head Start serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women and their families who have incomes below the Federal poverty level.
 - <https://wvheadstart.org/about/association/>

West Virginia Head Start Association *(Early Childhood Education)*

- **Contact: Lori Milam (wvhsa@frontier.com)**
 - Head Start is a Federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. These programs help build relationships with families that support family well-being and many other important areas.
 - <https://wvheadstart.org/about/association/>



West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition – Families Leading Change *(Family Mentoring)*

- **Contact: Jenny Anderson (janderson@ourfuturewv.org)**
 - Families Leading Change is a statewide coalition that has come together to do two things. First, we want to support, fund, and train families who want to work with their principals and teachers to make their hometown schools stronger (whether that means better drug prevention, vocational programs, school gardens, early literacy, etc. – whatever the community and school decide are most needed). Second, we want state and federal government officials to learn from the local expertise and wisdom of families across West Virginia.
 - <https://familiesleadingchange.org/about/>

West Virginia Math4Life (via WVDE) *(Numeracy Achievement)*

- **Contact: Joseph Mastracci (jmastracci@k12.wv.us)**
 - West Virginia’s math4Life initiative is a comprehensive and intensive statewide effort to improve student mathematics performance throughout the state over the next five years. The WVDE seeks to work with counties and schools throughout the state to institute best practices, challenging pedagogy, and student engagement strategies to improve students’ mathematics achievement. The vision and goals of the math4Life initiative are found on the WVDE math4Life home page at <https://wvde.us/math4life/>.
 - The WVDE is in the process of introducing and developing a 5-year statewide math4life plan. This plan will be designed around a statewide leadership team that will work collaboratively to create a system of mathematical improvement from the state level to the district level to the school level and, ultimately, to the student level. The counties will use the state standards to select their instructional materials and to implement math programs, technology supports, and community engagement practices to market their local math4life initiatives. The WVDE has a national advisory team that consists of Dr. Jason Zimba, Dr. Cathy Seeley, Dr. Lou Maynus and Dr. Jo Boaler. For more information about the national advisory team and the statewide leadership team, see <https://wvde.us/math4life/leadership-and-implementation-team/>.
 - <https://wvde.us/math4life/>

West Virginia Parent Training and Information *(Support for Special Education; Communication Training)*

- **Contact: Brenda Lamkin (brendalwvpti@aol.com)**
 - The West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc. (WV PTI) is a non-profit organization that operates the statewide federally funded Parent Training Center for WV and is the Family Voices State Affiliate Organization for West Virginia. The programs and services of WVPTI are based on the concept of parents helping parents. WVPTI, Inc. is committed to empowering parents and families of



children and youth with disabilities and special healthcare needs as advocates and partners in improving education, transition and healthcare outcomes for their children from birth to age 26.

- <http://www.wvpti-inc.org>

West Virginia Primary Care Association (PCA) (via ReClaimWV) *(Health and Wellness)*

- **Contact: West Virginia Primary Care Association (ph: (304) 346-0032)**
 - Formed in 1983, the West Virginia Primary Care Association (WVPCA) is a private, non-profit membership association that represents West Virginia safety-net health care providers. WVPCA is the federally-designated primary care association for the state and is the link between federal, state and local entities providing health care for 25%, or 1 in 4 of our state's residents.
 - WV PCA services assist members in providing high quality, cost-effective health care and address specific needs of administrators, clinicians, boards of directors, outreach workers and other center staff. We offer a wide variety of services targeted specifically toward the needs of West Virginia health centers in policy & advocacy, administration, cooperative purchasing, recruitment, information technology, and clinical care.
 - <https://www.wvpca.org>

West Virginia PTA *(Family Mentoring)*

- **Contact: Rose Rossana (roserssana@gmail.com)**
 - The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.
 - Local PTAs are linked to the West Virginia PTA and the National PTA association, forming a nationwide network of members working on behalf of all children and youth.
 - Because of its connections to the state and national PTAs, the local PTA is a valuable resource to its school community with: access to programs to benefit children, youth, and their families; recognition and size to influence the formulation of laws, policies, and practices—education or legislative.
 - <http://www.westvirginiapta.org/>

West Virginia Statewide After School Network *(Creating and Sustaining Community Partnerships)*

- **Contact: Dr. Susan Gamble (SKGamble@mail.wvu.edu)**
 - The West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network (WVSAN) is one of fifty afterschool networks across the country funded in part by the C.S. Mott Foundation. The WVSAN works to sustain a statewide partnership to raise awareness of: the importance and accessibility of high-quality afterschool and



summer learning programs for all school age children; share criteria of effective programs and best practices among providers and the public, and promote the sustainability of such programs throughout the state.

- <https://extension.wvu.edu/youth-family/youth-education/statewide-afterschool-network>

WV Behavioral/Mental Health Technical Assistance Center (via ReClaimWV) *(Mental Health; Trauma; Health and Wellness)*

- **Contact: Dr. Richard Crespo (crespo@marshall.edu)**
 - The West Virginia School Health Technical Assistance Center is dedicated to improving the health and academic success of West Virginia’s students through effective school – community partnerships. The West Virginia School Health Technical Assistance Center provides a central source of information for health and social services providers, parents, educators, and policy makers about best practices, resources, and current community – school health initiatives in West Virginia.
 - <https://livewell.marshall.edu/mutac/>

WVDHHR/WV Expanded School Mental Health (via ReClaimWV) *(Mental Health; Trauma)*

- **Contact: WV Expanded School Mental Health (https://wvesmh.org/contact_us/)**
 - A jointly sponsored effort of the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources “Expanded school mental health” refers to programs that build on core services typically provided by schools.
 - Expanded School Mental Health is a framework that: includes the full continuum of prevention, early intervention and treatment; serves all students; and emphasizes shared responsibility between schools and community mental health providers.
 - <https://wvesmh.org/about-esmh/>

Youth/Teen Mental Health First Aid *(Mental Health; Trauma)*

- **Contact: West Virginia Department of Education (ph: (304) 558-2681)**
 - Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered



include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

- <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/population-focused-modules/youth/>