

AGENDA

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia

October 14, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

- I. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions – Call to Order**
L. Paul Hardesty, President
- II. Approval of Agenda – (Action)**
President Hardesty
- III. Delegation(s) – (Information)**
Christy Day
- IV. School Safety Update – (Information)**
Micah Whitlow and James Agee
- V. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Reports – (Information)**
Superintendent Michele L. Blatt
- VI. Consent Agenda - (Action)**
 - A. Approval of Minutes - (Action)**

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the minutes of the August 12, 2026, meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) be approved.

B. Routine Business

- 1. Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage – (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment B](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage** policies for Barbour, Berkeley, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Harrison, Mason, Mingo, Nicholas, Jackson, Pendleton, Putnam, Ritchie, Roane, Taylor, Upshur, and Webster counties be approved.

- 2. Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage – (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment C](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage** policies for Barbour, Berkeley, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Harrison, Jackson, Mineral, Putnam, Taylor, and Upshur counties be approved.

- 3. Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage Affidavits - (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment D](#)

It is recommended that the **affidavits listed in the attachment** be approved for submission to the **Consolidated Public Retirement Board**.

- 4. Statewide Waiver of WVBE Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs - (Action)**
Joey Wiseman

Senate Bill No. 283 (2025 Regular Session) allows students to take the newly created personal finance course in Grades 8-10 in addition to Grades 11-12, as previously limited by

statute. Additionally, Senate Bill No. 283 included a provision allowing credits earned in Grades 8-10 to be applied retroactively to meet the mandatory graduation requirement.

It is recommended that a **statewide waiver of WVBE Policy 2510, to allow students in Grades 8-12 to complete the required personal finance course and that any related credits for such completion be applied retroactively to satisfy graduation requirements, be approved.**

5. Statewide Waiver of WVBE Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs - (Action)
Kelly Griffith

Senate Bill No. 650 (2025 Regular Session) allows the use of a full-time interventionist in lieu of an early childhood assistant teacher, aide, or paraprofessional. The full-time interventionist may serve up to two classrooms to satisfy staffing requirements only for Grades 2-3. For Grades K-1, an assistant teacher, aide, paraprofessional, or interventionist must be full-time and assigned solely to one classroom. Staff sharing is prohibited in Grades K-1. A part-time interventionist may be used only if a full-time interventionist is not available and the part-time interventionist is assigned to only one classroom.

It is recommended that a **statewide waiver of WVBE Policy 2510 to allow a full-time interventionist to be assigned to two classrooms to satisfy the maximum teacher-pupil ratio in Grades 2-3 and allowing a part-time interventionist to be utilized to meet the teacher-pupil ratio if they are only assigned to one classroom and a full-time interventionist is not available be approved.**

6. Statewide Waiver of WVBE Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs - (Action)
Joey Wiseman

Appendix B of Policy 2510 requires teachers to attend the Advanced Placement (AP®) Summer Institute (APSI) training once every three years. If a teacher is unable to attend the training during the summer they are assigned to attend, or the teacher is moved into a new position, this waiver will require the teacher to attend the training the following summer instead of requesting it during the school year. The only exception that will be afforded under this waiver would be for new courses that require specialized training, such as the new AP® English 10 Seminar, which may be utilized in place of English 10.

It is recommended that a **statewide waiver of WVBE Policy 2510 allowing county boards of education to permit teachers who cannot meet the AP® training requirement established in Appendix B to attend APSI training the following summer, unless a new AP® course with specialized training is implemented, be approved.**

7. Statewide Waiver of WVBE Policy 2340, §5.3.c.2, West Virginia Measures of Academic Progress – (Action)
Vaughn Rhudy

Currently, WVBE Policy 2340 requires all examiners to hold a valid West Virginia teaching license, certification, or permit issued by the WVDE. However, House Bill No. 2167 (2025 Regular Session) allows public charter school teachers who are not certified or licensed in the State to proctor state assessments if they have successfully completed the annual training to serve as a proctor. This waiver will only apply to Section 5.3.c.2. All other provisions of WVBE Policy 2340 will remain applicable for public charter school teachers. This waiver will be applicable to all West Virginia summative assessments.

