

Executive Summary

West Virginia Department of Education Office of School Operations & Finance – School Facilities

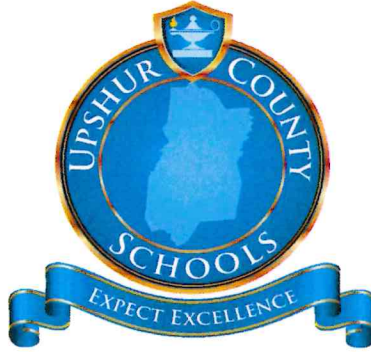
Introduction: Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Upshur County, respectfully requests approval to close Rock Cave Elementary School and consolidate it into French Creek Elementary School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Action: The Upshur County Board of Education requests approval of the following:

- The closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and its consolidation into French Creek Elementary School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. In consideration of this closure, applicable West Virginia State Board of Education policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required period. Separate public hearings were held on November 13, 2025, for Rock Cave Elementary School and French Creek Elementary School. Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Upshur County, approved this closure as an agenda item on Upshur County Board of Education's November 20, 2025, board agenda.
- A waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 for creating bus routes that will exceed the recommended duration of transportation time for elementary students.

Administration

Mrs. Christine Miller
Superintendent
Mrs. April Senic
Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Timothy Derico
Assistant Superintendent



Board of Education

Mrs. Jan Craig
Mrs. Sherry Dean
Mr. Roy Wager
Mrs. Susan King
Mr. William "Willie" Parker

November 24, 2025

Ms. Michele L. Blatt
Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

Dear Superintendent Blatt,

Please accept this letter as my formal request for consideration of the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School, merging into French Creek Elementary School.

Upshur County Schools has completed all required steps for the final closure of Rock Cave Elementary merging into French Creek Elementary, with Mr. Jeffrey Kelley, representing you as the Board for Upshur County Schools, voting in favor of the closure and merger during its meeting held Thursday, November 20, 2025. All required documentation is contained within the completed closure document and has been uploaded into the County Approved Document Upload Form provided by the WVDE Office of School Facilities.

Upshur County Schools further request approval of an amendment to its Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan to align with the vote November 20, 2025, closure decision.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Miller".

Christine Miller
Superintendent

IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING DATA

FOR THE

**CLOSURE OF
Rock Cave Elementary
MERGING INTO
French Creek Elementary**

Upshur County Board of Education

Prepared Pursuant to

**W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a and
WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204.**

**Upshur County Schools
Under the direction and authority of
The West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE)**

**Public Hearing Date(s) November 13, 2025
County Board Approval Date(s) November 20, 2025**

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3.1. County Procedures

WVDE Application for school closure and/or consolidation

Upshur County Schools

Closure and Merger of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary.

Scheduled Date(s) of Hearing(s):

Scheduled Date(s) of County Board Vote(s):

County Procedures

This template shall be used to accumulate and present the data that is requested in Policy 6204 and W. Va. Code 18-5-13a to support the closure or consolidation of a WV public school.

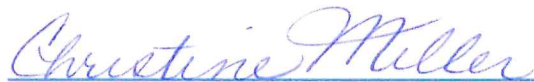
The county shall prepare and submit an impact statement and supporting data concerning proposed school closings or consolidations to the WVBE for approval in accordance with this policy and W. Va. Code §18-5-13a. The impact statement and supporting data shall:

- be available for public inspection in the office of the county superintendent during the 30 days preceding the date of the public hearing; and*

Be delivered in duplicate to the:

- principal of a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and of any school which the county designates to receive the students who are relocated as a result of the closure or consolidation; and*
- chair of the local school improvement council (LSIC) representing a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and any school that the county designates to receive the students who are relocated as a result of the closure or consolidation.*
- A copy of the notice shall be posted at all schools, bus garages, and maintenance areas in the county in conspicuous working areas, for all professional and service personnel to observe.*

Christine Miller



Superintendent

10-13-25

Date:

3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements

County Procedures

An impact statement shall be prepared on the following items that will summarize the county's supporting data with page references, as defined in section 3.1. The impact statement and supporting data shall be provided to the West Virginia Department of Education – Office of School Facilities at least 10 business days prior to the period for public posting for the purpose of review and coordination.

Enrollment 3.2.a. (Starting on Page #)

Upshur County Schools continues as all counties in West Virginia to experience a decline in enrollment. This has increased year over year with the adoption of more choice options such as learning pods, microschoools, charters, private and the allowance to use the Hope Scholarship. Beginning in school year 2022-2023 enrollment was 3,689 in grades PK-12. The current 2025-2026 school year, Upshur County Schools enrollment is 3,063. This includes the virtual option that has been in place since the school year 2021-2022. What this figure does not show is the increasing numbers of students who are participating in home school which is 240 for the 2025-2026 school year. This drop is supported in the decline in population from 24,415 in 2010 to an estimated 23,177 in 2025. However, the population demographics show a shift to an older population and a decline in ages 5-19.

Rock Cave Elementary has decreased by 77 students over the past ten (10) years. During the past 10 years, the 2016-2017 school year showed the highest number of students enrolled in the past decade at 149. Enrollment has trended up and down and during the last four (4) years enjoying its highest numbers in 2023-2024 school year with a drop from that point of 76 total students. The current enrollment for 2025-2026 is 71 as of October 1, 2025. Rock Cave Elementary has a building utilization capacity for 171 students.

French Creek Elementary has decreased by 26 students over the past ten (10) years. The 2017-2018 school year was the height of enrollment in the past decade at 247 students. The current enrollment of French Creek Elementary is 221 students with 26 transfer students from Rock Cave enrolled at French Creek. French Creek Elementary has a building utilization capacity for 322 students. The combined enrollment of French Creek Elementary merged with Rock Cave Elementary in 2026-2027 is projected to be 293 students.

Facilities 3.2.b. (Starting on Page #)

Rock Elementary is located 4.7 miles away from French Creek Elementary. Rock Cave Elementary School is currently in fair condition and needs safety/entry upgrades, better implementation of unloading/loading of students, and parking lot repairs and improvements. The access road on and off the property is inadequate as well as the two outside buildings that housed the now closed PK classroom and office space that can be incorporated into the current building as the need for a separate space for Title program needs and counseling services no longer exist. It has a building utilization rate of 42%. Economies of scale were not achieved when the 2020 Comprehensive Facilities Plan was updated and approved. French Creek Elementary is in good condition, with a need for a safe school's entrance, with a well-organized area for unloading/loading of students, with only walkways in need of improvement.

Finance 3.2.c. (Starting on Page #)

The superintendent is proposing to consolidate services in Upshur County to provide high quality education to all students in the county. The closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger to French Creek Elementary will save the board \$865,982.81 annually, including savings on maintenance and operating expenses for aging facilities.

Personnel 3.2.d. (Starting on Page #)

The Upshur County Board of Education has continued to reduce staff due to a loss in enrollment over the last few years to meet state aid funding formula for professional and service personnel. The merger of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary will result in reductions of eight (8) professional personnel positions and six and a half (6.5) service positions while increasing the likelihood that students are taught by fully certified teachers. Upshur County Schools will continue to follow the West Virginia Department of Education's recommended guidelines on the number of professional employees per grade-level outlined in WV Code §18-5-18a and maintain the number of staff required to deliver the education program to all students.

Student Transportation 3.2.e. (Starting on Page #)

French Creek Elementary is located 4.7 miles from Rock Cave Elementary. Existing bus routes will transport students to French Creek Elementary. The routes may exceed the recommended 30-minute guidelines as outlined in WVBOE policy 6200. It is projected it would not exceed by more than 10 to 15 minutes for those students that live near the border of Webster County.

Student Educational Program 3.2.f. (Starting on Page #)

Upshur County Schools have been on a path of improvement since the state took over and areas were identified based on accountability provisions in WVBOE Policy 2322. We are dedicated to preparing students for a changing workplace, higher education and military participation. The mission statement "Upshur County Schools is committed to creating a united community for educational excellence." Upshur County Schools is becoming a place where education is valued in a supportive and future focused environment. The closure of Rock Cave Elementary to merge with French Creek Elementary will be dedicated to this path of improvement.

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary to merge with French Creek Elementary will provide the opportunity for all students to experience the benefits of improved educational opportunities and programming. French Creek Elementary, after the merger, will continue to serve students PK through Grade 5. Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary are Title I schools and those funds will continue to support the use of a county interventionist for students, and quality parent engagement activities to support the learning of all students. Those students being served through special services will enjoy having certified teachers to continue to support their specific needs as identified in their Individualized Education Plans with this merger.

Community 3.2.g (Starting on Page #)

The impacted schools are located within 4.7 miles of each other with twenty-six students already transferred from Rock Cave to French Creek Elementary. Many of the students and families engage in the same community activities which will continue with the closing of Rock Cave Elementary. The proximity of the schools will allow the communities and their relationships to become stronger as they work together to support the students in the newly merged school.

3.2.a Student Enrollment

County Procedures

Enrollment and Population Table

Trends in student population growth or decline in the county for the previous 10 years.

Upshur County Schools

Year	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025	2025- 2026
Total	3785	3757	3762	3737	3701	3947	3774	3601	3380	3214

Enrollment Table 1

Trends in student population growth or decline in the attendance area of the school targeted for closure or consolidation for the previous 10 years.

Rock Cave Elementary

Year	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025	2025- 2026
Total	149	134	136	135	129	123	138	130	105	71

Enrollment Table 2

Trends in student population growth or decline in attendance area of the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students affected for the previous 10 years.

French Creek Elementary

Year	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025	2025- 2026
Total	236	247	246	220	227	212	213	236	214	221

Enrollment Table 3

Population data and characteristics for the county. At a minimum, the data shall include the total population, number of births, number of deaths, and age composition of the county for the previous ten years. The requisite information shall be cited and may be obtained from local, state, and national agencies for health and statistics.

The following table represents the best available data from Vital Statistics and US Census Bureau. Year 2025 in births and deaths is an estimate based due to the year not ending at time of this analysis.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Population	24758	24658	24082	24117	24193	24048	23903	23758	23613	23468
Births	252	252	248	227	204	241	169	174	181	189
Deaths	250	250	243	267	307	241	220	200	200	200

Enrollment Table 4

Age Composition – Estimates from Census Bureau begin in year 2021; WV Vital Statistics Prior

Upshur County Schools • Rock Cave Merger into French Creek Elementary

Year	5 years or less	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	>85
2016	1427	2863	3472	2831	2752	3132	3410	2823	1471	477
2017	1317	2885	3484	2756	2714	3080	3358	2832	1535	504
2018	1311	2864	3444	2770	2687	3057	3306	2879	1585	502
2019	1201	2860	3415	2748	2671	2938	3274	2970	1597	502
2020	1236	2813	3433	2743	2690	2837	3268	3021	1629	560
2021	1157	2523	3394	2721	2675	2763	3232	3072	1669	581
2022	1140	2452	3355	2699	2660	2689	3196	3123	1709	602
2023	1114	2406	3316	2677	2645	2615	3160	3174	1749	623
2024	1104	2381	3277	2655	2630	2541	3124	3225	1789	644
2025	1062	2391	3283	2633	2615	2467	3088	3276	1829	665

Enrollment Table

Projections of enrollment, by grade and school, in the affected attendance area, for the next ten years.

Rock Cave

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
Grade PK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GradeK	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade1	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade2	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade3	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade4	10	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0
Grade5	12	10	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0

Enrollment Table 6 – All years except 2025-2026 are estimates

French Creek Elementary

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
Grade PK	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
GradeK	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade1	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade2	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade3	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20
Grade4	42	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20
Grade5	33	42	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20

Enrollment Table 7 – All years except 2025-2026 are estimates

Projection Method

Explanation of the projection method utilized addressing the relationship between the most recent Certified October Enrollment, the Certified October Enrollment for the previous three years, and the most recent census data for the county.

Upshur County Schools enrollment is projected to decline over the next ten years. French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary have a trending decline in enrollment following the same pattern we are experiencing throughout the district. The determination of enrollment was made by reviewing the past ten (10) years of enrollment trends for French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary, certified October 1st enrollment for the past three (3) years, and the most recent census data for the county.

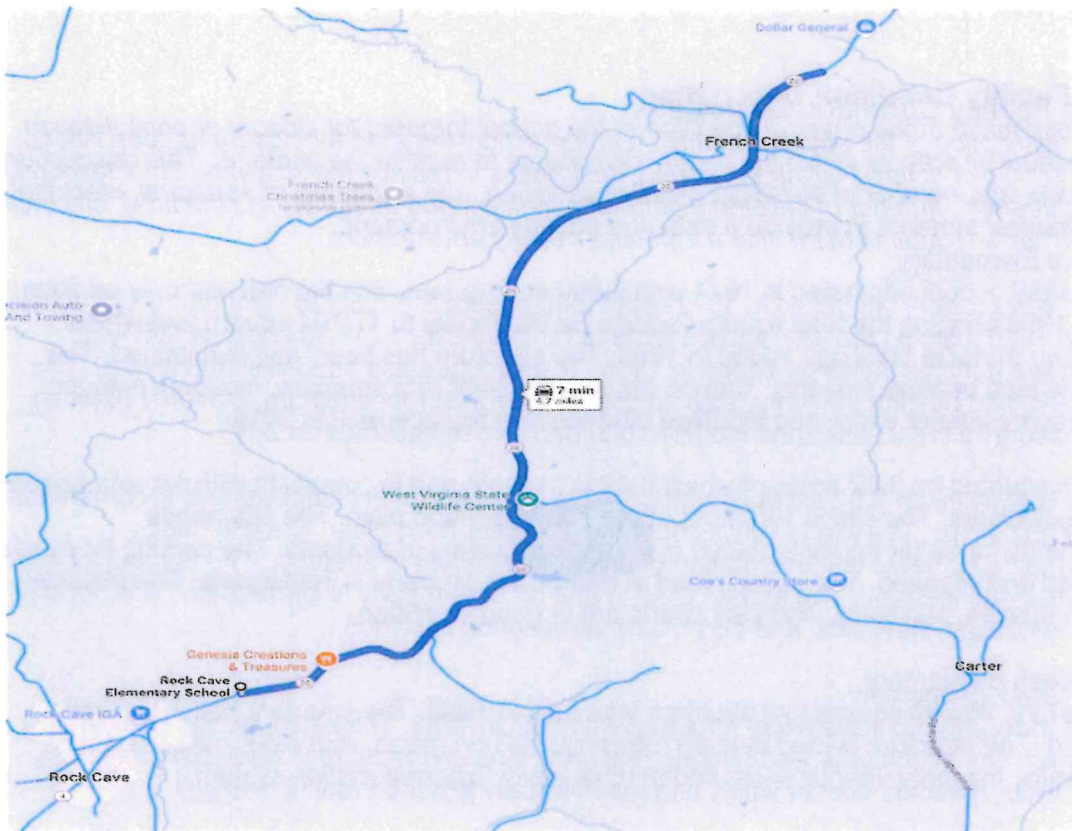
3.2.b. Facilities

County Procedures

Descriptive Maps

General Reference Maps showing prominent natural and manmade features where the location of school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) that the county designates to receive the students are highlighted.

Charts shall be provided indicating the grade configuration, student enrollment, utilization percentage, and mileage between each school on the map.



Map 1

The dark blue line shows the distance from Rock Cave Elementary to French Creek Elementary (4.7 miles). The time shown is provided by Google Maps for car travel between the two schools.

School	Grade Config.	Enrollment Before/After Action	Utilization Before/After Action	Distance to School A	Distance to Rock Cave	Distance to New or Receiving French Creek
Closing Rock Cave	K-5	72	Before- 80% After 42%			4.7 miles
New or Receiving French Creek	PK-5	221	Before -76% After - 90%	4.7 miles		

Facilities Table 1

Written Facility Condition Description

Written description of the physical condition of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students. This description shall include age, number of buildings, general condition, and adequacy of structural, electrical, and mechanical systems to provide a safe and healthy environment.

Rock Cave Elementary

The one-story school originated in 1971 with 9,800 square feet, with the first and only addition added in 1988 bringing the total square footage for the facility to 17,104 square feet which includes two portable buildings added in 1995. The structure has been well maintained. The structure is load bearing masonry, slab on grade, steel joist roof structure, masonry exterior walls, masonry interior walls, and modified bitumen roof replacement in 2016.

The site is situated on 9.02 acres of which 6.42 is useable and is compliant with recommended acreage guidelines. The site is 100% out of the 100-year flood plain. The site needs improvements for better implementation of unloading/loading of students. The parking lot needs to be milled and repaved. The access road in and off the property is inadequate. The physical education spaces, playfields, and play courts are in good condition.

French Creek Elementary

The one-story, 26,300 square foot structure was built in 1983. The structure has been well maintained. The structure is load bearing masonry, slab on grade, roof steel joists, masonry exterior walls, masonry interior walls, and mechanically fastened roofing system.

The site is situated on 23.21 acres of which 15.83 acres is useable and is compliant with recommended acreage guidelines. This site is 100% out of the 100-year flood plain. The site is well organized for unloading/loading of students. The parking is inadequately lit for the safety of visitors and staff. The physical education space, playfields, and play courts are in good condition. However, walkways need improvements at this facility.

Educational Programs and Related Student Services

Evaluation of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools that the county designates to receive the students in regard to the school(s) adaptability to the present and proposed educational programs, and the provisions of related student services.

The most recent Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) was used to develop and plan any necessary improvements at French Creek Elementary. Rock Cave Elementary is a K-5 school. French Creek Elementary has sufficient space to for PK through Grade 5 classrooms.

The instructional program at Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary align with WVBOE Policy 2510. Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary are equipped with a wireless network to support daily use of technology by all stakeholders. The planning phase for this merger accounts for the appropriate staff to support the students with a whole child focus.

Rock Cave Elementary does not currently have a counselor as multiple attempts to hire one part-time have been unsuccessful. In addition, Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary share an Art and Music Educator with the Wellness teacher sharing time with Buckhannon Upshur High School. This merger will afford Rock Cave Elementary students the opportunity to experience support of a full-time counselor, Art, Music and Wellness teacher at French Creek Elementary.

School Enrollments, Capacities, and Utilizations

<i>School</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Building Capacity</i>	<i>Utilization %</i>
Closing School – Rock Cave	71	171	42%
Receiving School French Creek (Projected #)	292	328	89.02%

Facilities Table 2

Utilization Calculation Sheet

The supporting School Building Authority of West Virginia's (SBA) Worksheet on Building Program Utilization.

See Appendix for this Documentation

Required Services and Barrier-free Environments

Comparison of the school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) which the county has designated to receive the students in regard to providing the required services and barrier-free environments to students with disabilities.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary were constructed to be ADA compliant at their time of original occupancy, and every effort has been made to improve and meet current accessibility standards.

Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

Elaboration on the effect the proposed school closing or consolidation will have on the school system's future plans regarding grade configuration, educational programs, and facility requirements.

Closing Rock Cave Elementary and merging with French Creek Elementary will allow for attention to secure entrances for all schools as identified in the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan.

Rock Cave Elementary has a current grade configuration of K-5 while French Creek has PK-5 allowing parents the opportunity to enroll their students in the same school for all seven (7) years of their children's early learning experience.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary are both Title I schools. The proposed merger will change the budget structure and outlook for French Creek also allowing for the other identified Title I schools across the county to adjust their annual budgets to meet the overall learning needs for students.

Construction Work Required for the Proposed Action

Elaboration on the planned facility additions, renovations, or replacements that are required by the county to accommodate the proposed closing and consolidation.

Additions, renovations, or replacements are not required or proposed for Rock Cave Elementary.

Additions, renovations, or replacements are not required for French Creek Elementary. However, with this merger, the possibility of beginning construction of safe entryways can be considered.

The Future of Closed Facilities

Elaboration on the future use or disposal of facilities designated by the county for closure.

Rock Cave Elementary will be closed and offered for sale according to state statute and WBOE policy for disposal of surplus property.

School Building Authority of WV (SBA)

Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation is contingent upon receiving funding from the SBA.

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merging with French Creek Elementary is not contingent upon receiving funding from the SBA.

SBA Facility Condition Documentation

Attachment of the most recent SBA facility evaluation form for each school affected and an updated form if the most recent SBA facility evaluation form is five years old or older.

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

Supporting Photographs and other Documentation

Provide relevant facility photos, and any supporting documentation the county determines would be helpful. Examples of supporting documentation may include reports from architects, engineers, Fire Marshall, and insurance companies.

