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To: West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE)

Date: December 11, 2024

Re: Cabell County School

Waiver #: 1515

- 1) **WVBE Policy # and Name:** Policy 2510: Assuring Quality Education/Regulations for Education Programs
- 2) **Section Number requested to be waived:** 9.1.h. Uniform Grading Scale.
- 3) **School Year in which the waiver is requested:** Cabell County Schools is requesting this waiver for all students affected by their current grading process to ensure their ability to graduate is not jeopardized.
- 4) **Rationale:** Cabell County Schools is requesting a waiver to the Uniform Grading Scale section of Policy 2510. Cabell County awards half credits at the end of each semester. If a student fails the first semester, the school transcribes the failing grade and does not award credit. If the student passes the second semester, the school transcribes the passing grade and awards a half credit for the second semester. Once the second semester grade and credit is transcribed, school personnel calculate the average of the two semester grades. If the average is 60% or above, school personnel edit the transcript to award a half credit for the failing grade in the first semester. While the students actually pass the course as an average overall, it is not reflected on transcripts correctly. This current practice appears to allow students to earn credits for failed half-credit courses.

As other secondary schools, post-secondary institutions, scholarship programs, etc. review transcripts from Cabell County Schools, it appears that the county awarded students credit for courses in which they earned failing grades. This practice does not align with WVBE Policy 2510 Uniform Grading Scale, and it affects their ability to qualify for scholarships, entrance to post-secondary institutions, as well as graduation should the student transfer to another high school. Cabell County is asking for a waiver for their current students that have been awarded credit for a course they appear to have failed.

Cabell County will communicate with all students and their parents and/or guardians who have earned credit for failing courses they have failed. Students will also be offered the opportunity to enroll in credit recovery for any courses for which credit was awarded despite receiving a failing grade. Cabell County will also draft a letter to share with colleges and universities if a student's grades are questioned for admittance. Cabell County ensures this practice will no longer be continued. School personnel will document the change of each transcript in students' permanent records as well as communicate the change to parents and/or guardians. Counselors, principals, and other county staff will continue to attend the upcoming regional Policy 2510 trainings offered by the Office of PK-12 Academic Support.

- 5) **Recommendation:** The West Virginia Department of Education recommends approval of this waiver to ensure student grades and required graduation credits are not jeopardized. The county has agreed to remedy the issue moving forward.