It is recommended that a **statewide waiver of §5.3.c.2 of WVBE Policy 2340 to allow public charter school teachers who are not certified, licensed, or permitted in West Virginia to proctor state assessments be approved.**

8. Berkeley County Schools Embedded Credit Policy – (Action)
Joey Wiseman

Counties are required to submit their embedded credit policy to the state board of education. The policy has already been through the county approval process. See the attached embedded credit policy for Berkeley County.

[Attachment E](#)

It is recommended that the **Berkeley County Schools Embedded Credit Policy** be approved.

9. West Virginia School Board Association (WVSBA) Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) Appointments – (Action)
Howard O’Cull

Upon recommendation of the WVSBA Executive Committee, the TSRC recommends that the following county board of education members be appointed to serve on the TSRC: Dan Metz (Wirt County); Kathy Skinner (Jefferson County); Lori Kestner (Marshall County); Kenna R. Seal, EdD (Braxton County)/Emeritus; and Steve V. Chancey (Jackson County).

It is recommended that the **appointment of Dan Metz, Kathy Skinner, Lori Kestner, Kenna Seal, and Steve Chancey to the TSRC** be approved.

10. WVSBA 2026 Fall Conference Schedule – (Action)
Howard O’Cull

[Attachment F](#)

On August 26, 2026, the TSRC voted to recommend the Fall Conference Training Schedule, as included in the attachment, for approval by the WVBE in accordance with W. Va. Code §18-5-1a(e)(1).

It is recommended that the **WVSBA 2026 Fall Conference Training Schedule** be approved.

11. Annual Report on the Number of High School Diplomas Issued in Accordance with WVBE Policy 4355 – (Information)
Traci Gregory

[Attachment G](#)

W. Va. Code §18-2-5, §18-2-34, and WVBE Policy 4355 establish the rules, procedures and regulations for providing a high school diploma to surviving veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam Conflict. This report provides the total number of individuals issued a diploma in accordance with this policy, including a breakdown of the total into individual categories for each war or conflict.

It is recommended that the **Annual Report on the Number of High School Diplomas Issued in Accordance with WVBE Policy 4355** be accepted.

12. Authorization for the WVDE Alternative Certification Program to Include the WVDE as a Provider of Coursework – (Action)
Traci Gregory

Previously, the WVDE was authorized by the WVBE to provide a teacher preparation program, consisting of WVDE-approved coursework offered by West Virginia Institutions of Higher Education, as provided in W. Va. Code §18A-3-1j. The WVDE is seeking WVBE authorization to include the WVDE as a provider of coursework. If authorized by the WVBE, applications to approve WVDE-provided coursework will be submitted by the office responsible for conducting the coursework and approved by the office responsible for evaluating and approving coursework, in accordance with requirements of WVBE Policy 5901.

It is recommended that the **WVDE’s inclusion as an additional provider of coursework for the WVDE Alternative Certification Program** be approved.

13. WVSBA Statewide Training Schedule – (Action)
Howard O’Cull

[Attachment H](#)

The WVSBA will be providing a statewide training session on Saturday, November 14, 2026, at Stonewall Resort. The TSRC recommends the training schedule, as included in the attachment, for approval by the WVBE in accordance with W. Va. Code §18-5-1a(e)(1).

It is recommended that the **WVSBA Statewide Training Schedule** be approved.

14. Wayne County Board of Education’s Request to Amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow

[Attachment I](#)

WVBE Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit CEFP amendments to the WVBE and the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) for approval. The Wayne County Board of Education requests approval to revise its CEFP to include the addition of an agricultural science building at Wayne High School and a multi-purpose room at Lavalette Elementary School. Wayne County Schools plans to fund this project through a combination of local funds and an SBA grant request.

It is recommended that **Wayne County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

15. **2025-2026 West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (WVACEEC) Annual Report – (Information)**
Whitney White

[Attachment J](#)

The WVACEEC is a state-level committee mandated by state and federal law. Members include parents, administrators, and representatives from a variety of related agencies. The WVACEEC is interested in the quality of education received by exceptional children and youth. The 2025-2026 Annual Report identifies the unmet needs of children with exceptionalities in West Virginia and supports ongoing WVDE initiatives. This report is required to be submitted to the WVBE by the provisions of W. Va. Code §18-20-6(d).