Due to security concerns, floor plans should only be included when necessary in the impact statement book. If floor plans are deemed valuable to the closure reasoning, consider only including them in the officially printed book that is available at the required physical locations and not in publicly available formats.

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

3.2.c. Finance

County Procedures

Itemization of Anticipated Cost and Savings

Itemization of the anticipated cost or savings the county will experience in all areas as a result of the proposed school closure or consolidation. Such itemization shall be in the form of a table indicating the following:

Closing School(s) Annual Current Cost

The current annual cost at the school(s) to be closed for:

Rock Cave

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$31,875.50
<i>Personnel</i>	\$1,456,145.82
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$33,817.68
<i>Transportation</i>	\$137,460.76
<i>Other</i>	\$186,860.97
<i>Total</i>	\$1,846,160.73

Finance Table 1

Other items include non-tech repairs, food expense, supplies and transfers for Faculty Senate and grant funds

Receiving School(s) Annual Current Cost

The current annual cost at the school(s) to be receiving for:

French Creek Elementary

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$67,627.05
<i>Personnel</i>	\$2,138,069.62
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$61,869.94
<i>Transportation</i>	\$284,085.56
<i>Other</i>	\$216,343.14
<i>Total</i>	\$2,767,995.31

Finance Table 2

Other items include non-tech repairs, food expense, supplies and transfers for Faculty Senate and grant funds

Anticipated Annual Cost after Action

The anticipated annual cost at the school(s) to be receiving for:

French Creek Elementary

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$73,273.29
Personnel	\$2,844,999.05
Maintenance	\$74,363.60
Transportation	\$420,673.08
Other	\$334,864.21
Total	\$3,748,173.23

Finance Table 3

Net Cost or Savings

the net cost or savings of the school(s) to be closed and the school(s) designated by the county to be receiving students for:

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

Item	Cost or Savings	Amount
Utilities	Savings	\$26,229.26
Personnel	Savings	\$749,216.39
Maintenance	Savings	\$21,324.02
Transportation	Savings	\$873.24
Other	Savings	\$68,339.90
Total	Savings	\$865,982.81

Finance Table 4

Anticipated Construction Cost to Accommodate Action

Cost of any renovation or addition resulting from the proposed school closure or consolidation, including all proposed funding sources.

There are no renovation or construction costs associated with this proposed closure or merger.

County Expense Fund History

Five-year history of the county's unrestricted general current expense fund balance and that balance as a percentage of the county's approved levy estimate.

Year	Unrestricted General Current Expense Fund Balance	Approved Levy Estimate	Percentage of Approved Levy Estimate
2024	\$8,663,851.00	\$42,824,655.00	20.2%
2023	\$4,671,993.00	\$41,323,673.00	11.3%
2022	\$2,973,183.00	\$38,253,518.00	7.8%
2021	\$3,221,203.00	\$38,650,297.00	8.3%
2020	\$842,747.00	\$39,370,108.00	2.1%

Finance Table 5

3.2.d. Personnel

The Upshur County Board of Education is currently under state control. However, the current leadership has kept the board apprised of and tried to work to minimize the impact on personnel during the period of declining student enrollment. While attempts have been made previously to reduce staff previously, the last two years have seen increases due to the decline in the student population.

The consolidation of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary will result in a reduction of seven (7) professional personnel and six and a half (6.5) service personnel positions while increasing the likelihood across the county that students will be taught by certified teachers. Upshur County Schools will continue to follow the West Virginia Department of Education recommended guidelines on the number of staff required to deliver the education programs to students. It may be that reductions in personnel will take place due to the duplication of positions after the merger.

Analysis of Anticipated Personnel Changes

An analysis of the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on professional and service personnel. The analysis shall include, at a minimum, the following data regarding the anticipated increases or decreases in employment as a result of this proposed closure or consolidation:

Rock Cave Elementary – Current School Personnel Data Chart				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1	9.5	1	0.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1	6	1	1

Personnel Table 1

French Creek Elementary – Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1	18	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	2	12	2	1

Personnel Table 2

Current Affected School Total – Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>	2	27.5	2	1.5

Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>	3	18	3	2

Personnel Table 3

French Creek Elementary – Anticipated After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>	1	22	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>	2.5	14	2	1

Personnel Table 4

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary – Anticipated Net Change After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>the anticipated net change in professional personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>	1	5.5	1	0.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>the anticipated net change in service personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>	0.5	4	1	1

Personnel Table 5

(Post Merger) French Creek Elementary – Attrition and Reduction in Force Summary - Professional				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>decrease that will occur through a reduction in force</i>	1	5.5	1	0.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary

Upshur County Schools • Rock Cave Merger into French Creek Elementary

<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>decrease that will occur through reduction in force</i>	0.5	4	1	1

Personnel Table 6

3.2.e. Student Transportation

French Creek Elementary is located 4.7 miles from Rock Cave Elementary. Existing bus routes will transport students to French Creek Elementary with the possible addition of an elementary only bus route being created to serve students from Rock Cave. The routes will not exceed the 45-minute recommended guideline as outlined in policy 6200.

Analysis of Anticipated Transportation Time Changes

Explain any variances of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Regulations, Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses (Policy 4336), section 15, Guidelines for Bus Routing, and the effects the variances may have on transportation. Provide the following bus route data and travel times:

Current and Differences of Travel Times

List the current travel time by bus route for students in the communities of the schools planned for closure or consolidation and the estimated increase or decrease in travel time as a result of the closure; and

Rock Cave

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Route 23	Rock Cave/Cleveland/Webster	42 minutes	50 minutes	8 minutes
Route 33	Gaines/Canaan/Goshen	43 minutes	51 minutes	8 minutes
Route 88	Rock Cave	52 minutes	64 minutes	12 minutes
Route 93	Rock Cave/Brook's Hill/Randolph Line	37 minutes	37 minutes	0 minutes
Route 94	Rock Cave/Selbyville/Newton	50 minutes	56 minutes	6 minutes

French Creek

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Route 17	French Creek	37 minutes	37 minutes	0 minutes
Route 18 Run #1	Adrian/French Creek	16 minutes	16 minutes	0 minutes
Route 18 Run #2	Hinkleville/Adrian	25 minutes	25 minutes	0 minutes
Route 98	Alton	47 minutes	47 minutes	0 minutes
Route 238	Abbot/Adrian	32 minutes	32 minutes	0 minutes
Route 239	Frenchton/Centerville	36 minutes	36 minutes	0 minutes
Route 240	Beech Town/Frenchton	34 minutes	34 minutes	0 minutes

Transportation Table 1

Anticipated Routes and Waiver Requests

List all anticipated bus routes after the proposed closure or consolidation with the estimated total one-way travel time for each route. Clearly identify any bus routes that exceed the recommended travel times and any routes which will require a waiver of Policy 4336.

Rock Cave Elementary

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes / no)*
Route 23	Rock Cave	50 Min	5 Min	Yes
Route 33	Rock Cave	53Min	8 Min	Yes
Route 88	Rock Cave	30 Min	0 Min	No
Route 93	Rock Cave	37 Min	0 Min	No
Route 94	Rock Cave	40 Min	5 Min	Yes

French Creek

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes / no)*
Route 17	French Creek	37 Min	0 Min	No
Route 18 Run #1	Adrian/ French Creek	16 Min	0 Min	No
Route 18 Run #2	Hinkleville/ Adrian	25 Min	0 Min	No
Route 238	Abott/Adrian	36 Min	0 Min	No
Route 239	Frenchton/Centerville	36 Min	0 Min	No
Route 240	Beech Town/Frenchton	34 Min	0 Min	No

Transportation Table 2

*A waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 is only required for elementary school routes that have a one-way transportation time greater than 45 minutes.

Travel Time to Neighboring County Public School

Identify and provide the travel time to any neighboring county public schools that could serve the population of the closing school(s) where travel time to the identified out-of-county school is less than or equal to the schools(s) designated by the county to receive students.

There are no such neighboring county public schools.

3.2.f. Student Educational Program

Analysis and Assurance of Consideration

Complete a projected educational program improvement analysis which includes a statement of assurance that the following have been considered:

Upshur County Schools has monitored academic growth of both Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary Schools. Upshur County Schools will ensure student learning will continue to be the focus and educational programming will support academic progress for all students.

The latest General Summative Assessment (GSA) administered during the 2024-2025 school year, Rock Cave Elementary students scored 61.78% proficient in Mathematics, 57.78% proficient in English Language Arts, and 26% proficient in science. This is a marked improvement and has allowed Rock Cave Elementary to be removed from identification as one of the lowest performing Title I Schools, also known as Comprehensive School Improvement.

On the GSA administered during the 2024-2025 school year, French Creek Elementary students scored 66.81% proficient in Mathematics, 66.81% proficient in English Language Arts, and 26% proficient in science.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary are Title I Schools. They rank as the number 2 and number 3 school when comparing needs across the county. Rock Cave has 61.68% low income, and French Creek has 58.54% low income, with the county average 51.92%. Rock Cave and French Creek are above the county average. Each school determines the budget for the year based on student needs as identified in meetings with the county Federal Programs Director. In the past, some of the budget was for county wide interventionists. Those interventionists served as coaches and supported classroom teachers through agreed impact cycles to continue to improve all student learning outcomes. With the merger of Rock Cave Elementary into French Creek Elementary School, students will be supported by the county wide interventionist and a county hired coach.

Rock Cave does not currently have a full-time counselor or Communities in Schools Coordinator. French Creek Elementary does have a full-time counselor and no Communities in Schools Coordinator. With the merger Rock Cave students will benefit from a full-time counselor. This will provide students with stability and foster relationships with families. In addition, Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary share an Art and Music Educator with the Wellness teacher sharing time with Buckhannon Upshur High School. This merger will afford Rock Cave Elementary students the opportunity to experience support of a full-time counselor, Art, Music and Wellness teacher at French Creek Elementary. This will be beneficial to the academic program for the students at French Creek Elementary after the merger.

Rock Cave Elementary does not have a PreK classroom. French Creek Elementary does have a PreK classroom which will be a valuable addition for Rock Cave students who may want to attend this program.

In accordance with WVBOE Policy 2419, Special Education students will have access to programs including multi-categorical, Autism, Speech, Physical Therapy, and or Occupational Therapy, as prescribed in the students' Individualized Education Plans.

In consideration of the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School, the following policies have been considered in the planning of the educational programs at French Creek Elementary School.

Affected School Name(s)

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

In the preparation of the documents regarding the closure and/or consolidation of the above referenced school, the following codes and policies have been considered:

Please check each item that was considered.

- W. Va. 126CSR16, Policy 2419, Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities,*
- W. Va. 126CSR42, Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs,*
- W. Va. 126CSR44 et al., Policy 2520, Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools,*
- W. Va. 126CSR172 Policy 6200- Handbook on Planning School Facilities,*
- Policy 6204-School Closings or Consolidations*


Superintendent

Date:

In the preparation of the documents regarding the closure and/or consolidation of the above referenced school, the following codes and policies have been considered:

Please check each item that was considered.

- W. Va. 126CSR16, Policy 2419, Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities,*
- W. Va. 126CSR42, Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs,*
- W. Va. 126CSR44 et al., Policy 2520, Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools,*
- W. Va. 126CSR172 Policy 6200- Handbook on Planning School Facilities,*
- Policy 6204-School Closings or Consolidations*



Superintendent

10-12-25
Date:

3.2.g. Community

An impact statement regarding the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on the affected communities and their students. Where schools and their respective communities are all defined by their own unique relationships, each proposed action will result in varying types and degrees of community impact. To better understand this diverse relational dynamic, the impact statement shall describe:

1. The known relationships that exist among the affected schools and their communities.

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

The communities of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary share a longstanding history of collaboration, mutual support, and shared values centered around student success and community pride. These existing relationships form a strong foundation upon which a consolidated school can thrive. Both schools are deeply rooted in their local communities with families, educators, and leaders who prioritized close-knit relationships and student-centered learning. Consolidation offers an opportunity to unify these values, creating a school culture that reflects the best of both communities.

Educators and staff across both schools have often worked together through district initiatives, professional development, and community events. These established professional relationships will be strengthened in a consolidated setting, fostering deeper collaboration, shared expertise, and a supportive work environment.

Many families have connections across both schools through extended family ties, community organizations, and extracurricular activities. Consolidation will allow these relationships to flourish in a single school environment, enhancing social bonds and creating a more inclusive and dynamic student experience.

Both Rock Cave and French Creek communities have demonstrated strong support for their schools through volunteerism, fundraising, and active participation in school events. A unified school will benefit from this combined energy and commitment, leading to enriched programming and a vibrant school culture.

2. How the existing known relationships could be impacted by the proposed action.

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

With the closure of Rock Cave Elementary, there will be opportunities for new relationships to be developed. The existing ties between families, staff, and students across both schools can be reinforced through shared goals and a unified school culture. Consolidation provides a platform for celebrating common values and traditions while creating new opportunities for joint community events, volunteer efforts, and parent engagement.

Many educators and support staff already know one another through district-wide initiatives or professional development. Consolidation allows these relationships to flourish in a shared environment, encouraging teamwork mentorship, and the exchange of best practices that benefit students and staff alike.

Students from both schools already interact through extracurricular activities and community programs. A consolidated school will allow these relationships to grow, fostering a more inclusive and socially dynamic student body. This can lead to stronger peer support networks and a richer school experience.

Families who have collaborated across schools, whether through district committees, shared transportation routes, or community events, will now have a single point of engagement. These activities include youth sports, Stockert Youth Center, faith-based activities, and 4-H. This can simplify communication, increase participation, and create a more cohesive parent community that advocates for all children.

Both schools are rooted in a commitment to quality education. Consolidation enables stakeholders to align their efforts toward a shared vision, leveraging existing relationships to support strategic planning, resource allocation, and continuous improvement.

3. The potential for new relationships that could be developed under the proposed action.

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

The consolidation of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary into a single school presents a powerful opportunity to cultivate new relationships that will enrich the educational experience and strengthen the broader community.

Students from both schools will have the chance to form new friendships and peer networks, expanding their social circles and learning from one another's diverse experiences. These new connections can foster empathy, collaboration, and a stronger sense of belonging.

Families who may not have previously interacted will now come together in support of a shared school community. This opens the door for new partnerships, increased volunteerism, and a more dynamic and inclusive environment for parent engagement and involvement.

Educators and staff will benefit from new professional relationships, bringing together varied expertise, teaching styles, and perspectives. This collaboration can lead to innovative instructional practices, stronger support systems, and a more cohesive educational team.

The consolidation encourages broader community engagement, as local organizations, businesses, and leaders unite to support a single school. This can lead to new sponsorships, partnerships, and community driven initiatives that benefit all students.

As the two schools merge, there is an opportunity to create new traditions that honor the legacy of both while building a fresh, shared identity. These new experiences can strengthen relationships across generations and foster pride in a unified school culture.

3.3. & 3.4. Public Notices and Hearings

County Procedures

Notice of Public Hearing(s)

The county must provide notice for all public hearing(s) required by section 3.4.a.1. All public hearing notices shall be advertised through a Class III legal advertisement for three weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper in general circulation in the locality of any school to be closed or consolidated and in the locality of any school that has been designated by the county to receive students from the schools to be closed or consolidated. The notice also shall be posted in all schools as provided in section 3.3.5 at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing.

Section 3.3 of WVBE Policy 6204 contains the requirements for the public hearing notice.

A copy of the notice shall be posted at all schools, bus garages, and maintenance areas in the county in conspicuous working areas, for all professional and service personnel to observe.

If the county will be applying for SBA funding, the procedures must be completed before the SBA will consider a project for funding, as further outlined in section 6. If the county will be utilizing local funding for a construction project related to the closure or consolidation, the procedures must be completed prior to the initiation of construction. For all other closures and consolidations, counties must complete the procedures on or before December 31st of the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the closures or consolidations are to be effective.

Typed Copy of Legal Advertisement

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY MERGED INTO FRENCH CREEK
ELEMENTARY
UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Upshur County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Rock Cave Elementary at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, and to merge it into the existing French Creek Elementary School. At that time, as follows:

- LOCATION: French Creek Elementary, 7619 Rt. 20 South, French Creek, WV
DATE AND TIME: November 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- LOCATION: Rock Cave Elementary, 12292 Rt. 20 South, Rock Cave, WV
DATE AND TIME: November 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 6:30 and 7:00

If, at the time a hearing is called to order, the Board determines that the location is of insufficient size to accommodate all who desire to attend, the hearing will be recessed and moved to a new location of sufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend. If that happens, the new meeting location will be posted at the original meeting location.

If a public hearing is not completed by 11:00 p.m., it will be recessed, to be continued on a date and at a time designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded. The public hearings, as well as any reconvened session of the public hearings, shall end at the conclusion of each hearing's business or at 11:00 p.m., whichever occurs earlier.

ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES

If due to inclement weather or other cause, any hearing cannot be held on the scheduled date, the hearing or meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

- For the hearing at French Creek Elementary School, on November 18, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- For the hearing at Rock Cave Elementary School, on November 18, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

If for any reason a hearing cannot be conducted on the alternate date or time, the Board will determine a date or time.

HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may and are encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak as members of the public will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendent's recommendations in the form of an Impact Statement and Supporting Data are available for public inspection in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Rock Cave Elementary and merge into French Creek Elementary School at its meeting at Buckhannon Upshur High School, 270 BU Drive, Buckhannon, West Virginia, on November 20, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m. If due to inclement weather or other cause, the Board meeting cannot be held on the scheduled date, the meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on November 25, 2025.

Type the dates the legal advertisement ran. Include dates for all closing or receiving school hearings. The county must hold SEPARATE hearings for both the closing and receiving schools.

Identify School(s)

First Run:

Second Run:

Third Run:

Type the name of the qualified newspaper where the legal advertisement(s) was placed.

See the WV Secretary of State Website for more information:

<https://sos.wv.gov/about/Pages/QualifiedNewspapers.aspx>

Qualified Newspaper Name(s): Record Delta

Proof of Public Hearing(s) Notice

Provide in the appendix (do not insert here) a PDF copy of the following for each closing or receiving schools:

contain proof that the hearings were properly advertised with a class III legal advertisement. Such proof can be satisfied with:

- *a notarized letter from the county's qualified newspaper(s) for legal notices, as defined by the West Virginia Secretary of State, that specifically states the three dates in which the newspaper ran the county's public hearing notification; or*
- *a digital reproduction for each of the 3 required legal advertisements from the county's qualified newspaper(s) for legal notices, as defined by the West Virginia Secretary of State, where the full legal notification and date of publication is provided and legible.*

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

Public Hearing(s) Documentation and Formal Vote on the Closure(s) or Consolidation(s)

Provide in the appendix (do not insert here) a PDF copy of the following for each closing or receiving school(s):

Provide documentation of all hearings, motions, written public comments, a synopsis or transcript of verbal public comments, and other actions concerning the proposed school closings and consolidations.

*Section 3.4.a of WVBE Policy 6204 contains the requirements for the public hearing(s).
Section 3.5. of WVBE Policy 6204 contains the requirements for the formal vote(s).*

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

3.6. County Board Actions

This heading should always start on a new page.

County Procedures

County Board Vote(s)

Provide the information requested below.

After the vote and following compliance with sections 3.4 and 3.5, and prior to the implementation of any school closure or consolidation and following compliance with all statutory and regulatory provisions, the county must file a request for school closure and/or consolidation with the WVBE for approval and this request must contain:

- *A letter from the county superintendent providing the date the action was taken by the county board.*
- *The signed assurance pages contained in this template.*
- *Justification as provided by the impact statement and supporting data in section 3.2.*
- *Documentation of all hearings, motions, written public comments, a synopsis or transcript of verbal public comments, and any other related actions.*
- *Proof of proper Class III legal advertisement*
- *Below CEFP statement*
- *Below SBA statement*

Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)

Provide the information requested below:

Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation was included in the county's approved CEFP. If the county's approved CEFP did not contain the proposed closure or consolidation, the county must also submit a request to amend their CEFP. The required CEFP amendment forms shall be submitted to the WVDE Office of School Facilities staff simultaneously with the impact statement and supporting data that will be prepared for consideration by the WVBE. The CEFP amendment may be considered by the WVBE concurrently with the closure or consolidation request.

[County Statement](#)

School Building Authority of WV

Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation is contingent upon receiving funding from the SBA.

