

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** WALS Foundation and Fellow Educators

**FROM:** Robert "Joey" Wiseman, Jr., Assistant Director of Secondary Learning

**DATE:** May 12, 2014

**SUBJECT:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mock Trial Program

Kids today need to know and do more than ever before. That is why West Virginia is changing what teachers teach and how they teach from preschool to high school to improve learning.

The West Virginia Department of Education believes it is essential that we teach our children about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. We must ensure that they learn how to participate and be productive citizens in a democratic society.

The WALS Foundation Mock Trial program has assisted schools across the state since 20014. Over 11,500 students in twelve West Virginia counties have participated. The program brings the American Justice System to life as students learn about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs.

The mock trial program aligns with the fifth grade mock trial objective in the West Virginia Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives for Social Studies. For more information please visit <http://www.walswheeling.com/>.