

## West Virginia Receives SREB's State Leadership Award

State honored for quality teacher induction systems, professional development and supports

July 19, 2022 — The West Virginia Department of Education is the winner of the Southern Regional Education Board's 2022 State Leadership Award for creating systems of support for new and experienced educators. The state will be presented with the award on July 19, 2022, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

SREB's State Leadership Award recognizes states that have established continuous improvement structures and processes that help schools transform their school and classroom practices, establish and sustain change, and increase student achievement.

WVDE has made great strides in supporting new and early career teachers who are entering the classroom after successful careers in industry by offering quality teacher induction programs. The state uses SREB's [Teaching to Lead teacher preparation program](#) to build new teachers' capacity to plan instruction, engage diverse learners, manage classrooms and create standards-driven assignments. Such preparation improves teacher competence and longevity in the profession.

In collaboration with SREB, WVDE staff created a 12-module virtual professional learning course for new or struggling teachers. Teachers can collaborate with other teachers in online professional learning communities to review and improve their classroom practices.

The state is also piloting SREB's new [SMART \(Science and Math Alternative Route to Teaching\)](#) teacher induction program with an initial cohort of teachers with zero to three years of teaching experience in the areas of science and math.

Together, these initiatives to prepare and retain new and early career teachers across academic and CTE content areas contribute improved instruction and higher levels of student achievement.

SREB's [Making Schools Work Conference](#) is held annually and provides educators with opportunities to participate in professional development, network with colleagues from across the country and build school and district leadership capacity.

*The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at [sreb.org](http://sreb.org). SREB media contact: [Alan.Richard@SREB.org](mailto:Alan.Richard@SREB.org), (404) 879-5528.*