[The closure of Rock Cave Elementary and consolidating the student population into French Creek Elementary does not require a contingency upon receiving funding from the SBA.](#)

3.6. Superintendent Verification of Board Actions

County Procedures

Date of Public Hearings:

French Creek Elementary Public Hearing – November 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Rock Cave Elementary Public Hearing – November 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Date of County Board Approval:

November 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Upshur County requests the West Virginia Board of Education approve the following.

Closure Action:

Rock Cave Elementary close and merge into French Creek Elementary

- The county assures that the applicable sections of the W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a, and WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204 have been addressed.*
- This action is justified by the provided supplemental data and information pertinent to the following subjects: enrollment, facilities, finance, personnel, transportation, and educational programs.*
- Documentation of all hearings, motions, written public comments, a synopsis or transcript of verbal comments, and other actions concerning the proposed school closings and consolidations were provided in this document.*
- All hearings were properly advertised with a class III legal advertisement.*

Name of County Superintendent

Christine Miller

Signature of county superintendent attesting to the completion of all requirements as stated in W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a and WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204.

Christine Miller

Superintendent

11-20-25

Date:

Appendix of Supporting Data

The list should include, at a minimum, the following data:

1. *SBA Worksheet on Building Program Utilization for all affected schools (Required)*
2. *Supporting Photographs, Floorplans, and other Documentation (As needed)*
3. *SBA Facility Condition Documentation for all affected schools (Required)*
4. *Proof of Public Hearing(s) Notice for all affected schools (Required)*
5. *Public Hearing(s) Documentation for all affected schools (Required)*
6. *Board minutes indicating the action of the board to approve the closure(s) (Required)*
7. *Cover letter addressed to the State Superintendent of Schools (Required)*
8. *Completed superintendent signature pages (Required)*
9. *Most current October 1st certified enrollment for county (Required)*

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur School: Rock Cave Elementary Current Enrollment: 71

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
Kindergarten	1	x	23	=	23
First Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Second Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Third Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Fourth Grade	1	x	28	=	28
Fifth Grade	1	x	28	=	28
TOTALS:	6	x	154	=	154

Program Utilization (71 divided by 154) times 100 = 46.10 %
Current Enrollment
Total Program Capacity
Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 46.10 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur

School: French Creek

Current Enrollment: 221

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PK	1	x	20	=	20
Kindergarten	2	x	23	=	46
First Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Second Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Third Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Fourth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
Fifth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
TOTALS:	13	x	174	=	328

Program Utilization (221 divided by 328) times 100 = 67.37 %
Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 67.37 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur School: Merged French Creek Elementary Current Enrollment: 292

<i>Classroom Types</i>	<i>Number Of Classroom Types</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Maximum Pupils/Class Capacity</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Program Capacity</i>
PK	1	x	20	=	20
Kindergarten	2	x	23	=	46
First Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Second Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Third Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Fourth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
Fifth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
TOTALS:	13	x	174	=	328

Program Utilization (292 divided by 328) times 100 = 89.02 %
 Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 89.02 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY



Front Entrance, Outside Building no longer used (Title 1 and Counselor) and Parking 1



Entrance to Bus Loop off Route 20



Bus Drop Off and Parking 2



Route 20 just South of Entrance



Office



Office



Principal's Office



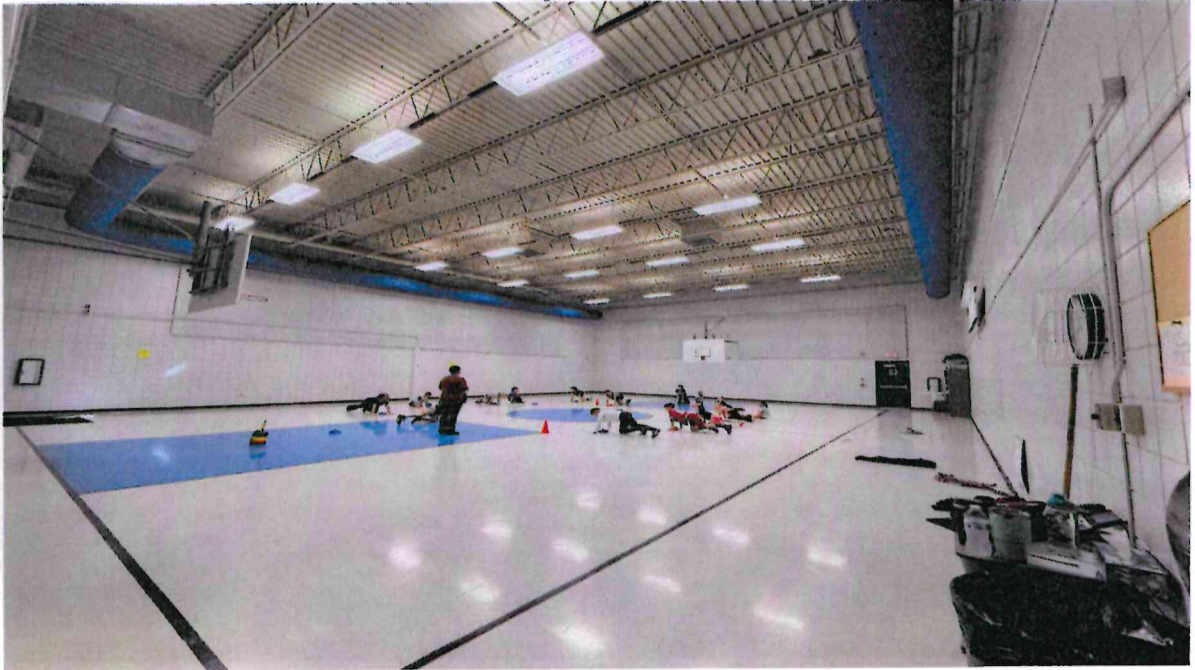
Teachers Workroom



Main Hallway



Gymnasium



Cafeteria



Entryway looking back to office outside Kindergarten



Classroom



Entry downhill to Main Office from Bus Drop Off



Outside Buildings that are closed – Housed PK, Music



Outside Classroom, Greenhouse (no longer used) Part of Playground



Playground



French Creek Elementary



Entrance Off of Route 20 to Bus Loop and Parking



Parking Lot and Bus Loop



Entrance Looking back to Route 20



Entry to School



Main Office



Counselor and Principals Offices



Hallway looking back to Main Entry



Hallway to PK – 1st Grade



Classroom with bathrooms and connected to same grade level



Gymnasium



Cafeteria



Teachers' Lounge and Workroom



Teachers' Mailboxes and Nurses Office



Nurses Station



Outdoor Classroom and PK Playground in background



Playground 1



Playground 2



Flat area behind school for additional recreational activities



School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis Sheet

LEA ID:	087205	Assessment Date:	4/3/15
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	26,300
Facility Name:	French Creek Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1983

Individual School Utilization Analysis									
Classroom Type	Grade Config		Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)	Utilization Calculation	Total Program Capacity
	Class Types (ES)	Class Types (MS)							
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)	1		42	0	26,300	0	French Creek, WV	246	20
Kindergarten (Full Day)	2								40
General Purpose Classroom	10								250
Computer Lab	n/a								0
Art Lab	n/a								0
Music Classroom	n/a								0
Special Ed Pull-out	n/a	n/a							0
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)									6
Special Ed Level 1: (6-12)									12
Special Ed Level 2: (PK-12)									12
Special Ed Level 3: (PK-12)									8
Special Education Classroom	2								6
Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a								20
Physical Education	n/a								50
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a								25
Business Education	n/a								25
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a								25
Totals	15	0	0	0					322

Complete ONLY the column below associated with the highest grade level for this school.

Utilization Calculation
76%

Desirable Utilization
85%

Difference
-9%

School Building Authority of West Virginia
 WVA Survey 2.0 Data Collection Form
 Building Information Sheet

Building	Other Building	Year Built	2003	Offices	
Other		Renovated	Yes	Roof Status	0
Survey Period	08/2016				

Your installed IT

equipment items

18 of 22 columns have been published

System	Material	Cost	Quantity	Unit	Status	Notes
Accessories - Building					Not Installed	
Accessories - Branch Wiring			2000	ft	Branch Wiring	Response from absence of system with Facility Manager
Electrical - Lighting	Lighting		2000	ft	Branch Wiring	
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs			2000	ft	Branch Wiring	
Electrical - Neutral and Grounding			2000	ft	Branch Wiring	
Electrical & Powerlines - Institutional Equipment	Electrical				Branch Wiring	
Electric Equipment - Intercom Doors	Door				Branch Wiring	
Electric Equipment - Intercom Wall Phones	Telephone				Branch Wiring	
Electric Equipment - Intercom Wallphones	Telephone				Branch Wiring	
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection					Branch Wiring	
Fire Protection - Detectors and Detectors					Branch Wiring	
ITC - Detectors & Pullstations Units					Not Installed	Response from absence of system with Facility Manager
ITC - Intercom Systems			2000	ft	Branch Wiring	Not Installed
ITC - User Operating Systems					Not Installed	Response from absence of system with Facility Manager
ITC - Control Operating Systems					Not Installed	Response from absence of system with Facility Manager
ITC - Controls and Interconnections					Branch Wiring	
Intercom Communication - Intercom Doors	Door				Branch Wiring	
Intercom Communication - Detectors and Detectors					Branch Wiring	
Intercom Phones - Corded Phones	Telephone				Not Installed	
Intercom Phones - Other Phones	Telephone				Branch Wiring	
Intercom Phones - Intercom/Fire Protection					Branch Wiring	Not Installed
Intercom Phones - Wall Phones	Telephone				Branch Wiring	
Intercom - Emergency Alarm Intercom System					Branch Wiring	
Intercom - Phones	Telephone				Branch Wiring	
Intercom - New Alarm Systems					Branch Wiring	
Intercom - Intercom System	Telephone				Branch Wiring	Not Installed in 2017
Intercom - Roof Connections	Telephone		2000	ft	Not Installed	
Intercom System					Branch Wiring	
Intercom Infrastructure					Branch Wiring	

Worksheet Links:

- [Accessories - Building](#)
- [Accessories - Branch Wiring](#)
- [Electrical - Lighting](#)
- [Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs](#)
- [Electrical - Neutral and Grounding](#)
- [Electrical & Powerlines - Institutional Equipment](#)
- [Electric Equipment - Intercom Doors](#)
- [Electric Equipment - Intercom Wall Phones](#)
- [Electric Equipment - Intercom Wallphones](#)
- [Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection](#)
- [Fire Protection - Detectors and Detectors](#)
- [ITC - Detectors & Pullstations Units](#)
- [ITC - Intercom Systems](#)
- [ITC - User Operating Systems](#)
- [ITC - Control Operating Systems](#)
- [ITC - Controls and Interconnections](#)
- [Intercom Communication - Intercom Doors](#)
- [Intercom Communication - Detectors and Detectors](#)
- [Intercom Phones - Corded Phones](#)
- [Intercom Phones - Other Phones](#)
- [Intercom Phones - Intercom/Fire Protection](#)
- [Intercom Phones - Wall Phones](#)
- [Intercom - Emergency Alarm Intercom System](#)
- [Intercom - Phones](#)
- [Intercom - New Alarm Systems](#)
- [Intercom - Intercom System](#)
- [Intercom - Roof Connections](#)
- [Intercom System](#)
- [Intercom Infrastructure](#)

**School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Facility General Information Sheet**

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	087205	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	26,300
Facility Name:	French Creek Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1983

Energy Indexes

(List the total amount of each fuel source used for one year)

<u>Source (Units)</u>	<u>Consumption per Year</u>	<u>Conversion (BTU/Unit)</u>	<u>Total BTU</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	390,637	3,412	1,332,908,133
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--		1,037,000	-
Natural Gas (Decotherms)		1,000,000	-
Coal (Tons)		24,000,000	-
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)		138,874	-
Propane (Pounds)		21,600	-
Used Oil (Gallons)		125,000	-
Wood Chips (Tons)		16,500,000	-
Other (specify)			
Amount:			
Units:			

--	--

Total BTU: 1,332,908,133

Energy Utilization Index (EUI): 50,681

Worksheet Links:

- [Campus Information](#)
- [Building 1](#)
- [Building 2](#)
- [Building 3](#)
- [Building 4](#)
- [Building 5](#)
- [Building 6](#)
- [Building 7](#)
- [Building 8](#)
- [Building 9](#)
- [Building 10](#)
- [Site Evaluation](#)
- [Facility General Information](#)
- [Building Component Evaluation](#)
- [Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis](#)
- [School Improvement Cost Summary](#)

School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Site Evaluation Sheet

LEA ID:	087205	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	26,300
Facility Name:	French Creek Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1983

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site

City or Rural:	Rural
Actual Acres:	23.21
Useable Acres:	15.83
Site adequate for expansion:	Yes
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	100%
% site in flood plain:	

Site Remarks:

Overall Site Condition:

3-Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:

Overall Drainage Condition:

3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:

Adequacy of Parking:

No

3-Average

Parking Remarks:

Overall Parking Condition:

3-Average

Bus Loading

Bus Loading Adequate:

Bus Loading Remarks:

Overall Bus loading Condition:

Yes

3-Average

Access Roads

Adequacy of On-Site Access Roads:

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

3-Average

3-Average

Access Roads Remarks:

Overall Access Road Condition:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:

3-Average

Adequacy of Playcourts:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

3-Average

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:

3

Voltage:

480

Amps:

800

Electric Utility Company:

MonPower

Main Service Feed into Building:

Underground

Electrical Service Remarks:

Overall Electrical Service Condition:

3-Average

Fuel Sources:

Natural Gas:

Yes

Coal:

Fuel Oils:

Propane:

Other (Specify):

Fuel Line Size (inches):

2

Fuel Utility Company:

Dominion Gas

Fuel Sources Remarks:

Overall Fuel Sources Condition:

3-Average

Water Sources:

Public:

Yes

Well:

Water Line Size (inches):

2

Water Utility Company:

Adrian PSD

Water Sources Remarks:

Overall Water Sources Condition:

3-Average

Sewage Systems:

Public:

Septic:

Other (Specify):

Public Service District (PSD):

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On-site treatment

--

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Sewage System Remarks:

New plant in 2017

Overall Sewage System Condition:

4-Above Average

Worksheet Links:

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[Building 10](#)

[Site Evaluation](#)

[Facility General Information](#)

[Building Component Evaluation](#)

[Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis](#)

[School Improvement Cost Summary](#)

**School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Building Component Evaluation Sheet**

LEA ID:	087205	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	26,300
Facility Name:	French Creek Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1983

3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet

Building Structures:

Type:

Load Bearing Masonry	

Building Structures Remarks:

Overall Building Structure Condition:

4-Above Average	
-----------------	--

Floor Structures:

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

Slab on Grade (floor area SF):

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

26,300	

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition:

4-Above Average	
-----------------	--

Roof:

Roof Structure:

Steel Joists	

Roof Structures Remarks:

Overall Roof Condition:

4-Above Average	
-----------------	--

Building Systems:

The systems below are addressed in the FCA data collection tool.

- Roof Coverings
- Wall Finishes
- Ceiling Finishes
- Floor Finishes
- Doors
- Windows
- HVAC
- Electrical
- Fire Alarm

--	--

Technology Infrastructure:

Sufficient Electrical Capacity:

Power Receptacles Availability:

Yes		3-Average
Yes		3-Average

ID Network Type (if available):
Inventory Records Hardware
Other (specify):

Yes	4-Above Average
Yes	3-Average

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Cond

3-Average

Technology Assessment:

Teacher Training:
Software Use:
Purchasing Practices:
Network Administration:
Inventory Records
Other (specify):

4-Above Average
4-Above Average
3-Average
4-Above Average
3-Average

--

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Condition:

4-Above Average

School Access Safety Audit:

Planning:
Deterrence:
Detection:
Delay:
Communication:
Evacuation:

4-Above Average
3-Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average

Safety Remarks:

Overall Access Safety Condition:

Controlled access vestibule. Lack of chemical shelter in place.
4-Above Average

Worksheet Links:

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- [Site Evaluation](#)

School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
School Improvement Cost Summary Sheet

LEA ID:	087205	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	26300
Facility Name:	French Creek Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1983
Design Capacity Enrollment:	322		

Please note, the current-year costs shown below are intended to provide a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimate of costs. While they are appropriate for high-level capital forecasting, they should not be relied upon for determining specific project funding values. Actual project costs will likely deviate from the presented values due to a variety of factors including, but not limited to, hard and soft cost fluctuations and the actual date of construction for the intended project. Therefore, detailed cost estimates are recommended to validate funding requirements prior to obligating funds for facility replacement or renovation.

Improvement Item

1. Site Work

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Land Acquisition	Acres			\$ -	
Excavation/Grade	CUB FT		\$ 0.50	\$ -	
Drainage	LIN FT		\$ 85.00	\$ -	
Walks (6 ft wide)	SQ FT	15,000	\$ 5.00	\$ 75,000.00	
Parking	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Bus Loading	SQ FT		\$ 7.00	\$ -	
Roads	SQ FT		\$ 7.00	\$ -	
Playing Fields	SQ FT		\$ 3.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	ALL	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Safe school bollards
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 85,000.00</u>	

2. Renovations, Exterior

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Wall Structure	SQ FT	35,000	\$ 7.00	\$ 245,000.00	Clean and seal masonry, intel repairs.
Floor Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Wall Facing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Windows	EACH	35	\$ 3,575.00	\$ 125,125.00	
Doors/Frames	EACH	24	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 124,800.00	
Roofing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT		\$ 8.00	\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT		\$ 5.50	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 494,925.00</u>	

3. Renovations, Interior

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Floor Covering	SQ FT		\$ 10.00	\$ -	
Patch & Painting	SQ FT		\$ 5.75	\$ -	
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT		\$ 6.50	\$ -	
Plumbing	SQ FT		\$ 12.00	\$ -	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT		\$ 30.00	\$ -	
Air Conditioning	SQ FT		\$ 40.00	\$ -	
Lighting	SQ FT		\$ 8.58	\$ -	
Wiring	SQ FT		\$ 7.50	\$ -	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT		\$ 3.00	\$ -	
Communication System	SQ FT		\$ 2.00	\$ -	
Technology			\$ 6.00	\$ -	per sf
Interior Doors	EACH		\$ 4,250.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	Door hardware upgrades
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>	

4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
--	------	----------	-----------	-----------	---------

Administration (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Primary (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Media Center (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 335.00	\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 295.00	\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 295.00	\$ -	
Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 295.00	\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 350.00	\$ -	
Art (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Ind. Technology (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Music (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Physical Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 425.00	\$ -	
Auditorium (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 425.00	\$ -	
Special Education (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Multi-Purpose (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 385.00	\$ -	
Kitchen (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 400.00	\$ -	
Dining (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 350.00	\$ -	
Business Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Co-Op Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Drivers Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Staff/Faculty (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Toilets/Fixtures (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 400.00	\$ -	
Storage General (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Storage Instructional (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Custodial (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Mechanical (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		2	\$100,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	Acoustical treatments in gym and commons
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	Safe Schools entry improvements
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Subtotal of Building Additions (SQ FT)		3			
Circulation	30%	0.9		\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 450,000.00</u>	

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH			\$ -	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT	3,100	\$ 6.00	\$ 18,600.00	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL		\$300,000.00	\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH		\$400,000.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	LF		\$ 250.00	\$ -	Casework
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	EACH		\$ 175.00	\$ -	Lockers
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 18,600.00</u>	

6. Other Special Costs	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
New Electrical Service		\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	
Asbestos Abatement			\$ -	
			\$ -	
Sub-Total			<u>\$ -</u>	
Sub-Total of Items 1 through 6			<u>\$ 1,073,525.00</u>	

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	6.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	9.0%	#####	\$ 96,617.25	
Sub-Total			<u>\$ 96,617.25</u>	

8. Miscellaneous	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Survey	EACH		\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	
Soil Inv.	EACH		\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ -

9. Contingencies

New Construction
Renovations

%	Quantity
2.0%	
6.0%	#####

Item Cost
\$ -
\$ 70,208.54

Remarks

Sub-Total \$ 70,208.54

Grand Total Project Cost **\$ 1,240,350.79**

Worksheet Links:

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- [Facility General Information](#)
- [Building Component Evaluation](#)
- [Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis](#)
- [School Improvement Cost Summary](#)

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):	
Energy Utilization Index:	50,681
Current Enrollment:	246
Program Capacity:	322
Utilization Calculation:	76%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis Sheet

LEA ID:	087208	Assessment Date:	43755
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	17104
Facility Name:	Rock Cave Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1971

Classroom Type	Grade Config		Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)	Utilization Calculation
	(ES)	(MS)						
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)	1		54	1	17,104	2	Rock Cave, WV	136
Kindergarten (Full Day)	1							
General Purpose Classroom	5							125
Computer Lab	n/a							0
Art Lab	n/a							0
Music Classroom	n/a							0
Special Ed Pull-out	n/a	n/a						0
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)								6
Special Ed Level 1: (6-12)	n/a							12
Special Ed Level 2: (PK-12)								12
Special Ed Level 3: (PK-12)								8
Special Education Classroom	1							6
Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a							20
Physical Education	n/a							50
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a							25
Business Education	n/a							25
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a							25
Totals	8	0	0	0				171

Complete ONLY the column below associated with the highest grade level for this school.

