



**Office of Education  
Performance Audits**

**INITIAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR**

**WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN'S HOME**

**JUVENILE INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**JULY 2010**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

An announced (five days in advance) Education Performance Audit of the West Virginia Children's Home, a Juvenile Institutional Education Program under the governance of the West Virginia Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools, located in Randolph County was conducted May 27, 2010. The purpose of the review was to verify compliance with Policy 2325, *High Quality Standards for Institutional Juvenile Education Programs*, and to make recommendations to the West Virginia Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools on such measures of the procedures manual and current Policy 2325 to effectively assess juvenile institutional education programs.

The Education Performance Audit Team reviewed the Five-Year Strategic Improvement Plan, interviewed school personnel and host agency staff as available, observed classrooms, and examined school records.

## **EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT TEAM**

Office of Education Performance Audits Team Chair – Allen D. Brock, Coordinator

West Virginia Department of Education Team Leader – Jared Hughes, Coordinator,  
Office of Institutional Education Programs

## JUVENILE INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

### WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN'S HOME

Jeremy Tenney, Principal/Director

#### OVERVIEW

The West Virginia Children's Home is a licensed, self-contained, non-secure residential facility operated by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR). The facility opened in 2001 and is licensed for 25 youth and has private, semi-private, and dormitory accommodations. Most youth are status offenders, abuse and neglect victims, and possibly substance abusers. Truancy is a major problem among the population.

#### EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT

##### COMMENDATION

- 3.2.3. Learning Environment.** The school was clean, organized, and educationally stimulating. The school's atmosphere was positive and encouraging. The principal facilitated this environment and the teachers implemented organized and educationally stimulating approaches in the classrooms. The teachers had high expectations for all students.

#### HIGH QUALITY STANDARDS

##### RECOMMENDATION

##### 3.2. Curriculum and Instruction

- 3.2.4. Research Based Instructional Strategies.** On the day of the Education Performance Audit the special education co-teacher participated more as an aide than as a teacher. The special education teacher did not take an active role in the curriculum delivery; however, the principal stated that during observations throughout the year the special educator was active in curriculum delivery. The Team recommended that the co-teacher be actively involved in instruction on a daily basis.

### **Identification of Resource Needs**

A thorough and efficient system of schools requires the provision of an adequate level of appropriately managed resources. The West Virginia Board of Education adopted resource evaluation as a part of the accreditation and evaluation process. This process is intended to meaningfully evaluate the needs for facilities, personnel, curriculum, equipment and materials in the schools and how those impact program and student performance.

Section 3.4. Regulatory Agency Reviews of West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2325 governing accountability for juvenile institutional education programs for public school age students establishes standards for safe and adequate facilities for learning.

A host agency provides and maintains all facilities for the 10 juvenile institutional education programs in West Virginia. The West Virginia Board of Education through the State Superintendent of Schools and the West Virginia Department of Education, Office of Institutional Education Programs provides the education programs in these facilities. Such provision of adequate services compels interagency collaboration and cooperation regarding adequate facilities for juvenile institutional education programs.

#### **3.4.1. Facilities are safe, free of hazards and adequate to meet the needs of students and provide an environment conducive to learning.**

The Office of Education Performance Audits Team found that the West Virginia Children's Home was providing a high quality education for students and all staff demonstrated high expectations for all students. The principal was the educational leader of the school and was thorough and efficient in all aspects of the facility.

### **Education Performance Audit Summary**

The Team presented one commendation and one recommendation.

Based upon the results of the Education Performance Audit, the Office of Education Performance Audits recommends that the West Virginia Board of Education approve the West Virginia Children's Home Education Performance Audit Report.