It is recommended that the **2025-2026 WVACEEC annual report be accepted.**

16. **Roane County Board of Education's Request to Amend their 2020-2030 CEFP – (Action)**
Micah Whitlow

[Attachment K](#)

WVBE Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit CEFP amendments to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Roane County Board of Education requests approval to revise its CEFP to include multiple upgrades at Spencer Elementary School. The proposed upgrades include expanding and modernizing the kitchen, replacing the ceilings, and installing a new HVAC system. Roane County Schools plans to fund this project through a combination of local funds and an SBA grant request.

It is recommended that the **Roane County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

17. **Educator and School Employee Licensure Standards – (Action)**
Robert Hagerman

[Attachment L](#)

The Educator and School Employee Licensure Standards provide a statewide framework developed through a collaborative, multi-year stakeholder process led by the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards. These standards establish clear and consistent expectations for professional conduct and responsibility for all individuals holding a license issued by the WVDE. They promote student safety, strengthen professional accountability, increase awareness of conduct that may place a license at risk, and support the WVDE's ongoing efforts to prevent misconduct through education and early awareness. These standards do not replace existing laws, policies, codes of conduct, or disciplinary procedures, nor should they be used as an employee evaluation tool. These standards are intended to function as a proactive resource to help license holders understand and fulfill their professional responsibilities.

It is recommended that the **Educator and School Employee Licensure Standards be approved.**

18. **Wyoming County Board of Education's Request to Amend their 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)**
Micah Whitlow

[Attachment M](#)

WVBE Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit CEFP amendments to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Wyoming County Board of Education requests approval to revise its CEFP to include a roof replacement project at Berlin McKinney Elementary School. Wyoming County Schools plans to fund this project through a combination of local funds and an SBA grant request.

It is recommended that the **Wyoming County Board of Education's request to amend their 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

VII. New Business

A. Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Program – (Information) Whitney White

The Office of Special Education will provide a brief overview of SDI for students with exceptionalities.

B. School Calendar Changes – (Information) Jeffrey Kelley

During the 2026 Regular Session, the West Virginia Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 890, which changed school calendar requirements from days or months to hours. Associate Superintendent Jeffrey Kelley, Office of External Operations, will provide information on how the enactment affects West Virginia Public Schools.

C. County Board of Education Accountability Report – (Action) Alexandra Criner

To ensure that each county provides a thorough and efficient education for its students, the WVBE annually reviews information submitted for each county to the WVDE in accordance with WVBE Policy 2322 and W. Va. Code §18-2E-5. The Office of Accountability will report on county school system operational efficiencies and approval status.

Note: This report will be published on the website after it is formally received by the Board.

D. Discussion of Legal Matters – Supreme Court No. 25-642, *West Virginia Board of Education v. Warner*; Supreme Court No. 26-597, *State ex rel. Patten v. Hanshaw*, et al.; Civil Action No. CC-30-2026-C-101, *McCloud*, et al. v. *Mingo County Board of Education et al.*; Civil Action No. CC-20-2026-C-1103, *McCloud*, et al. v. *Pack*, et al.; and Civil Action No. CC-03-2026-C-81, *Carter et al. v. Boone County Board of Education*, et al.; Civil Action No. CC-03-2026-C-82, *Burgess et al. v. Boone County Board of Education*, et al.; and Pre-suit Notice of Intent to File Lawsuit Against WVBE regarding Transportation Issues resulting from the Closure of Roane County Schools – (Information and/or Action)

*Discussion of legal matters may involve an Executive Session as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4 [matters involving attorney-client privilege per *Peters v. County Commission*, 205 W. Va. 481 (1999)]. The Board majority must vote to have an Executive Session (no action will be taken during the Executive Session).*

Motions, if any, will be determined at the meeting.

E. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters – (Action)

Discussion of WVBE and/or WVDE personnel may involve an Executive Session as provided in W. Va. Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) [personnel exception] and/or §6-9A-4(b)(6) [privacy exception]. The Board majority must vote to have an Executive Session (no action will be taken during the Executive Session).

It is recommended that the WVBE personnel matters included in the attachment be approved.

[Attachment N](#)

It is recommended that **the WVDE personnel matters included in the attachment be approved.**

[Attachment O](#)

VIII. WVBE Member Updates and Requests for Information - (Information)
President Hardesty

IX. Future Meetings - (Information)
President Hardesty

The next regular meeting will be held on December 9, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

X. Adjournment - (Action)
President Hardesty