Utilization Calculation
80%

Desirable Utilization
85%

Difference
-5%

School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Building Information Sheet

Building	Main Building	Year Built	2021	# Floors	
Gross Square Feet	17,404	Basement (Y/N)	N	Bas. Level	1

Year Installed if
different from
Building

20 of 20 systems have been evaluated

System	Material	Count	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes	Message
Caterpillar Systems						
Electrical - Branch Wiring			2012	4 - Above Average		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent		2012	4 - Above Average		
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs			2012	4 - Above Average		
Electrical - Service and Distribution			2012	4 - Above Average		
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial		3 - Average			
Exterior Enclosures - Exterior Doors	Wood		2 - Below Average			
Exterior Enclosures - Exterior Wall Finishes	Aluminum		2 - Below Average		Some brick door case enclosures in the gym addition	
Exterior Enclosures - Exterior Windows	Double Frame Steel, All Frame		4 - Below Average			
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection			2012	3 - Average		
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Detectors				Not Present	Confirmed	Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				Not Present	Confirmed	Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager
HVAC - Distribution System			2012	4 - Above Average (SR with MAU)		
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				Not Present	Confirmed	Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				Not Present	Confirmed	Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation			2012	4 - Above Average		
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Steel		2 - Average			
Interior Construction - Sanitation and Casework			1 - Average			
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile		2 - Average			
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Wood Composite Tile		2 - Average			
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes			3 - Average		Tile	
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted Walls		2 - Average			
Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution			2 - Average			
Plumbing - Fixtures	Various		3 - Average			
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage			2 - Average			
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer			2 - Average			
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Modified Bitumen		2016	4 - Average		
Security System			4 - Above Average			
Technology Infrastructure			4 - Above Average			

Worksheet Links:

- [Caption Information](#)
- [Building 1](#)
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- [Building Commissioning Evaluation](#)
- [Facility Space Evaluation / Utilization Analysis](#)
- [School/Institution Cost Summary](#)

**School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Facility General Information Sheet**

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	087208	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	17,104
Facility Name:	Rock Cave Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1971

Energy Indexes

(List the total amount of each fuel source used for one year)

<u>Source (Units)</u>	<u>Consumption per Year</u>	<u>Conversion (BTU/Unit)</u>	<u>Total BTU</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	180,653	3,412	616,413,327
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--		1,037,000	-
Natural Gas (Decotherms)		1,000,000	-
Coal (Tons)		24,000,000	-
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)		138,874	-
Propane (Pounds)		21,600	-
Used Oil (Gallons)		125,000	-
Wood Chips (Tons)		16,500,000	-
Other (specify)			
Amount:			
Units:			-
		Total BTU:	616,413,327
		Energy Utilization Index (EUI):	36,039

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School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Site Evaluation Sheet

LEA ID:	087208	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	17,104
Facility Name:	Rock Cave Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1971

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site

City or Rural:	Rural
Actual Acres:	9.07
Useable Acres:	6.42
Site adequate for expansion:	No
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	100%
% site in flood plain:	

Site Remarks:

Overall Site Condition:

3-Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:

Overall Drainage Condition:

3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:

Adequacy of Parking:

No

3-Average

Parking Remarks:

Overall Parking Condition:

2-Below Average

Bus Loading

Bus Loading Adequate:

Bus Loading Remarks:

Overall Bus loading Condition:

No

2-Below Average

Access Roads

Adequacy of On-Site Access Roads:

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

2-Below Average

2-Below Average

Access Roads Remarks:

Overall Access Road Condition:

2-Below Average

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:

3-Average

Adequacy of Playcourts:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

3-Average

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:

3

Voltage:

208

Amps:

1600

Electric Utility Company:

Allegheny Power

Main Service Feed into Building:

Underground

Electrical Service Remarks:

Upgrade in 2012

Overall Electrical Service Condition:

3-Average

Fuel Sources:

Natural Gas:

Yes

Coal:

Fuel Oils:

Propane:

Other (Specify):

Fuel Line Size (inches):

2

Fuel Utility Company:

Dominion Gas

Fuel Sources Remarks:

Overall Fuel Sources Condition:

3-Average

Water Sources:

Public:

Yes

Well:

Water Line Size (inches):

2

Water Utility Company:

Adrian PSD

Water Sources Remarks:

Overall Water Sources Condition:

3-Average

Sewage Systems:

Public:

Septic:

Other (Specify):

Public Service District (PSD):

--

--

On-site Treatment

--

Sewage System Remarks:

Overall Sewage System Condition:

3-Average

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School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Building Component Evaluation Sheet

LEA ID:	087208	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	17,104
Facility Name:	Rock Cave Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1971

3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet

Building Structures:

Type:

Load Bearing Masonry	

Building Structures Remarks:

Overall Building Structure Condition:

3-Average	
-----------	--

Floor Structures:

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

Slab on Grade (floor area SF):

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

17,104	

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition:

3-Average	
-----------	--

Roof:

Roof Structure:

Steel Joists	

Roof Structures Remarks:

Overall Roof Condition:

3-Average	
-----------	--

Building Systems:

The systems below are addressed in the FCA data collection tool.

- Roof Coverings
- Wall Finishes
- Ceiling Finishes
- Floor Finishes
- Doors
- Windows
- HVAC
- Electrical
- Fire Alarm

--	--

Technology Infrastructure:

Sufficient Electrical Capacity:

Power Receptacles Availability:

Yes	3-Average	
Yes	2-Below Average	

ID Network Type (if available):
Inventory Records Hardware
Other (specify):

Yes	3-Average
Yes	3-Average

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Cond

3-Average

Technology Assessment:

Teacher Training:
Software Use:
Purchasing Practices:
Network Administration:
Inventory Records
Other (specify):

4-Above Average
4-Above Average
3-Average
4-Above Average
3-Average

--

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Condition:

4-Above Average

School Access Safety Audit:

Planning:
Deterrence:
Detection:
Delay:
Communication:
Evacuation:

4-Above Average
3-Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average

Safety Remarks:

Overall Access Safety Condition:

Controlled access vestibule. Lack of chemical shelter in place.

4-Above Average

Worksheet Links:

- [Campus Information](#)
- [Building 1](#)
- [Building 2](#)
- [Building 3](#)
- [Building 4](#)
- [Building 5](#)
- [Building 6](#)
- [Building 7](#)
- [Building 8](#)
- [Building 9](#)
- [Building 10](#)
- [Site Evaluation](#)

**School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
School Improvement Cost Summary Sheet**

LEA ID:	087208	Assessment Date:	10/17/19
County:	Upshur	Total Gross Square Feet:	17104
Facility Name:	Rock Cave Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1971
Design Capacity Enrollment:	171		

Please note, the current-year costs shown below are intended to provide a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimate of costs. While they are appropriate for high-level capital forecasting, they should not be relied upon for determining specific project funding values. Actual project costs will likely deviate from the presented values due to a variety of factors including, but not limited to, hard and soft cost fluctuations and the actual date of construction for the intended project. Therefore, detailed cost estimates are recommended to validate funding requirements prior to obligating funds for facility replacement or renovation.

Improvement Item

1. Site Work

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Land Acquisition	Acres			\$ -	
Excavation/Grade	CUB FT		\$ 0.50	\$ -	
Drainage	LIN FT		\$ 85.00	\$ -	
Walks (6 ft wide)	SQ FT		\$ 5.00	\$ -	
Parking	SQ FT	25,000	\$ 6.00	\$ 150,000.00	Mill and paving
Bus Loading	SQ FT		\$ 7.00	\$ -	
Roads	SQ FT		\$ 7.00	\$ -	
Playing Fields	SQ FT		\$ 3.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	ALL	2	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	Safe school bollards
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 170,000.00</u>	

2. Renovations, Exterior

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Wall Structure	SQ FT	25,000	\$ 7.00	\$ 175,000.00	Clean and seal masonry
Floor Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Wall Facing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Windows	EACH	8	\$ 3,575.00	\$ 28,600.00	
Doors/Frames	EACH	4	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 20,800.00	
Roofing	SQ FT		\$ 17.32	\$ -	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT		\$ 8.00	\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT		\$ 5.50	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 224,400.00</u>	

3. Renovations, Interior

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Floor Covering	SQ FT	10,000	\$ 10.00	\$ 100,000.00	
Patch & Painting	SQ FT	3,600	\$ 5.75	\$ 20,700.00	Gym
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT		\$ 6.50	\$ -	
Plumbing	SQ FT		\$ 12.00	\$ -	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT		\$ 30.00	\$ -	
Air Conditioning	SQ FT		\$ 40.00	\$ -	
Lighting	SQ FT		\$ 8.58	\$ -	
Wiring	SQ FT		\$ 7.50	\$ -	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT		\$ 3.00	\$ -	
Communication System	SQ FT		\$ 2.00	\$ -	
Technology			\$ 6.00	\$ -	per sf
Interior Doors	EACH	8	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 34,000.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		2	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	Restroom renovations
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	Door hardware upgrades
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 239,700.00</u>	

4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
------------------	------	----------	-----------	-----------	---------

Administration (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT	1,500	\$ 300.00	\$ 450,000.00	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)	SQ FT	1,200	\$ 325.00	\$ 390,000.00	
Primary (ES)	SQ FT	2,250	\$ 325.00	\$ 731,250.00	
Media Center (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 335.00	\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 295.00	\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 295.00	\$ -	
Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 295.00	\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 350.00	\$ -	
Art (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Ind. Technology (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Music (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Physical Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 425.00	\$ -	
Auditorium (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 425.00	\$ -	
Special Education (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 325.00	\$ -	
Multi-Purpose (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 385.00	\$ -	
Kitchen (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 400.00	\$ -	
Dining (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 350.00	\$ -	
Business Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Co-Op Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Drivers Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Staff/Faculty (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT	0	\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Toilets/Fixtures (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 400.00	\$ -	
Storage General (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT	250	\$ 300.00	\$ 75,000.00	
Storage Instructional (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Custodial (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT	250	\$ 300.00	\$ 75,000.00	
Mechanical (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 300.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	Acoustical treatments in gym
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	Safe Schools entry improvements
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Subtotal of Building Additions (SQ FT)		5,452			
Circulation	30%	1635.6	\$ 300.00	\$ 490,680.00	

Sub-Total \$ 2,411,930.00

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH			\$ -	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT	17,104	\$ 6.00	\$ 102,624.00	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL		\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH	1	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	LF		\$ 250.00	\$ -	Casework
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	EACH		\$ 175.00	\$ -	Lockers
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ 502,624.00

6. Other Special Costs	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
New Electrical Service	1	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
Asbestos Abatement	1	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
			\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ 150,000.00
Sub-Total of Items 1 through 6 \$ 3,698,654.00

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	6.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	9.0%	#####	\$ 332,878.86	

Sub-Total \$ 332,878.86

8. Miscellaneous	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Survey	EACH	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
Soil Inv.	EACH	1	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total

\$ 60,000.00

9. Contingencies

New Construction
Renovations

%	Quantity
2.0%	
6.0%	#####

Item Cost Remarks

\$ -	
\$ 241,891.97	

Sub-Total

\$ 241,891.97

Grand Total Project Cost

\$ 4,333,424.83

Worksheet Links:

[Campus Information](#)

[Building 1](#)

[Building 2](#)

[Building 3](#)

[Building 4](#)

[Building 5](#)

[Building 6](#)

[Building 7](#)

[Building 8](#)

[Building 9](#)

[Building 10](#)

[Site Evaluation](#)

[Facility General Information](#)

[Building Component Evaluation](#)

[Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis](#)

[School Improvement Cost Summary](#)

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):

Energy Utilization Index:	36,039
Current Enrollment:	136
Program Capacity:	171
Utilization Calculation:	80%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

District certification is complete. Use the dropdown to switch between the Current Data view and the Certified Data view. Select a bucket in the left panel to see breakdowns of the total.

Data Collections Details Submit / Certify Enrollment | All Schools | Totals | 3195

All Schools October Collection for Selected FY Current Data

Enrollment
3195

FTE
3183.961

Excluded
408

Special Education
588

English Learners
7

Low SES
1663

Title I Low SES
1613

Homeless
259

Unenrolled
425

	Pre-K	Kindergarten	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Totals
Services Upshur CO	2												1		3
Upshur County Schools															
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	83	57	65	65	71	78	66								485
French Creek Elementary	19	26	29	35	37	42	33								221
Hodgesville Elementary	30	17	19	13	22	17	23								141
Rock Cave Elementary	6	6	13	15	15	10	12								71
Tennerton Elementary	43	39	44	42	44	49	42								303
Washington District Elementary	8	22	15	10	14	19	19								107
Union Elementary School	1	22	31	30	35	26	41								186
B-U Middle School								228	252	246	242	243	248	219	726
Buckhannon Upshur High School															952
Fred W Eberle Tech Center															
Totals	186	189	216	210	238	241	236	228	252	246	242	243	249	219	3195

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, JAN M. CRAIG, President of the Upshur County Board of Education of Buckhannon Academy Elementary, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Tennerton Elementary and merger into Buckhannon Academy Elementary and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Jan M. Craig

RECIPIENT

10/13/2025

DATE

Christy Miller

DELIVERED BY

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, Sherry Dean, Vice President of the Upshur County Board of Education of Buckhannon Academy Elementary, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Tennerton Elementary and merger into Buckhannon Academy Elementary and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Sherry Dean

RECIPIENT

10/13/25

DATE

Upshur County Board Office

DELIVERED BY

Christy Miller

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, Susan M. King, member of the Upshur County Board of Education of Buckhannon Academy Elementary, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Tennerton Elementary and merger into Buckhannon Academy Elementary and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Susan M. King
RECIPIENT

10-17-25
DATE

[Signature]
DELIVERED BY

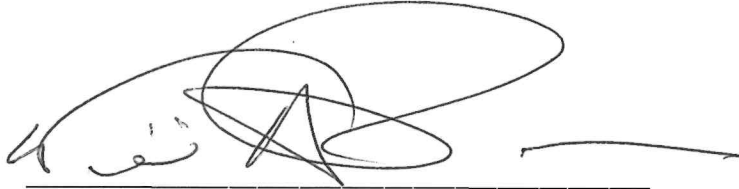
DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, William A. Parker, member of the Upshur County Board of Education of Buckhannon Academy Elementary, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Tennerton Elementary and merger into Buckhannon Academy Elementary and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT



RECIPIENT

10-13-2025

DATE

Christy Miller

DELIVERED BY

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, Roy Wager, member of the Upshur County Board of Education of Buckhannon Academy Elementary, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Tennerton Elementary and merger into Buckhannon Academy Elementary and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Roy Wager

RECIPIENT

10/13/25

DATE

Christy Miller

DELIVERED BY

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, Amber Lunceford, Principal of Rock Cave Elementary, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Amber Lunceford

RECIPIENT

10-13-25

DATE

Christy Miller

DELIVERED BY

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, Shanah Carpenter, LSIC Chair of Rock Cave Elementary, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Shanah Carpenter

RECIPIENT

10/13/25

DATE

Christy Miller

DELIVERED BY

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, Amberly Stump, Principal of French Creek Elementary, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Amberly Stump

RECIPIENT

10-13-25

DATE

Christy Miller

DELIVERED BY

DATE: October 13, 2025

UPSHUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

I, Wendy Allman, LSIC Chair of French Creek Elementary, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and merger into French Creek Elementary.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Wendy Allman

RECIPIENT

10-13-25

DATE

Christy Miller

DELIVERED BY

Legal Notices

BUCKHANNON DISTRICT MAP B PARCEL 135
TERMS OF SALE
The Real Property will be sold for (a) cash in hand on the date of sale...

Legal Notices

10 The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust and holder of the Note hereby secured reserves the right to submit a bid for the Real Property at the sale...

Legal Notices

3 You, and each of you, have a right to court at every stage of the proceedings. If you are unable to attend...

Legal Notices

concluded. The public hearings, as to any proposed amendments to the public hearings, shall end at the conclusion of each hearing business day at 11:00 p.m. whichever is earlier.

Legal Notices

name from Brandt Minnow-Lane to Brandt Minnow at which time the public hearings shall end at the conclusion of each hearing business day at 11:00 p.m. whichever is earlier.

Legal Notices

Trust, has notified the Successor Trustee that Jeffrey L. Ball and Paula J. Ball are in default under the terms of the Note and the terms of the Deed of Trust, and has requested, in writing, that the Successor Trustee take certain actions...

1 Various rights of way and leasehold interests, whether recorded or unrecorded, shall be subject to the terms, conditions, covenants, restrictions, easements and encumbrances of the Real Property...

17. If the highest bidder at the auction fails to consummate the transaction, the Successor Trustee may offer the Real Property to the next highest bidder and may proceed to do the same for each next highest bidder until the Successor Trustee's discretion and all without the need for the Successor Trustee to give notice and hold a new sale.

10. A copy of the Petition may be obtained from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Upshur County, West Virginia, at the following address: Brian P. Gaudet, Circuit Clerk, Upshur County, West Virginia, 200 Main Street, Room 302, Buckhannon, WV 26031.

10. A copy of the Petition may be obtained from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Upshur County, West Virginia, at the following address: Brian P. Gaudet, Circuit Clerk, Upshur County, West Virginia, 200 Main Street, Room 302, Buckhannon, WV 26031.

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TO: THE RESPONDENT FATHER AND MOTHER AND ANY AND ALL WHO CLAIM PARENTAL AND/OR CUSTODIAL RIGHTS IN THE CHILD PATRICIA C. HEBERTY NOTIFIED THAT: 1. A petition has been filed in the above styled matter alleging that the said child is an abused and neglected child pursuant to Chapter 49, Article 1, Section 201, of the West Virginia Code...

TO: THE RESPONDENT FATHER AND MOTHER AND ANY AND ALL WHO CLAIM PARENTAL AND/OR CUSTODIAL RIGHTS IN THE CHILD PATRICIA C. HEBERTY NOTIFIED THAT: 1. A petition has been filed in the above styled matter alleging that the said child is an abused and neglected child pursuant to Chapter 49, Article 1, Section 201, of the West Virginia Code...

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Legal Notices

Legal Notices

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Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Table with columns: Description, Amount. Includes: Upshur County Fire Bond, Incorporated; Financial Statement, cash basis; Beginning Fund Balance as of July 1, 2024; Gross Fire Fees Received; Fund Disbursements: Fire Department Disbursements, Administrative Wages / Taxes, Software Support Fees, Printing, Audit Fees, Postage, Insurance, Office Supplies.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKHANNON AND OF PROCEEDING OF ORDINANCE NO. 476 BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKHANNON

HELP WANTED... The Buckhannon Housing Authority is seeking a Full Time Maintenance Laborer for our 84 Public Housing Units beginning January 2026.

Legal Notices

recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person who wishes to be heard... Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025...

Legal Notices

10:00 o'clock a.m. on the 5th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025 at the Clerk's Office... Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025...

Legal Notices

J. Kalthaug, to Robert D. Lewis, Trustee, which said deed of trust is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission... Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025...

Legal Notices

Public Notice To Residents of the City of Buchanan, West Virginia... A noncontrolled access right of way and temporary construction easement...

Legal Notices

Public Notice To Residents of the City of Buchanan, West Virginia... A noncontrolled access right of way and temporary construction easement...

Legal Notices

Public Notice To Residents of the City of Buchanan, West Virginia... A noncontrolled access right of way and temporary construction easement...

Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025... Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025... Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025...

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Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025... Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025... Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 13, 2025...

CLASSIFIED

THE RECORD DELTA

Call: 800-982-6034
Fax: 304-622-3629

published by: **WV News**
West Virginia's News

classifieds@RecordDelta.com

Customer Experience Center Monday - Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

Legal Notices

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Upshur County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Rock Cave Elementary at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, and to merge it into the existing French Creek Elementary School, that meet as follows:
LOCATION: French Creek Elementary, 7915 Rt. 29 South, French Creek, WV

DATE AND TIME:
November 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Rock Cave Elementary, 12202 Rt 29 South, Rock Cave, WV

DATE AND TIME:
November 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.

If at the time a hearing is called to order, the Board determines that the location is of insufficient size to accommodate all who desire to attend, the hearing will be recessed and moved to a new location sufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend. If that happens, the new meeting location will be posted at the original meeting location.

If a public hearing is not completed by 11:00 p.m., it will be recessed on a date and at a time designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess. It will be continued to a date and time designated by the Board. The public hearings, as well as any recessed sessions of the public hearings, shall end at the conclusion of each hearing business or at 11:00 p.m., whichever occurs earlier.

ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES:
If due to inclement weather or other causes, any hearing cannot be held on the scheduled date, the hearing or meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:
For the hearing at French Creek Elementary School, on November 18, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m.
For the hearing at Rock Cave Elementary School, on November 18, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

If for any reason a hearing cannot be conducted on the alternate date or time, the Board will determine a date or time.

HEARING PROCEDURES:
For a hearing, 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may be and are encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak as members of the public will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA:
Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendent's recommendations in the form of an Impact Statement and Supporting Data are available for public inspection in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 102 Smithfield Street, Buckhannon, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at a public hearing.

FINAL ACTION:
The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Rock Cave Elementary and merge into French Creek Elementary School at its meeting at Buckhannon Upshur High School, 275 BU Drive, Buckhannon, West Virginia, on November 20, 2025, beginning at 5:00 p.m. If due to inclement weather or other cause, the Board meeting cannot be held on the scheduled date, the meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on November 25, 2025.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Successor Trustee in

the event that there are federal liens against the Real Property, the United States would have the right to bid and take title to the Real Property at the end of the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

The undersigned Successor Trustee expressly reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to adjourn the sale from time to time without notice other than oral proclamation at the time and place appointed for the sale.

The undersigned Successor Trustee expressly reserves the right to accept a bid for a period of time deemed expedient by the beneficial owner and shall not be construed to be a waiver of the right to make the sale contemplated by this Notice.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust and holder of the Note hereby executed reserves the right to submit a bid for the Real Property at the sale, which bid may be in the form of a credit bid.

The successful bidder will be required to execute a memorandum of sale upon the acceptance of the successful bid by the Successor Trustee.

The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that Patricia C. Holley aka Patricia Tabbutt Holley did not file for bankruptcy protection before the conclusion of bidding, in which case the sale will be null and void and the purchaser's sole remedy, at law or in equity, will be return of deposit without interest.

The Trustee reserves the right to act by agent and/or attorney, as permitted by the Deed of Trust.

Risk of loss will pass at the time of sale. All risks of casualty pass to the successful bidder at conclusion of bidding.

The rights of parties in possession of such Real Property, if any, shall be null and void.

The undersigned Substitute Trustee shall have the right to offer such Real Property for sale and to sell, grant, convey, transfer, and dispose of such property as separate and independent lots, parcels and/or tracts or as a whole, as the Substitute Trustee shall determine, and in such order as the Substitute Trustee shall determine.

If the highest bidder at the auction fails to consummate the transaction, the Successor Trustee may offer the Real Property to the next highest bidder and may proceed to do the same for each next highest bidder until one consummates the transaction, all in the Successor Trustee's discretion and all without the need for the Successor Trustee to notice and hold a new sale. Additional terms of sale may be announced prior to the sale.

Any inquiries regarding this sale may be directed to C. Seth Wilson, Esq., Substitute Trustee, Bowles Pize, LLP, 125 Granville Square, Suite 400, Morgantown, West Virginia 26501, telephone: (204) 945-2059.

TERMS OF SALE
The Real Property will be sold for (a) cash in hand on the date of sale, or (b) ten percent (10%) down payment due on the date of sale with the remaining purchase money due on or before the thirtieth (30th) day following the sale date or (c) under any different, other, or additional sale terms as the Successor Trustee, in his reasonable discretion, determines to be appropriate or advisable. A 10% buyer's premium, payable to Joe R. Pyle Concrete Auction & Realty, LLC, will be added to the high bid for the Real Property. The buyer's premium shall be paid in cash in hand on the date of sale, regardless of how the balance of the sale price is paid. The sale shall be further subject to the following:

1. Various rights of way and leasehold interests, whether recorded in a recorded Clerk's office or unrecorded, and to the extent any of the foregoing is sold valid, in effect, and enforceable at the time of sale.

2. Real estate taxes delinquent due or payable or to become due and payable, all of which shall be the responsibility of the purchaser.

3. Any statutory lien or liens that may affect the subject property.

4. All covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record in the chain of title to the property, or which may be visible from a physical inspection of the subject property.

5. All liens and encumbrances of any nature whatsoever, including without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges, having priority over the deeds of trust referred to herein.

6. The purchaser at the sale shall be responsible for paying the costs of the sale. The Successor Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the Real Property to vacate said property. The Successor Trustee will deliver a trustee's deed to the purchaser without any covenant or warranty (express or implied) in the form prescribed by W. Va. Code § 38-1-4. The Successor Trustee makes no representations and warranties about the title to the real estate to be conveyed and the Successor Trustee is unable to convey insurable or marketable title to the purchaser for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit.

7. In the event that there are federal tax liens against the property, the United States would have the right to bid and take title to the Real Property at the end of the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

8. The undersigned Successor Trustee expressly reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and the right to adjourn the sale from time to time without notice other than oral proclamation at the time and place appointed for the sale.

9. The beneficiary of the Deeds of Trust and holder of the Note hereby executed reserves the right to submit a bid for the Real Property at the sale, which bid may be in the form of a credit bid.

10. The successful bidder will be required to execute a memorandum of sale upon the acceptance of the successful bid by the Successor Trustee.

11. The sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that none of the grantors listed for bankruptcy protection before the conclusion of bidding, in which case the sale will be null and void and the purchaser's sole remedy, at law or in equity, will be return of deposit without interest.

12. The trustee's sale shall be open to online bidders.

13. A 10% buyer's premium will be added to the high bid for the Real Property. The high bidder shall pay the buyer's premium plus an additional 10% of his bid on the day of the sale (the "Good Faith Deposit"), with the balance to be paid in cash at closing within 14 days after the date of sale.

14. In the event there is a conflict between the property description set forth in this notice and the property description set forth in any marketing materials produced by any third party, the property description in this notice shall control and be the subject of the proposed sale set forth in this notice.

Additional terms of sale may be announced prior to the sale.

Any inquiries regarding this sale may be directed to Zachary J. Rosenzance, Successor Trustee, 600 Quanner Street, Charleston, West Virginia, 25301, telephone: (304) 347-1100.

DATED: October 17, 2025.
/s/ Zachary J. Rosenzance
Zachary J. Rosenzance, Successor Trustee

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THE RECORD DELTA

Classified

LTA

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

A7

FRENCH CREEK

DATE 11-13-25

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DELEGATION SIGN-IN*

*By signing in as a delegation, I agree to the Guidelines for Delegations in an Upshur County Board Meeting.

NAME	REPRESENTING
✓ Cheyenne Troxell	RCES Community
✓ Debra Brown	RCES "
✓ Abigail Jeffries	RCES Community

This special meeting is called to order. Let me emphasize that this is a public hearing. My name is Jan Craig. As president of the Upshur County Board of Education I have determined that at least a quorum of the board and the superintendent are present. It is now 5:30 registration to address the board at this public hearing has now closed.

We will proceed with roll call, Mrs. Miller called role: Jan Craig ,present, Sherry Dean, present, Susan King, here, William Parker, present, Roy Wager, present , Christine Miller I'm here, Tim Derico, present, April Senic, present, Sarah Wills, Elaine Pugh, present, also for the record Madame President I would like to state we have the folks who are here from the State Department. Please state your names so we can make it a part of our records: Jeffrey Kelley, Uriah Cummings, Micah Witlow. We also have with us this evening representing and helping us this evening, Mrs. Kim Croyle, from Bowles Rice Law Firm.

If you would please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Dean, will you lead us? Yes, ma'am. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

This hearing is convened in accordance with the terms of the West Virginia code 18-5-13A and state board of education policy 6204 in connection with the proposed closure of Rock Cape Elementary School and its consolidation merger into French Creek Elementary School.

The statute and state board policy provide that members of the public:

1. have a right to be present;
2. have a right to submit statements and testimony; and
3. have a right to question school officials.

Members of the public, in the order of sign in, will be allowed to make statements, offer testimony and ask questions of school officials.

A total of 3 members of the public have indicated their desire to submit statements or testimony or to question school officials. In order to give every speaker a fair opportunity to submit test statements and testimony and to question school officials, 5 minutes have been allotted for each registered speaker. The responses of school officials to questions shall not be included in the time allotted.

No member of the public may present more than once. No members of the public may grant time to another presenter. Mrs. April Senic has been designated as the timekeeper and will advise when one minute is remaining for each presentation and when time has expired. It is not necessary to consume the total amount of time allotted.

As stated in the public notice of this hearing, written statements and materials will also be given full consideration.

All questions shall eventually be directed to the superintendent the superintendent may elect to respond to the question or may delegate another school official to respond to the question.

At the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public, the superintendent or another member of the administration will be given the opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by members of the public.

Apart from questions directed to the superintendent and answered by the superintendent or another member of their administration there will be no direct debate or dialogue between members of the public and board members or members of the public and school officials. No personal attacks will be tolerated.

No decision on the proposed closure will be made tonight. the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and the consolidation of its students into French Creek Elementary School will be the subject of a board meeting scheduled for November 20th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. At that time the board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the board's deliberation

To begin, I will ask Superintendent Miller to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statement for the proposed closure and consolidation.

Superintendent Miller's statement:

Good evening and thank you very much for joining us this evening we deeply appreciate your time and your commitment to our students and schools as we discuss an important and difficult topic, the possible closure of Rock Cave Elementary and its merger with French Creek Elementary.

First, we want to acknowledge the significance of this conversation school closures are never easy they are decisions no board or superintendent wants to make

because we understand the deep emotional and historical connection our schools hold for family's staff and communities. These schools are more than buildings they represent memories, traditions and a sense of belonging. Generations of families have walked these halls, and we do not take that lightly.

At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that our school system remains financially sustainable and able to provide the best possible education for every student. Like many counties across West Virginia Upshur County Schools continues to experience a decline in student enrollment because state funding is directly tied to enrollment this trend does have a significant impact on our budget and our ability to maintain programs and services.

To provide context:

- French Creek Elementary was originally built for 328 students and currently serves 221.
- Rock Cave Elementary was built for 154 students and now serves 71.

This decline is not isolated; it is systemwide, and it affects our ability to sustain programs that offer the learning experiences our students deserve. Fewer students mean fewer resources, and that reality has placed increasing strain on our budget. For the current school year alone, we have seen an additional loss of 183 students which translates to approximately \$1.6 million in reduced funding. This will require further difficult decisions as we prepare for the 2026-2027 budget.

We have worked hard to preserve programs and support services but rising operational costs and reduced funding make the current path unsustainable. We have already reduced personnel costs and continue to do so carefully prioritizing classroom support for students. These reductions will occur across all levels of the system, but we remain committed to maintaining essential services for our students.

Most importantly, we do want to focus on what this means for our students. Our goal remains the same to provide every child with a safe, supportive, and enriching educational environment. In some cases, consolidating resources can help us strengthen academic offerings, enhance support services, and invest more deeply in the schools that remain. Every decision we make is guided by what is best for students within the resources we have available. This is not a decision we take lightly. We are here tonight to listen, answer your questions, and engage in an open and respectful dialogue. Your voices matter and your input will help guide the path

forward. Thank you for your continued partnership and for your unwavering commitment to our students.

Mrs. Craig:

At this time, we will now proceed to hear from those who have signed up to address the board this evening.

Our first person is Cheyenne Troxel:

Before we begin, let's define what a hearing is in its legal and official sense. An official meeting to collect facts about an incident or problem, a formal proceeding often before a court or administrative body to decide on a specific matter. Now let's ask the critical question how is this process ethical when the state has taken over our local board of education the very body that is that by law is supposed to propose the school closure for West Virginia code 18-5-13A. Under the current, the current arrangement, the state appointed superintendent acts as the prosecutor while the state board of education serves as both judge and jury. This creates an extreme and undeniable bias, every decision maker in this process is from the state level. Meanwhile we the community, parents, and the students are treated as a defendant given only five minutes to plead our case. We have no legal representation, no advocates for the children whose lives will be directly impacted. This is not a fair hearing. This is a predetermined process disguised as due process when the same entity that proposes a closure also controls the outcome. The principle and partiality is completely lost. The law envisions checks and balances but here there are none. Instead we have a system where the state controls every lever and the voices of the most affected, the families, are reduced to a token gesture. I urge you to consider, is this truly a hearing or is it a formality to legitimize a decision already made of if the purpose of this hearing is to collect facts and weigh them fairly this process fails that definition entirely. Our children deserve better our community deserves better and our democratic principles demand better. I must also strongly oppose the acceptance of the impact statement prepared by the state appointed superintendent. This document fails to provide factual information necessary for the state board of education to make informed decisions. Instead of presenting objective data and transparent analysis of how the proposed closure will affect student's, families, and community, the statement is vague and lack substantive evidence. Without clear accurate and relevant facts the impact statement cannot serve as a reliable foundation for any decision that so profoundly affects our children's futures. The absence of meaningful data undermines the integrity the process and further roads trust and fairness of the

proceedings. I urge the board to reject this inadequate impact statement and demand a fact; I demand a thorough fact-based assessment before any action is taken. I'm not going to read this because I don't have enough time, but I have referenced every section in the impact statement that I've went through that has inaccuracies. I'm also stand before you as a local business owner and that also a taxpaying citizen who deeply cares about the future of our community businesses and well-being of our children. I'm extremely frustrated over the mismanagements of funds from the previous admin administration and the current decisions proposals and so-called good ideas from the current administration. Your actions have been an absolute disgrace to our children and communities. Instead of individuals having to take responsibility for their actions children have been left with the burden. It is been stated that you guys at the past three board meetings have millions of dollars in unrestricted funds. Currently knowing that RCS has already budgeted for, how budgeted for in the past budget, how is it even a possibility that we're standing before you today pleading our cases. This sounds to me like yet again another mismanagement of funds is happening robbing the taxpayer's children and communities of their right to a fair education. As business owners we pay our taxes with the understanding that those funds will help strengthen our community, providing essential services, improving infrastructure, and most importantly supporting our local schools. Children of Rock Cave many of whom are sons and daughters of business owners deserve the right to attend school within their own district that they pay for. Research has consistently shown that closing schools in rural communities can have devastating economic effects. According to studies from the National Education Policy Center and the Rural School for Community Trust when local schools closes it often leads to a decline of population reduced property values and loss of jobs. Businesses such as mine rely on strong community to thrive and that shrink starts with the local school. Since you're all worried about funding and nothing else just think about what will happen when the property values drop, job loss and closure of businesses happen, you will see way less money from your levies and actions do and will have consequences. For lower income areas like our own the impact is even greater that disproportionately affects families who may not have the means to transport their children to distant schools and leading to decreased attendance and engagement all of which is required of them to receive funding and maintain their qualified professionals. You're setting them up for failure with this proposed merger. When families are forced to relocate for better access to education small businesses lose customers and I didn't get to finish so I'll give you guys.

Mrs. Craig:

Thank you for your presentation, Cheyenne.

Our next person is Dora Brown.

I'm a little shorter, you're fine. I'm a lot shorter. Um, I want to first and foremost thank you all for the opportunity to speak. I know several of you. Um my name is Dora Brown, and I stand here uh tonight not only as a lifelong resident of this community but as a dedicated taxpayer as well and a voter who cares deeply about our kids, our future, and the values that bind all of us together. I'm here to express my strong opposition to the closure of Rock Cave School. Like many of you I am concerned about our local tax dollars and the votes that we cast to support our schools that are not being respected or considered in this decision. Since our local board of education is currently under state takeover it feels as though our voices have been silenced at a critical time for our community. Uh with that being said uh this raises serious ethical questions as to what's right for the state to make decisions with such lasting consequences for our families for our children our local economy. These decisions will impact us for decades to come not just you know this year you know making this budget without truly listening to those who live here and work here. What message does that send when local input is dismissed in the decisions that are being made at this moment even though it's our tax money that funds these schools. We must also ask how will closing Rock Cave Elementary actually benefit the community. Will our children have better access to education because these classes are going to be overcrowded? You're going to be moving what 71 children um, or will they face longer bus rides, decreased parental involvement, and the loss of a safe and nurturing environment? Will the property values of the community spirit improve or will they decline. Generally, when a school closes the property value of that community goes down that that's a given. The research on rural school closures is clear; the disadvantages far outweigh any potential for the savings or perceived benefits. Studies show that closing rural schools often leads to declining academic achievement lower graduation rates and reduced community engagement. Our school as you said it's more than just a building it's the hard Rock Cave. It provides stability, support opportunity for children, and future children. Just because enrollment's down now doesn't mean it's not going to go up in the future. When a rural school closes the community suffers and what we lose cannot be measured in dollars and cents. I urge the powers that need to reconsider this decision let us restore local control and listen to the people who know this community best. We live here we spend our money here we played the playgrounds together it's all one big community. Our children our families and

our future deserve nothing less so please stand with us to keep Rock Cave School open. Thank you.

Mrs. Craig:

Thank you, Dora.

Our next speaker is Abigail Jeffries.

Good evening, we'll be starting off with questions of legality. Rule 6204 page 63.4.8.1 a separate hearing shall be held for each school proposed to be closed or consolidated and shall also be held for each school that has been designated by the county to receive students from the schools proposed to be closed or consolidated. Primary consideration should be given to conducting the hearings at the affected schools. Question being with French Creek at almost 90% capacity should there be a hearing conducted at Tennerton Elementary since they will have to absorb any overflow?

Mrs. Miller responded: No, because they are not part of the process right now it's just French Creek and Rock Cave.

Okay and RO 6204 page 73.48.7. At least the county superintendent in a quorum of county board members from the county where in the an affected school is located shall attend the public hearings. Should this quorum not also apply to the state board of education as they are the decision makers in this matter and since our elected county representatives have no say in the matter? The, state board um through it superintendent has appointed the designees that are here to see to make the decision. I googled the question when dealing with school closures in West Virginia would a mistake in the impact statement make document requirements unfulfilled? The AI overview response was a mistake in an impact statement could make document requirements unfulfilled particularly if the error is substantive or compromises the public's right to information and due process. The severity of the consequences depends on the nature of the mistake and how it affects the counties county boards in this case the state board's ability to demonstrate substantial weight was given to the statement as required by law. West Virginia law requires county boards of education in our case it was the appointed superintendent to prepare an impact statement when considering school closures or consolidations and give it substantial weight in their again state BOE decision-making process. So, some uh also key factors that it noted substantive versus

clerical errors. A minor clerical error example a typo in a non-critical number is less likely to invalidate the process. However, a substantiative error that misrepresents key data example inaccurate enrollment projections financial data or impact to on the community could be grounds for a legal challenge potentially requiring the board to redo part of the process or face an injunction. Due process and public participation the impact statement is a critical component of the public hearing and due process requirements ensuring the community is informed and can provide meaningful input. If a mistake misleads the public or limits their ability to participate effectively in the public hearing it undermines the purpose of the law and could be seen as an unfulfilled requirement. Substantial weight requirement the law explicitly states the board must give the impact statement substantial weight. an impact statement with significant errors may be seen as unreliable an unreliable document that cannot be given substantial weight thus failing a core legal requirement. Under legal challenges affected parties, example, parents, community members, local school improvement councils, can challenge the school closure decision in court. The court will likely review whether the county board followed all statutory and regulatory procedures correctly. A significant error in the impact statement would be a primary point of contention in such a case. In summary while a minor oversight might not stop a school closure, a significant error in the impact statement could lead to the document requirements being deemed unfulfilled and potentially halt or reverse the closure process through legal action. Some of those things that I would like to point out under uh on page 25 under the community the last sentence oh no sorry was on the wrong page that was the community the known relationships within the communities. This sounds like a lot of fluff and everything like everyone would get along super dandy and ideally that would be the case but we know how children are. We know how uh on Facebook we can see how some parents are as far as getting along in rivalries and things of the sort so it's really not going to end up being that uh situation. And it doesn't really state in this impact statement the negative effect that it's going to have on the community of Rock Cave. There are uh businesses, grocery stores, uh restaurants, that rely on um you know people circulating around that if people move this direction all the business is going to move this direction. Um the one the key point that I can't find the sentence is it says that it's Is that my time? Thank you.

Mrs. Craig:

Thank you for your comments Abigail. Would you like to submit any of those? I'll do that, thank you.

I will now ask the administration to respond to any information that has been presented. Do you have any response or any questions?

Mrs. Miller responded: I do not.

Okay, this concludes this public hearing.

Do I have a motion to adjourn? So moved Mr. Parker, second? second Mrs. Dean. All of those in favor please signify by saying I, this meeting is now adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted from hearing as recorded.



Christine Miller, Superintendent

Rock Cave

DATE 11/13/2015

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DELEGATION SIGN-IN*

*By signing in as a delegation, I agree to the Guidelines for Delegations in an Upshur County Board Meeting.

NAME	REPRESENTING
✓ Autumn Loudin	RCES
✓ Madison Loudin	RCES
✓ Lilly Loudin	RCES
✓ Shanah Carpenter	RCES
✓ Delora Brown (SIS)	RCES
✓ Abigail Jiffres	RCES community
✓ Lauren Celender	RCES
✓ Kayla Bouscher	RCES
✓ Sheryl Bickel	RCES
✓ Edith Bickel	RCES
✓ Arlo Roth	RCES
✓ Dawson Carpenter	RCES
✓ Shellie Humphrey	RCES
✓ Shanna Collins	RCES
✓ Krista Collins	RCES

DATE 11/13/2025

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DELEGATION SIGN-IN*

*By signing in as a delegation, I agree to the Guidelines for Delegations in an Upshur County Board Meeting.

NAME	REPRESENTING
✓ Leah Collins	RCES
✓ Pam Hissam	RCES
✓ Tim Troxell	RCES
✓ Cheyenne Troxell	RCES
✓ Amy-Wilson-Detamore	RCES
✓ Amber Anderson	RCES
✓ Elaina Anderson Jones	RCES
✓ Liezl Wimmer	RCES
✓ Clara Wimmer	RCES
✓ Michelle Strader	RCES
✓ Wayne Strader	RCES
✓ Jeremiah Bennington	RCES
✓ Sara Collins	RCES.
✓ KEVIN CAMPBELL	RCES
✓ Betty Heater	RCES

DATE _____

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DELEGATION SIGN-IN*

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LISA ELMORE

NAME	REPRESENTING
✓ Connie A. CINTRIGHT	RCES
✓ Waseet KUNDRA	Black Cap
✓ Angel Moss	RCES
✓ Lisa Elmore	RCES
✓ TYLER SHREVE	RCES
✓ Caroline Davis	RCES
✓ Kaitlin Davis	RCES
✓ Katherine Davis / Elaina ^{Bender}	RCES
✓ Natasha Davis	RCES
✓ Justin Davis (will be sent late)	RCES
✓ Alyssa Hope	RCES
✓ Jeremiah Jeffries	RCES
✓ Jan Barron	Indian Camp Normal
✓ Elijah Carpenter	RCES
✓ Lillyana Carpenter	RCES

DATE _____

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

DELEGATION SIGN-IN*

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NAME	REPRESENTING
✓ Sean Carpenter	RCES
✓ Mary Hyre	RCES-community
✓ James Tunnicliffe	RCES

The comments below represent a summation from a transcript downloaded from the hearing that took place on November 13, 2025, at Rock Cave Elementary School.

This special meeting is called to order. Let me emphasize that this is a public hearing. My name is Jan Craig, as president of the Upshur County Board of Education I have determined that at least a quorum of the board and the superintendent are present it is now 7:00. Registration to address the board at this public hearing has now closed. We will proceed with roll call. Jan craig here sherry dean here susan king here william parker present roy wager present christine miller here Tim Derico, present, April Senic, present, Sarah Wills, Elaine Pugh, present. Madame President I also would like to ask that those that are here from the department state their names to make it a matter of record for the minutes Jeffrey kelley, Uriah Cummings, Micah Witlow. Oh, and I'm sorry also representing us here with the board is Kim Croyle from Bowles Rice. If you would please stand for the pledge of allegiance Mrs. dean will you lead us please to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands one nation under god indivisible with liberty and justice for all this hearing is convened in accordance with the terms of West Virginia code 18-5-13a and state board of education policy 6204 in connection with the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and its consolidation merger into French Creek Elementary school. The statute and state board policy provide that members of the public number one have a right to be present two have a right to submit statements and testimony and three have a right to question school officials a total of 48 members of the public have indicated their desire to submit statements or testimony or to question school officials in order to give every speaker a fair opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to question school officials five minutes have been allotted for each registered speaker the response of school officials to questions shall not be included in the time allotted no member of the public may present more than once no member of the public may grant time to another presenter Mrs. april Senicat the end of the table has been designated as the timekeeper and will advise when one minute is remaining for each presentation and when time has expired it is not necessary to consume the total amount of time allotted as stated in the public notice of this hearing written statements and materials will also be given full consideration all questions shall initially be directed to the superintendent the superintendent may elect to respond to the question or may delegate another school official to respond to the question at the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public the superintendent or another member of the administration will be given the opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by members of the public apart from questions directed to the superintendent and answered by the superintendent or another member of the administration there will be no direct debate or dialogue between members of the public and board members or members of the public and school officials no personal attacks will be tolerated no decision on the proposed closure will be made tonight the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary school and consolidation of its students into French

Creek Elementary School will be the subject of a board meeting scheduled for November 20th 2025, at 5:30. At that time the board will conduct all deliberations in open session, and a vote will be taken in open session following the board's deliberations. To begin, I will ask Superintendent Miller to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statements for the proposed closure and consolidation. Good evening and thank you for being with us this evening we deeply appreciate your time and your commitment to our students and schools as we discuss an important and difficult topic the possible closure of rock cave elementary and its merger with French Creek elementary, First, we want to acknowledge the significance of this conversation school closures are never easy they are decisions no board or superintendent wants to make because we understand the deep emotional and historical connections our schools hold for families staff and communities these schools are more than buildings they represent memories traditions and a sense of belonging generations of families have walked these halls and we do not take that lightly. At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that our school system remains financially sustainable and able to provide the best possible education for every student . Like many counties across West Virginia, Upshur County Schools continues to experience a decline in student enrollment. Because state funding is directly tied to enrollment this trend has a significant impact on our budget and our ability to maintain programs and services.

To provide context:

1. French Creek Elementary was originally built for 328 students and currently serves 221.
2. Rock Cave Elementary was built for 154 students and now serves 71.

This decline is not isolated; it is systemwide, and it affects our ability to sustain programs and offer the learning experiences our students deserve. Fewer students mean fewer resources and that reality has placed increasing strain on our budget. For the current school year alone we have seen an additional loss of 183 students which translates to approximately \$1.6 million in reduced funding this will require further difficult s uh decisions as we prepare the 2026 2027 budget we have worked hard to preserve programs and support services but rising operational costs and reduced funding make the current path unsustainable we have already reduced personnel costs and will continue to do so carefully prioritizing classroom support for students these reductions will occur across all levels of the system but we remain committed to maintaining essential services for students most importantly we want to focus on what this does mean for our students our goal remains the same to provide every child with a safe supportive and enriching educational environment. In some cases, consolidating resources can help us strengthen academic offerings, enhance support services, and invest more deeply in the schools that remain. Every decision we make is guided by what is best for students within the resources available. This is not a decision we take lightly. We are here tonight to listen, answer your questions, and engage in an open and respectful dialogue. Your voices matter and your input your input will

guide the path forward thank you for your continued partnership and your unwavering commitment to our students.

Mrs. Craig:

For those of you all that are standing there are a few more chairs up here if you would like to get them before we start at this time we will now proceed to hear from those who have signed up to address the board this evening our first person is Autumn Loudin, your timer is down here. Thank you, would you please make sure to pick up the mic because we are recording. Okay check we're good thank you all good evening my name is Autumn Loudiin., and at the last board of education meeting I outlined my concerns regarding this proposed merger. Specifically addressing classroom capacity, the hazardous French Creek parking lot, and student transportation times. I stand here tonight to reinforce the ser seriousness of some of these issues and want to touch on another one that's very close to my heart for classroom capacity i meant to ask class time if enrollment capacity is reached or if classroom capacity is reached will we just accept over 28 students in a fourth or fifth grade classroom or will children be redistricted to town enrollment is down but the united states census data review estimates up county's population growth for 2025 at 36% which is about 84 people this is growth and it's projected to rise next year i believe that with time effort and support from the board both schools enrollments would rise to a more sustainable size we should not be preemptively consolidating due to what i believe is a temporary dip next my concern about French Creek's parking lot sounds dramatic but it is about safety and people's lives are literally at stake most of us saw how both schools parking lots were completely filled to the brim on Halloween during evening pickup at French Creek the line almost always ends up on the main road at French creek making parents park elsewhere until the last the lines died down and families are often forced to park off site during events what happens if the new owners of the old plumbing place refuse to let families park there what if the post office or dollar general or the school's neighbor start having vehicles towed it is the school's responsibility to provide safe

parking for its staff and families not to rely on the generosity of its neighbors the impact finder on page 5 claims that the community impact of closing a raw cave would be minimal yet it fails to capture the immense consequences of closing down the school as an employee at a local store and a parent and volunteer here for nearly 9 years i see the integration of the school in our community firsthand i see almost half of the rock cave staff and students families in my store daily i swear our PTO has consistently prioritized shopping local buying for school parties and events staff appreciation our Christmas store the list truly goes on and on beyond the financial ripple effect Rock Cave Elementary is in the is the indispensable heart of the community in my opinion change here our SUBA parade starts here and there is nowhere else in southern Upshur that can be safely used for this event in my opinion also one of the only easter egg hunts in southern is held at this school for some the super parade and the egg hunt here are the only parade and egg hunt that a lot of rock students are able to go to and in the last few years that's

been my family's truth closing the school would also be taking away one of the only places that offers exercise in our area teenagers use the basketball court our pavilion is used for birthday parties our playground and walking path always has kids or people getting their steps in closing the school is truly stripping these children and all of us in southern usher county of one of our biggest community an I'm begging you all to hear us tonight usher county residents through no fault of everyone here have had a difficult time trusting the board of education because of the past issues keep rock cave open and give up county a reason to trust Upshur County Schools again i ask you to make a decision that puts our children's education and safety first give this county time to figure out how to cut costs in a way that benefits our kids the most and keep rock cave open thank you thank your comments Madison hi my name is Madison I've been a part of rock for years rock cave school isn't just a place it's a community that holds memories friendships and traditions that can't be replaced over the years it has brought people together provided opportunities for local families and serve as a source of pride for everyone involved shutting it down would mean losing the space that helps us keep our community connected and webcam gives people a sense of belonging whether it's through local events education or simple joy of gathering with neighbors it plays a vital role in our lives many of us have grown up here learned here and built lifelong relationships taking that away would deeply affect us not just users but the entire earth instead of losing it instead of closing it we should look for ways to improve and support rocket with community effort fundraising or new ideas for we could keep this special place alive for future generations rock is more than just a lady it's a part of who we are and it deserves to stay that's all thank you. Lilly Loudin i don't think I'm tired but do you need help no okay hello my name is Lillian Loudin and i and i want to say that i do not want our cake to shut down it is crazy that some people want to shut down our cake i mean we have less than 100 people in my school but there are worth it if you shut down our cake then we will be extremely sad and that is not okay so next i want to show you how much they taught me by doing division $21 / 3 = 7$ $50 / 2$ is 25 lastly i'll do multiple multiplication $6 * 7 = 42$ see how i know that that calculator i actually did the problem for real i am i do don't do some problems but i'm not a master i'm actually fast at doing math sometimes anyways i also love the teachers like they are so nice anytime they mean it's just because you did something wrong it's not because something random so please reconsider shutting down our cave thank you lily shauna carpenter i come before you asking this evening why why would you close rock cave elementary your answer would be of course to save money will a closure actually save money the largest savings in the impact statement are proposed savings and personnel costs these will not likely happen most staff if not all will have jobs in other schools in the county it will not cause rift of other teachers

equaling savings of salaries because our county does not have enough teachers now why would you merge Rock Cave into French Creek and cause classes at French Creek to be at max capacity while other schools in Upshur county have dwindling enrollment as well i assume the answer to that question is just because it's easy because our enrollment is low right now and French Creek

is close but does it make sense in the long term is it a solution for education in Upshur county why are you the state department of education considering this impact statement with so many discrepancies and opinions included it is clear it was not researched reviewed or welded out as i look at county and our needs i see that many families and students don't value education i see a middle school that we have for many years known as a concern i see dwindling enrollment i see teachers leaving the county as well as the profession because of lack of respect and support why are we not coming together to find a solution for the long term of Upshur County we have low enrollment teacher shortages some facilities in poor conditions we have many needs society is transforming children are transforming education must transform we aren't sure where we are going or what is next but we must think of the students in this system as well as the students to come we must think about making the future of what we do better what about transforming our school system in a positive way with a long-term plan and input from many there are so many unanswered questions about the impact statement there are so many people that do not realize the next step is putting middle school students at the high school what about the property owned by the uper county board of education what about the salaries of the people that work in the board office have their job descriptions and responsibilities been reviewed what about the students and families that will move away from public education if our school close closes why is public school no longer valued what about the amount of money that our county pays for virtual school i am asking that you stop the proposed closing of rock cave until the state county together can make a supported plan supported by stakeholders and the community on what to do i had lots of questions that i had sent never got answers i don't think that this is the way things need to be done thank you Shauna, Dora Brown.

I was at the one at French Creek so this one here is a little personal um i wanted to elaborate a little bit more on the legacy um obviously my name is brown i attended rock school i no longer have any students in Rock Cave Elementary however i have cousins friends family members and children who do attend here rock elementary has been a staple in this community it has always provided an exemplary quality education and i am sure you are aware that rock cave elementary school has the highest student attendance in ocean county with that a good quality education exists when you have parental involvement and dedicated teachers rock haven elementary school has been providing an exemplary education for decades the foundation that they gave me allowed me to graduate high school as a junior grad with a 3.5 gpa from Seymour Indiana when i relocated i could have chosen anywhere else in county to come back to i came back to arcade i wanted my son to benefit from the same quality education that was afforded to me at that time miss Donnie Mosley was my son's fifth grade teacher i have absolutely no doubt that her guidance and unyielding commitment to education is what prepared him for the transition to Buckhannon middle school the students from her class had absolutely no issues adjusting to the faster pace the block format or the curriculum having my son receive that education laid the foundation for him to build upon that it allowed him to flourish at the county middle school he excelled in the ap classes and graduated from usher county high school with a 3.5 gpa this

enabled him to attend private college in North Carolina you cannot achieve this aforementioned quality of education without teacher commitment parental involvement and small enough classrooms that allow the teachers to work in one-on-one with the students your proposal would increase classroom size students will have longer bus rides and they will not

receive the individual attention that children need making a decision to close rock cave elementary will have a detrimental effect on the students on the community and to county as a whole while considering closing consider what you're doing to the current students you're doing them a huge disservice you will be neglecting to provide them with a proven quality education that has previously provided to children in the past that education has allowed previous students including me to thrive and grow into an outstanding adult that supports this community still it would be a travesty and a disgrace to dishonor the decades of commitment and dedication given by the teachers the students and the parents by closing rock cave elementary school i would hope that the school board and the state would want to be commemorated for continuing a legacy that has been dedicated to build for the last decades as opposed to being remembered for demolishing one um i do have a few more questions since that's the end of my letter i would like to know how much money is needed or if you have an idea how much money is needed to keep rock school open um as the previous speaker said most of the faculty teachers will probably transfer to someplace else in user county without those salaries involved how much does it cost to keep walking open that would include electric water custodial services um all else would be incorporated into another cost so that would be equal to equal um there's another 9 months before the next school year starts with that being said pointing no fingers i would like to know why the decision that's being made before the December finalization of the event um is there going to be money restitution paid back in order to cover some of the costs that could keep the school open i don't believe rock creek school should have to pay the price to close for misappropriation of funding um that's my time thank you very much thank you abigail jeff good evening again good evening again i'm going back to the legalities and misrepresentations possibly voiding the legal fulfillment of impact statement um under facilities on page four under safety and entry upgrades um it does state about allowing possibility for safe entry which rocket currently has you some of you may have came through it this evening page five says that it allows merger for improved educational opportunities i do not think this the superintendent intended to make it sound as if rock cave has been withheld educational opportunities and i would certainly hope that would not be the case page 12 this says closing rock haven and merging with french creek will allow for attention to secure entrances for all schools again rock cave already has a secured entrance in the paragraph below that rock cape has k through five and french creek prek through 5th and so families have the opportunity which uh to enroll all their students in one school which they did here at rock cave until this very year for over 20 years there was a successful prek program until it was pulled this year um page 19 3.2.e e specifically states the routes will not exceed the 45minute recommended guideline as outlines in policy 6200 but then directly below the table in the tables below all but one of the routes from the combi

from the um schools coming together are well over 45 minutes and while on the topic of buses according to the superintendent from past uh board meetings hodgeville could not be consolidated with mechanic academy due to bus ride times i did a study using the times that are uh allotted from last year because this year's weren't on there but i did get um our current uh brocade bus routes and did the times and the numbers on those and i'm not certainly not proponent for uh Hodgeville closing but when doing the running those numbers every route but one from Hodgeville to cat or to uh Buckhannon Academy was shorter than the bus routes from our Southern Upshur County and to French Creek uh just because there's a small number of distance 4 point whatever miles and whatever miles it may be from Hodgeville to Academy it still doesn't uh the time is still longer for our camp or our rock cage students to um ride the bus u page 25 back to the kind words and unity and oneness that i spoke about at the last

meeting where a unified school will benefit from this combined energy and commitment leading to enriched programming and a vibrant school culture i think you all can see here this evening the difference in this what support looks like for a school i saw at the last meeting there were u a handful of staff and two families it would be hard for a community such as this that is combined together to go to a school that we are being forced to go to and try to push our community standards and our involvement standards whenever they aren't there we just wouldn't be that type of people to do that so i think in the end both sets of students would certainly uh not benefit from that um um first on page 33 through 35 there's a max capacity listed uh i know in four of those classes that's with paying uh teachers overages for the extra three students from the 25 classrooms the desired capacity is stated to be 85% and using the enrollment numbers from those tables um second would be 84% across both grades third at 100% fourth and fifth across both uh classrooms for those grades would be at 92.9% later in the other uh tables that are um have things that the information and the there's a duplicate of rock cave and then there's one that FCench creek school wasn't even listed for so i feel that oversight is maybe one of those little you know things that goes against the impact statement being valid um at later in the tables it also says our gym acoustics which i see they are here and i personally noted the gym floors in better condition here than it was at French Creek um there's just a lot of questionable why it would be even considered. Um I'm running out of time so thank you for listening

Mrs. Craig: thank you, Lauren Celender . My name is Lauren Celender and I'm currently a third grade teacher at Rock Cave and i have to express my concern with the merger i have been teaching for 11 years um my first year in rock cave we were already identified as CSI school for low test scores last school year because of the amazing test scores of the third fourth and fifth grade students we were released to first sustainability of the year for this year's school year this is because despite all the challenges that we faced all of our amazing teachers still persevered my two years being at rocky we as a whole have made it through coming out of CSI having little to no subs we've been told that our absences are not being able to be seen in the system having positions not filled we've had no subs called out for our gym position until recently having turned over to a new principal Miss Lunceford who is an absolute amazing leader not having

working technology etc. our school thrives in all different areas despite us not having a counselor or CSI in our school to help with emotional mental needs or attendance incentives our school has had tough attendance in the county that is due to the dedicated staff making our school feel like a home and a place for our students that want to be here without a counselor or a CIS that is more responsibility than the already overwhelming responsibility put on the staff shoulders and we have persevered through those challenges as well we've had many times where subj jobs are not picked up positions are left vacant and our staff members step up to help and make our students seem more structured and have more of a routine we did not have a gym teacher ourselves for almost two months along with our music and counselor position but we still persevered and provided for our students our students have worked hard academically in attendance and extracurriculars our schools our school participated in a literature fair and we had a student place at the regional fair because our students and staff made these chances possible for our students our students have worked hard in the greenhouse and enjoy planting and taking care of flowers and vegetables they also get to eat what is grown in the greenhouse our students will be participating in science and social studies there as well i know this decision with school closures have all about money and I'm understanding of that but the bigger picture to look at is the fact that our building is in good shape building that has been in question in bad shape is the middle school and no i do not feel the solution to place 11-year-olds in a high school setting is the

answer as a community we all know that that is where the problem lies at rock cave our students are safe when loading and unloading buses when parents are here for gatherings we have no issues with parking on the road or other places to accommodate our student staff or parents financially closing our school is not going to save money our staff will be transferred to new positions so that money would not be saved a lot of our staff is shared with different locations therefore that money would not be saved our building could sit empty for years it is not guaranteed the school will sell to anyone there are a lot of properties within the within the county owned by the district what are we using those properties for why can't those properties be sold instead of closing us director salaries and salaries for various positions at the board office are total to be over \$900,000 why are we paying out that much money to directors and people who work at the board office why can't we make cuts there as a teacher when i have needed help or support for various reasons or issues very few directors seem to be available or able to return a phone call or email i have worked in another county where the board office positions are cut and directors take on multiple titles so teacher positions are left alone this is true for other counties as well one teacher salaries may be half of one director's salary so why aren't we focused on the cost of the go and director salaries last year our schools spent over our county spent over \$200,000 to Jimmy Casa's company for motivational speakers and no one questioned that money that could have gone to substitutes educational materials or could have been safe for future issues year after year programs platforms and way to put grades in were adopted and then the very next year we were forced to do something new with little to no training we are told we are not allowed to use class dojo remind or seesaw yet these are ways to communicate in our free

platforms last year we used for grades this is also a free way to display display grades and share information this year we must use canvas but we were provided no training it was left up to us to figure out how to enter grades until after the first nine weeks was complete and then online training was provided i feel as a staff member community member the finances of this county need to be deeply dived into i would also like to know where the register is located on the that stated on the board of judges to look at finances the board stated the board office employee salaries positions needing cut before teacher positions and school closures in the middle school building need to be focus on our school community deserves that right the state is not affected by the closures the county is our students best interest to drive any decisions made research has shown closing smaller schools does not improve academic success if that is what drives this county why are we trying to close schools research also shows that the state takeover does not improve academic success look at the schools who are on our csi additional targeted schools i feel a different plan cut in different areas is going to be more beneficial than closing rocket elementary especially in our school has been thriving last year my third grade students except for one student outperformed the county and the state in math and all my students except for four outperformed the county and the state in reading and before anyone states a smaller class sizes so of course our schools are better that in fact is not true when one student does not do well it affects our numbers more i also want to say their enrollment would not be so low if our students were to redistrict back to our home schools if this county is concerned with having qualified teachers why do you think the teachers would stay when they were forced to take a different position thank you Lauren

Kayla Boucher, my name is Kayla Boucher and i actually teach at the middle school um good evening i'm going to read a summary of the article the harm of school closures can last a last a lifetime new research shows it's written by Libby Stanford from the June 18th 2024 um is found on education week and i will submit a full article to the board students who attend a school that closes during their k to2 career have lower test

scores along with the worst attendance and behavior in the short term in the long term they're less likely than their peers to complete college and have a job and their earnings tend to be lower each year hundreds of schools across the country close because of low enrollment budget shortfalls and poor performance decades of research have shown that those closures have a short-term negative impact on the students academic achievement with researchers documenting drops in test scores attendance and high school graduation rates that usually recover after 3 years but a new working paper shows that the impact of a school closures often extend well past graduation said kim a PhD candidate in economics at the university of Houston and the research behind the study those students in secondary education middle and high school students they show a persistent drop in their test scores kim said from those effects i also found long-term negative effects on their higher education attainment and even their wages districts across the country are

weighing school closures as they face tighter budgets with the coming end of covid error relief funds and declining enrollments some schools through the years have also closed due to poor performance research has shown closers disproportionately affect students of color and students from low income families which recently prompted two civil rights groups to request guidance from the us department of education's office for civil rights outlining when closures violate federal rights laws kim centered his research around a data set of 470 Texas schools that closed from 1998 to 2015 by age 26 the students who experienced school closures were four and 8/10en of a percent less likely to have attended college four and seven10% less likely to have completed college and 1 and 3/10% less likely to employed be employed than their peers in schools with similar demographics and in similarly sized cities who did not experience a school closure annual earnings for those students from ages 25 to 27 were also 3 and 410% lower than their peers in his research kim also documented immediate disruptions to learning among students whose schools closed kim found a statistically significant drop in math and reading scores among students who went through a school closure they were also absent on 1.8% 8% more days than in the three years following the closure than the three years before the closure in addition kim found an increase in disciplinary action including expulsions out of school suspensions and in school suspensions for bad behavior following school closures the number of days students were disciplined for bad behavior in the three years following the school closure increased by 15% compared to the three years before the closures the declines in educational and post-graduation success were more pronounced among Hispanic students economically disadvantaged students and students who were in middle and high school when the school closed rather than in elementary school the more vulnerable students are more negatively affected so maybe we can put more attention to those students in the process of school closure kim said then maybe we can alleviate the negative effect of it kim found that schools closed primarily because of drops in enrollment but poor performance is a factor as well but other factors have historically contributed to school closures as well for example people living in a more disadvantaged neighborhoods may have less political power to advocate for keeping a school open or budget decisions may force other high otherwise high performing schools to close because of dilapidated buildings researchers told us weekly the effect of school closures is felt unevenly economically disadvantaged students were absent 7.3% more often following a closure 7.3% they also had the highest increase of any group for the number of days of disciplinary action 38% the results ultimately show that school closures disproportionately impact students of color and students from low-income families there is a long-term negative effect kim said and it is worsening inequality thank you t

Mrs. Craig: Thank you, Cheryl Bikle. I am reading this for Cheryl, but this evening her husband fell on the ladder oh okay and she wrote this and she was a teacher and she asked me to speak for her is that

okay yeah i want to consist you're fine okay is that okay yes i know cheryl okay and I'm just going to read it as if she's standing here if that's okay my name is Cheryl Bickle. I worked as a

teacher in uper county school system for 34 years i have witnessed many changes over those years i taught in one of in a one room school prior to the closing of all one room schools in the county i worked at bridge creek elementary for 21 years prior to arriving at rock cave school during my tenure at bridge creek i was the recipient of many students from adrian when the school closed i have personally dealt with large classrooms of students 20 to 28 kids in a grade for many years we were overcrowded and full of kids most of the years as a teacher i knew smaller classrooms have greater chances of helping all students less distractions more one-on-one help and greater strides are made in instruction when class sizes are smaller during the times that schools were closing very little commotion occurred faith and trust in our school system and our board of education made it easier to accept school closings and consolidations the letter passed throughout those years now we are facing the possibility of closure of another school a community school that is physically in great shape this school has been in a difficult situation for a while inexperienced individuals were placed in leadership positions who were positions who were not ready to make decisions needed to smoothly run the school good experienced teachers left because they found better opportunities sub substitutes filled classrooms tried to do what was needed with little or no experience which hurt our students in this school finally the lack of wise decisions with levy and co money led to the lack of credibility in our county's leadership this trickled down effect caused our levy to fail due to trust issues and ultimately state takeover rock cave elementary school now has great leadership in place and more experienced teachers have arrived to fill the gaps created by those who left we are asking the board to not to close this school but give it a chance to continue as our community school fund other means to fund both rock cave and bridge creek restore our faith in the board of education sell some of the properties you own cut spending that isn't necessary and get back money owed to our school children let us once again believe in you i'm the next person and um i agree with her uh i uh went to virginia this past summer to a school where my granddaughter goes to and um i got to go into the classrooms and watch them teach and stuff there and the classrooms were small it was a big school and she's suddenly in second grade and they had two second grades and all just like french has but in that classroom they had 18 kids and i said to them "do you always have smaller classrooms?" and the teacher said "yes smaller is better." and i agree with that i have a grandson that goes here and he has a smaller class but he can read he does well with reading and he's doing math and he's doing well i have been at bridge creek too i have a nephew that goes there he struggles a lot and i'm not saying it's the teacher's fault but it's a bigger classroom kids need oneon-one and we wonder why they're not making it in school and are not getting grades take a look at those classrooms it's hard for one person to control 25 to 28 kids and kids are different today than what they were when my kids were little they're busier they're more active there's more things out there to look at and you've got one person most of the time in that classroom now since co this school's come a long way and it breaks my heart in two to close any school in the state of west virginia because we like them smaller because our kids are growing better doing better learning war in virginia they were doing that new map and i raised my hand and said "what about the old map?" you can't have an answer of 25 if the answer should be 18 when

you're building something they're going to be off the house of all of that teacher said "we're going back to the old man we're going to teach both of them why can't you have a small school puts less kids in it so that kid that's struggling has someone on one you know don't let them fall through the cracks that's what's going to happen you're going to see them falling through the

cracks again we've got children that have disabilities that's going to be on a bus for more than 45 minutes i have grandkids that are already on a bus for more than 45 minutes to get to this school and you want them to be on a bus for 50 minutes are you going to put a bathroom in somewhere when my six-year-old grandson says "i've got to go to the bathroom." are you going to let him get off the bus at bridge street and he's already used the bathroom and let someone make fun of him and then come back and say him come back and say they were making fun of me they were making fun of me and then you have a bully issue well that's your fault if you choose to close the school it's not that six-year-old's fault it's not the other eight-year-old kid that bullied me you know if i was eight i would probably laugh i mean too you know think about what you're doing to children when you're close it's not affecting you it's affecting these kids sitting back here you know your grandchild my grandchildren i don't know how the parents responded if their kid comes home because they were bullied or they fell asleep on the bus and someone said "oh look at them they're sleeping all the time." you know my grandson and my granddaughter have rode the bus for almost at least 50 minutes am i right to get to the school that's a long bus ride if you're going on a trip and you've got to use the bathroom in 50 minutes you can't stop they can't stop a bus they're kids and i just wish you'd take that into consideration and the teachers would have come here and done a great job and i know i'm done thank you arlo you

to hear i have writing to you as a former student of rockade elementary school where i have spent a lot of my life not only as a child but also as an adult i have since moved to a different state but the school remains a staple of my upbringing i learned basic arithmetic and how to read it gave me the foundations and inspiration to find a career path as a civil engineer today it also provided all three of my brothers with a foundational springboard to attend college and get wellrespected degrees themselves for years rockave elementary has provided a safe highquality and understanding environment for children to learn whether it was my class with roughly 20 to 24 students and he graduated in 2017 from the high school or my brother's class that had 9 to 11 students every child was given the opportunity to grow and was treated like a family increasingly rockade elementary students home lives often vary a large portion of the student demographics benefit from the smaller classroom sizes teachers at rock cave can go that extra mile and ensure that all the children are receiving a great education with the closure of rockade these students that need the extra explanation or the repeated step might get lost in the learning classroom science i can't think of a bigger injustice to these students or the faculty that love to teach these students i am aware that challenges such as budget limitations and enrollment numbers must be considered i simply ask that you look beyond those numbers and look at the greater impact it would have not

only on the school but the community closing the school will have an impact on the local businesses in the area it will require longer busing of the elementary school students this could have an additional effect on them in the classroom and an increased cost that will be incurred by the board of education property values will decrease and existing school which already has a lot of investments would sit dormant i urge you to look at the true impacts i beg you not to let future generations lose the same opportunities that shape so many of us i can remember countless fond memories in the halls of rock cave elementary i hope there will be many more for future children to experience thank you for your time and consideration um in looking online to find information about the school culture i um understand that our board of education members may not be perfect and i cannot hold them at fault for my concerns since our board of education is controlled by the state i think it should be held to a higher standard and the question and answer that i did find online was not very informative i wish that more information was available and i think that's probably the superintendent's job at that thank you thank you collins hello my name is shannon collins and i am a longtime parent of rockave elementary and a full-time employee my oldest daughter started kindergarten here in 2015 and my youngest son is in fourth grade now i started out as a parent volunteer and then went to a substitute aid/air professional and now i am a full-time ecap aid i come here tonight to say i have seen rock cave elementary run as a welloiled machine and i have seen it almost crumble when my oldest child started at rock cave you couldn't have asked for a better school it had a wonderful leader an amazing team of teachers and of course great students the school provided everything a parent could ask for unfortunately that principal decided to move on in her career and rockade elementary was left trying to fill a void rockade has had a revolving door of principles and very little support if i remember correctly we had seven principles including the subs that filled the positions while waiting on each official hire i honestly believe this is why the enrollment has dropped parents including myself have been forced to transfer their children because they feel it's their duty to make sure their child gets the best education possible i myself begged for support from our superintendent and the problem was blamed on the staff past few years at rockade have been awful so much uncertainty and every time we felt like we were moving forward a new leader would take over and we would be knocked back to start all over again even most of the amazing team of teachers couldn't handle the stress and made the choice to transfer i was left no choice so i transferred my middle daughter because she had no fifth grade teacher a principal that was brand new and no support from our superintendent i can honestly say that two years ago i would not have been standing here in front of you asking you to keep the doors open but now rock elementary has everything it needs to be one of the best schools in echra county we have a leader that was made for this job who is invested in our community staff and students we also have great staff wonderful volunteers and students that are full of potential i honestly believe that if given the opportunity enrollment numbers will climb but even if they don't we all know that smaller class sizes meaning 20 students or less are associated with better student performance including higher test scores and greater academic engagement if we are truly student first and we care about

preparing students for the future we need to give them the correct environment where they can thrive that means investing in smaller classes and valuing the kind of learning that happens through personal connection students in smaller classes can feel seen and heard instead of fading into the background of the larger class teachers with smaller classes can spend more time with each student so they can provide more effective teaching based on what each student needs think about it every student learns differently and needs help in different areas how can one person provide that to 25 plus children quick answer they can't maybe just maybe this is one of the reasons we are facing a teacher shortage ask any teacher you know and i bet they will say that they love their smaller class sizes i bet it gives them a chance to breathe and find happiness in their job so that they can actually teach rather than just manage classrooms they can build personal relationships with students and their families like we have here behind us when those real connections are made then students have a team to help them they are not left feeling alone or struggling at the end of the day education isn't about filling seats it's about filling minds with everything our students need to be successful so when the final decision is made let's not base it only on money let's base it on what students and teachers need here at rock cave that means letting us keep our small school and giving us the opportunity to show you what small schools are capable of at french creek i am sure they will welcome our kids with open arms and give everything they can but at the end of the day both schools will be better off to just keep the students they have i know closing small schools is trending but the last time i checked we try to teach students that just because it's trending doesn't make it right please stop this terrible trend and keep rock elementary open thank you for your time and consideration christa collins yeah mom hi i'm christian collins and i'm a former student at rockade elementary school and i believe that rockade elementary should stay open because i have to switch schools i went to the french elementary school for half of my fifth grade year i liked it there don't get me wrong but in my opinion smaller schools are way better because there's less kids to distract you the teachers have less kids to teach which means you get more one-on-one time with your teacher and you will learn more because of that rockade elementary school is where i made most of my childhood memories i made my first best friends that i'm still friends with today without rock cave i probably wouldn't have had the same class i went from kindergarten to half of my fifth grade year with i only moved because we didn't have a fifth grade teacher now our kids have amazing kindergarten through fifth grade teachers i have always dreamed of walking down the hallway of rockade when i get older and graduate and if rockade elementary school closes i'll never have the chance to do that this school was my second home literally i was here every day of the week so i would be losing a lot if you close rock cave then kids will have a longer bus ride and will have to get up earlier and then they'll be more tired if you close rock cave elementary you are just taking a big school and making it way bigger and smaller schools are better please before you make any decisions walk the halls talk to the students at rock cave and feel the heart of this place because

once it's gone you can't rebuild what we've built here over all these years if you walk down the halls and go to each and every classroom you will have you'll see children you feel safe loved

and inspired to learn you feel the spirit of a place that still has so much to give this school is where i'm going to read my first chapter where i met my teachers that believe in me and where i know my my friendships when i walk through the halls and of the school i remember memories lessons and many stories i know there are challenges but there are also opportunities instead of closing the doors let look for creative ways to keep them open this school has adapted and served generation after generation it can adapt again tonight i'm asking you to look beyond the numbers and remember the people and students who are learning there now and the generations who have come before them i'm asking you to give our school a chance to grow again and to let it story continue please before you vote to close the schools think about the children who have will never get to experience what i did thank you oh think about the families who count on this place not just for education but for a connection moving kids to a different school can cause anxiety especially for the young students rock cave elementary taught us that one voice can make a difference tonight i hope mine helps remind you what this school truly means thank you so much for your time to hear me out please consider my speech thank you

Mrs. Craig.

Thank you. Leah Collins. Hi, good evening. I'm Leah Collins and I'm here today, of course, to explain to you why I think that Rock Cave Elementary should not close. I attended kindergarten Through 5th grade at this school; I am now a sophomore in high school. And I can truly say that my experience was phenomenal. There were great teachers, great students, and overall, just really great people. The number of memories I made at this school is surreal. I made so many long-lasting friends that I still talk to every day. We have all moved through middle school and now high school. And we are still a pretty tight group. All the time. My fellow classmates from Rock Cave come to me and say, hey Leah, remember that? Remember that time when we OK? We end up laughing hysterically in the end. Rock Cave is a small school, so I know you're thinking it doesn't matter. And that these children will benefit from being moved into a school with more people. But I promise I only benefited from going to this small elementary school. It allowed me so much more one-on-one time with my teachers, which looking back now, I'm very grateful for. It helped me learn to do things so much quicker and helped me receive better. Grades on my report cards. Learning this material in a smaller classroom helped me so much because we all became very close and comfortable with each other. So, we weren't afraid to ask questions because we all knew that most of the time if one of us was struggling, others were struggling as well. Seeing how we were so close with each other, we weren't afraid to admit out loud. That we needed extra help in these small classrooms. It helps us grow as people. We all learned different ways, but with smaller classroom sizes, the teachers were able to teach a few different ways so everyone could understand what we were learning. I'm the

oldest of three children. My sister went to Rock Cave as well, kindergarten through half a fifth grade. At the end of her fifth-grade year, things started to get rocky, so she transferred to French Creek and I can't help but feel sorry for her because she didn't get the experience that I got. At the time, the school was struggling with keeping reliable staff members, which. Took a huge toll on the learning for the children. But in all reality, we have to look at the bigger picture because now my younger brother is still attending Rock Cave. He's in 4th grade this year and I truly think that he is striving. The last few years have been rough for him as well, but now you can clearly see that the new administration and strong staff members, the school is becoming what it once was. My mom also works at this school. She didn't want to attend the last few years. The mood my mom was in, she'd always come home and she was just exhausted from work because the morale just wasn't there. This year it's like she's attending a completely different school, one where she's happy to work. My brother is happy to go to school and I'm happy to see him getting the experience that I once got. My memories at Rock Cave are some of my favorite memories and I would really like to see my brother get the same opportunity that I did. Another thing that I wanted to bring to attention was when attending Rock Cave. It was about third grade when we started looking at what we wanted to do with our futures. What jobs we wanted to have, whether we wanted to have a job, whether we wanted to get married and be a stay-at-home parent, whether we wanted to fly to the moon, the possibilities are endless. They let our imaginations run wild. They told us that there were no limitations to what we could do in life. As far as they were concerned, the sky is the limit. But I remember one time in 3rd grade when we were to choose, we were to career path of interest to us and we were to present to the whole class on a day that called. Career day. I remember getting pictures with my little stuffed dog at the time because I wanted to be a dog trainer. In 4th grade, I was still in that same career path and I thought that was going to be my life forever. In fifth grade reality started to hit a little more or as much as it could. Anyways, I decided I wanted to explore medical careers. I remember my 5th grade teacher being someone that told me the sky's the limit for you, you can do anything you put your mind to, and nothing can hold you back. Here I am a sophomore in high school, that is still my degree. I've considered multiple different fields and every single one I've considered is a medical field and I know I still have two years left to learn but rock cave truly helped me open and expand my horizons and taught me that I had no limit to what I could do with my life. It taught me that even growing up in a small town and a small school with a few people you can still grow up to do big things. I plan on going out of state to college and I already started applying for different scholarships, anything I can apply for whether that's writing an essay or writing a speech. I'm taking AP and honors classes currently and I'm dead set on going to college. One of my favorite things about rocky was when I become a senior in high school, I look forward to writing an essay and competing against my fellow classmates for the

scholarship given by rock cave. Not only the scholarship but being able to show off my grades that I've received and the accomplishments that I've made to the people who helped build me into the person I am today. If you close rock cave down there will no longer be a scholarship to give and that's not only for my class but for all the kids graduating which is disappointing because some kids could really use that scholarship for the greater good, it could change their lives in tremendous ways. By closing Rock Cave, we will all be losing that opportunity. Thank you for your time.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Pam Hissam.

Hi, I'm Pam Hissam first grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary School. I have been employed by the Upshur County Board of Education for 35 years, but most of you know those things about me, some of you may have heard me talk about my childhood at last week's Board of Education meeting. For those of you that did not, I will be repeating that speech this evening. First, I would like to explain why I feel that keeping small Community Schools like rock cave elementary open is important. One of the 1st grade West Virginia social studies content standards is collaborating to identify a community's need proposed a variety of solutions and investigate how individuals could participate to solve the problem period the rock cave community comes here tonight to practice this first grade learning standard. Sadly, in the last month the citizens of southern Upshur County have learned that the Upshur County Superintendent of schools plans to recommend to the West Virginia Board of Education the consolidation of rock cave elementary with French Creek elementary. We the citizens, former students, and business owners of southern Upshur County have come to this meeting to offer our Upshur County students an education at their own Community School. My speech offers you my personal testimony of the difference made in my life by attending rock cave elementary school and in turn the difference that it is made to many students that attended school in Upshur County period now, I would like to tell you about my childhood. My mom was 17 years old when I was born, she and my dad were married, and we lived in Gaines. My dad worked at Morris business forums and my mom stayed home with me. My mom was the youngest of 12 children, her family did not value education, therefore she quit high school, but mom wanted my life to be different and she realized that education was the key period when I was five years old rock cave school was offering their first half day kindergarten program and my parents enrolled me. Then, my dad bought a used car, he didn't like to spend money, but he bought it and helped my mom to get her driver's license. They did all of that so that I could attend kindergarten and my mom could pick me up everyday period from the moment I walked into rock cave elementary loves school. I received an amazing education. I had very good teachers each year. I was very quiet, soft spoken, and shy little girl. Missus Westfall was our music teacher she made sure that I received a leading role in

a school play one year to help me become more comfortable speaking in front of people. All of my teachers at rock cave elementary were amazing. The teacher who changed the course of my life was my 4th grade teacher Mr. stone. At the end of that school year, he asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. To that point in my life, I assumed I would grow up, get married, and have children. I never really thought about a career. I remember looking at that teacher and thinking what do you mean, what do I want to be when I grow up? Then he said Pam you're a smart person you can be anything that you want when you grow up a doctor, a lawyer, or a teacher, anything that you want. That started my thinking about growing up and pursuing higher education and eventually a career period from that time on I worked really hard to achieve my goals. I graduated from well Canon Upshur high school. During high school I investigated several career paths. I taught children's classes in church and at vacation Bible school. As I pondered the decision of a lifelong career, I realized I enjoyed working with and teaching children. Therefore, I decided to become a teacher. My greatest accomplishment professionally I feel is to know that for 35 years I have taught the children of this county lifelong learning skills. At this point in my career, I have taught many children and former students and last year I even taught the grandchild of one of my former students. It's such a pleasure to see former students and the amazing lives that they are living. I agree that public education is different than it was in 1990 when I began my teaching career, but answers and solutions need to be made with the best interest of our States and communities' children at the forefront. These children of today will be the community of adult leaders in just a few short years. Therefore, we need to consider the huge impact our small Community Schools have on the future lives of these children. Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Sarah Collins, and many others. All these great students from Rock Cave Elementary and the Rock Cave community have raised many questions and concerns about the closure of our amazing school. Please consider all this and consider what is best for the children of southern Upshur county as this very important decision is made.

Mrs. Craig: Thank you, Pam, Tim Troxel.

I'm Tim Troxel. I have a long list of questions, most of which you've already heard, and we have received answers too. You know as a concerned parent, business owner, and taxpayer citizen I feel like everyone in this room deserves transparency and answers. What alternative solutions were evaluated prior to proposing the closure of rock cave elementary school, and what were the specific reasons for not pursuing those alternatives? If any had been proposed, then why was the community not informed or involved? Has the board considered selling or timbering any vacant properties owned by the Board of Education to address financial or operational challenges? If so, what factors influence this decision, if not, why haven't alternative avenues been looked at before making such drastic decisions

that will affect our children and our communities in a negative way? How is the proposal to close the school even practical when the Board of Education has millions of dollars in unrestricted funds? Why can't some of those be used to keeping the school open? Why is the 2019 building inspection report which has been identified as containing invalid and outdated information being used as a primary justification for the school closure? The report gives a false representation of renovation expenditures which are not currently needed, lessening the financial burden of the Board of Education period. Have you completed a walkthrough of the facility and inspected it yourself? Have you removed discrepancies from the impact statement? If not, walk through our secure entry to the school. You parked in our parking lot which does not need to be milled or repaved, our greenhouse has still currently been used. pre-K classroom is still available along with the playground and many other things I can point out. What additional research or data collection was conducted to support the closure? Why wasn't a more comprehensive analysis not undertaken before making this decision since the process has only been happening since the end of August 2025? What is the rationale on limiting the timeline for proposals released to the final decision to only four months and how does this expedited schedule ensure adequate community input and review? How is only a four-month time frame of ethical and practice in making decisions that will cause a lifetime of changes for the communities involved? If Rock Cave Elementary Building is sold as requested by the Superintendent, how will the proceeds be utilized and what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure these funds directly benefit the local community? Have any local studies or polls been conducted on the impact of school closure for rural students' families or communities? Has a Board of Education or Superintendent discussed the impact of trauma or mental health on uprooted students and families with licensed professionals that specialize in this area? If not will the Board of Education accept the responsibility of their actions and provide adequate support to children or families affected by the closure at their own expense and not just a support of a school counselor but by an actual licensed professional? Has the board witnessed first-hand the traffic issues at French Creek elementary which were mentioned earlier? Traffic flows on route 20 during drop off and especially pick up during special events. You know people are parking in private lots because you've already heard this how is that considered safe for children and families? How is it going to be prevented if a merger happens when you're going to add at least an additional 80 vehicles to a traffic problem? Who's going to be held liable when a child or family member is a blatant disregard for their safety from this proposal? With the new proposed bus routes all requiring a waiver having children on them over the recommended time and also exceeding the waiver times, is this legal or ethical? Have any studies been completed to gauge the impact of school closures on local businesses? When school closes, it lowers property values in the area, which also lowers the amount of taxes

collected, which in turn lowers the portion that goes to public education. Have you looked at the amount of taxes lost due to this and how much that would be per year? The impact statement estimates cost savings of a little over \$800,000 per year to close Rock Cave, but it also includes the cost of staff salaries. If these staff move to different schools, you know, and you've already heard you're still paying that money. The financial savings would only be a little over 100 \$1000 that's by your numbers, how's that rational to make such a rash decision to close the school for that small amount of savings while sitting on millions of unrestricted funds while our children are having to pay the price for mistakes of adults that still haven't been held accountable for their actions. Please take it into consideration all the facts we're giving you. Your decisions are what we will be stuck to live with for generations to come.

Mrs. Craig: Thank you, Cheyenne Troxell.

Hello, everyone, it's me again from the last meeting. First and foremost, I highlight the procedural concern again regarding the submission of the impact statement according to West Virginia code 18513 A on the county Board of Education because it states only the county Board of Education is authorized to submit such a statement. The statute does not list the state appointed Superintendent or anyone else to carry out this responsibility other than the county. In their verbiage adhering to code, it is essential for the legitimacy of this process, and I urge the board to review whether the current submission aligned with statutory requirements. Turning to the facility section in your impact statement, that's what I'm going to be referring to. Facility section 3.2 I wish to draw the attention to inaccuracies saying that French Creek elementary student loading and unloading areas are adequate. Daily traffic congestion, as you've heard, is persistent and continues to be a problem creating unsafe conditions and logistical challenges. These shortcomings very serious concerns about the capacity of French Creek to safely and efficiently absorb additional students and the traffic. Section 3.2 E addresses the bus routes, and I must emphasize that the proposed changes would lead to travel times exceeding the 30-minute recommended limit from the state. The state waivers would expose our children to prolonged commutes increasing safety risk particularly in adverse weather condition with many students having nearly two hours of travel daily which exceeds the allowable per code 18 two E 5D of 45 minutes. The well-being of our students should never be compromised for logistical convenience. I respectfully request that sections 3.2 F student educational program and 3.2 G community be removed from the proposed impact statement. These sections are based on opinions rather than verifiable facts and the community was not involved in the formulation for the integrity of the process only substantiated and objective information should be included. The student enrollment section 3.2 A has major discrepancies with submitted numbers implying no issues with the

merger but according to the SBA form 134 data collection merging rock cave and French Creek would result in classrooms exceeding or reaching maximum capacities based off current enrollment numbers. The listed classroom Max capacity column for French Creek pre-K to kindergarten is limited to 20 and one through 5th at 25 according to the Max capacity regulations this discrepancy alone totally voids the request for a merger. Additionally the local birth rates are on the rise over the past four years shown in your chart this leaves no room for future enrollment placing unnecessary strain on resources and limiting educational opportunities for our children. Federal law US code 1701 declares that all children in public schools are entitled to equal educational opportunities. West Virginia compulsory school attendance law 1881 mandates that children must attend school. This merger would clearly violate these laws and codes by denying our children adequate and equal opportunities for enrollment. Facility section 3.2 DI must refute the claim that rock cave elementary's parking lot requires paving you can clearly see it out here that it does not present the immediate need for replacement in closing I urge the board to reconsider the proposed closure of rock cave elementary let us adhere to proper legal processes base our decisions on objective facts and ensure meaningful community involvement and decision making. The impact statement does not have appropriate factual information due to repeated incorrect information and statements based on opinion for the state board to make a final decision on this matter our children employees and broader community deserve a transparent and thoughtful approach one that truly serves the veterans of all of our children all of our children are paying the consequences for adults that did not have them in their best interest. There is not a value that anyone can put on their rights. There is not a line item on your budgets there are future and the decisions you make now will impact them for years to come. I want to thank you guys for allowing us to speak. I can't read through all of my list I will give them to you. I also have a stack of letters from community members that weren't able to speak today that I want added to your packet and they are mostly from licensed professionals that I work with. Thank you.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Amy Wilson Detamore

Hi, good evening, I'm Amy Wilson Detamore. I own route 20 diner and live right down here. I'm a small business owner and actually went to school here my kids went to school here and so did my sister. My dad has built the gym and the cafeteria. When I was in fifth grade and back in history, I look at what you're closing the school will have as an impact on not only these children and their families but the community and the businesses in this community. We've already lost a bank, a post office, and everything else in the community. My question is why are you wanting to close our school, a smaller school with smaller classes? Smaller classes will provide more education for our children. Look at Pickens although Pickens is in a different county but look at Pickens. A lot of great kids have come

from Pickens school. A lot of great kids have come from rock cave schools. Why now, why haven't the problems been solved beforehand? That's my biggest question, why are you taking money and putting it somewhere else and not putting it here? That's another question should we be putting money into things that we really don't need? I don't think we should be putting money into things that we don't really need, that's my opinion. As my closing statement which I'm not going to drag on I think you all need to really consider about closing Rock Cave school and what an impact it will have on not only our children, the families the community and the businesses around the area, thank you.

Mrs. Craig: Colin thank you, Amber Anderson

Before I start, I'm going to give you the rock cave version of the impact statement. My name is amber Anderson I'm speaking to you tonight regarding the proposal to consolidate rock cave and French Creek elementary schools into a single school. As you can see, our community is united in opposition to this proposal. As a parent of three children and one grandson who have already attended rock cave and still have one child left in the third grade I have a deep connection to this school community. I'm also in my 13th year as a special education teacher here at Rock Cave and my 24th year as a teacher in Upshur County. 5 minutes isn't long enough to even scratch the surface of why this consolidation is a mistake, but I've chosen my time to talk about what matters most, our students and the relationships we built with them. You'll hear about the budget from others but for me students will always be the heart of education; they are the most impactful tool. It opens minds, builds futures, and shapes a better world. Education means studying to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of a variety of subjects applicable to daily life. Education is not limited to just knowledge from books but also can be attained through practical experiences outside the classrooms. As our students have already said every staff member knows every student by name, that's the essence of who we are. We are a family supporting each other every day. Rock Cave Elementary proudly puts students first in everything we do. We build relationships nurtured through these walls every day with our staff and students shaping the community every day. Given the high poverty levels among our students many of them Are being cared for by grandparents or family members highlighting the unique challenges our community faces. Many students have endured traumatic experiences in their early life. Many of these students find comfort in a small school as the environment itself becomes a safe spot where dedicated teachers serve as their safe people. Transitioning these students into a larger school where they must adjust to new teachers and peers can be deeply disruptive, may intensify trauma, especially when established relationships are broken for financial reasons. We, the teachers, know our students, their strength, their dreams, and what helps them strive and thrive. If our families want them in a larger school, then why are they here? Families have the options to send

their children to French Creek, but they deliberately choose rock cave elementary showing the value they place on our school community. I also want to touch on an article from October 1st, 2025, when Mr. Hardesty addressed the topic of school closures and consolidation. He stated that private schools can't often accommodate students with individualized educational needs. The Hope scholarship has taken the state's best and brightest, leaving the public schools with the responsibility of educating children with social and developmental, and economic challenges. It left us with the toughest to try to educate. We'll take that challenge head on but it's hard it's very expensive to provide the services for those children. Let's take a moment to think about those students those labeled as socially developmentally and economically challenged. Students with IE P's and those considered the most difficult to educate, these are the students proposed for consolidation into a larger group. When they have a dedicated group of adults providing support they don't cost any more to educate than any other student at rock cave elementary. We don't shy away from challenges, we welcome the opportunities to support students and parents no matter how difficult the circumstances are. Students who value education build a foundation for their success. When students lack guidance they lose their compass and drift toward trouble. With dedication and care teachers guide their students to reach their full potential. It is inspiring to watch students grow and develop and when we see former students who have broken challenging family cycles and gone on to lead productive lives. Rock cave elementary is committed to building strong foundational relationships, employing exceptional teachers and engaging students. Miss Carpenter and I have provided after school tutoring to address learning gaps and our whole staff collaborates to strengthen school culture, implement personal learning, foster meaningful community partnerships and practically ensure the success of students. The proposal is presented as a cost saving measure however the Upshur County Board of Education has multiple unused properties that have not been sold or repurposed. Strategic management or disposing of surplus property to generate revenue to offset maintenance and operational costs potentially reducing the financial pressure that is being used to justify the closure without leveraging those existing assets is a mistake. The district may be revoking alternative solutions that do not require disrupting student staff and the community. Why allocate \$900,000 toward a virtual school program and \$81,000 for teachers instead of maintaining a brick and mortar school like Rock Cave? It would cost less to invest if it were in person learning. In person learning provides direct academic, social, an emotional benefit to students while preserving community connection and local educational opportunities. As I close I want to thank you for listening to me tonight and please keep our school open. We are more than a building thank you.

Mrs. Craig: Thank you, Mrs. Anderson. Elena Anderson Jones

Welcome to my school even though I am in 6th grade rock cave elementary school will always be my school. I started last year when I was in pre-K and finished oh wait no I didn't start last year but I started in pre-K and finished last year when I completed 5th grade. My mom went to 5th grade here, my uncle went to school here, and my brother is in 3rd grade. This is our school. My mom is a teacher here, so I still get to come back to visit. My favorite memory is when we did the hillbilly fun day. It was full of fun and games. Rock cave does so much fun stuff like dances and I've made friends here that will last a lifetime. They are so kind and the best coming. Coming from a small school I've learned so much math reading and all that good stuff so please reconsider your proposal of closing rock cave. Thank you.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Liezl Wimmer

Hi I am Lisa Wimmer I'm student council vice president of rock cave. I have been at Rock Cave Elementary school since kindergarten, and I am now in the 4th grade. All of the wonderful teachers at Rock Cave Elementary are sweet and the perfect amount of strict. They are good at helping you understand. They also teach us how to grow fresh veggies and fruits in our greenhouse, which we use in our everyday meals. Every teacher knows every kid and what we need. We all love each other and my mom says that they are all our momma bears and we are all a family at Rock Cave. Sure it may be a small school but we are very important. Rock cave kids need a school close to their home and it means a lot to our community. Because of all of my wonderful teachers and my teacher Miss Lentz I got second place At the regional literature fair. They always push us to do our best. We can't bear to see rock elementary school shut down. Country kids deserve a school with good teachers, a good education. Rock cave elementary is all of those things. Please help us fight for our school. Thank you for letting me speak today.

Missus Craig thank you Clara Wimmer

Thank you, my speech is way shorter than everybody else's. My name is Clara Wimmer. I grew up in southern West Virginia and the way it's raised in a family of educators from teachers to principals to head start directors and board members. When my husband and I moved to Upshur County in 2013, the thing I heard over and over from those family members was how great Upshur County schools were. I remember being so impressed with only the facilities but the amount of extracurricular activities available to students. My daughter aged 10 has already experienced ballet, archery, and speaking opportunities at the regional literature fair and learn so much from the greenhouse located right here at Rock Cave Elementary School. But more important than all of that her self-confidence and love of learning which I attribute to her not being in an overcrowded school in her most formative years period she's been nurtured and is thriving. Packing all the kids together into one school is going to rob her and all the students with this. When my daughter started

kindergarten in 2021 we were dealing with COVID restrictions. Given the timing of her enrollment we have watched from the beginning all the wonderful staff at this school having a constant stream of problems to solve. Even when faced with challenges that COVID brought they stayed positive and with much creativity put the children first period this school year a new chapter, it feels like a new chapter has started at rock cave. Things have gotten back to. We have so many wonderful teachers and our principal who runs a tight ship. This year doesn't feel like we're failing but rather that we have stood up straight and have dusted ourselves off. You can imagine how frustrating the timing of a possible school closure feels when everyone has worked so hard to bring the school back from chaos. In closing I would like to reiterate a conversation I had with my daughter. I told her I was nervous about speaking tonight that I wish I could be more like her because she never seems nervous and she said to me I get nervous too mom. You just have to keep thinking that maybe something you say will change things and save the school. I hope and pray that something someone says here tonight will save this school thank you so much for your time.

Missus Craig: thank you Michelle Strader

Hi, I'm Michelle Strader I'm a business owner and farmer. Thanks for coming out. I know it's a long night but hang in there with us. There's some of you I know and voted for, so I hope you take some of this to heart. A lot of things have already been said that I was going to say so I'm not going to repeat them. I just want to do a reality check. We have a business that's on route 20 on the corner of Eden Road and Route 20 and that's a bus pickup. If we change and close the school the amount of time that they're going to be on the bus will be longer. First off I'm not going to even mention the teachers or the kids that are here I mean I gotta say about these kids that are here how well behaved they are. I think the parents and teachers have done a great job and I think that says something for our community. Anyway getting back to the bus stop. If we extend the ride on the bus let's just suppose that right now currently that bus stop they pick up at 6:45 AM period now with the kids some of them don't live right on Route 20. They have to get in the car and drive a couple miles down the road to get to the bus stop so now we're talking about a little bit earlier bus pick up. If we change that imagine having to get up at least if you're a farmer by 5:30 in the morning. I'm talking about 8-year-olds or 6-year-olds just to get your rear and gear to get to school to drive down at 6:15 to catch the bus at 6:30. Buses going to pick you up at 4:30 because we've added 15 minutes to the bus route to get to French Creek. So now you got to drive home get your gear packed up and drive home so it's now 4:45. I don't know about you but my kids did not go to bed at 11:00 at night they went to bed one when they were eight at 8:30 so imagine having about four hours to get your dinner maybe you have to feed the chickens the sheep or feed the dogs get your bath and maybe even homework too. You

have to turn around and do this all over again the next day five days a week. I'm asking you to please review this again. I'm very disappointed in this impact statement there's a lot of things in here that you know you did based on some things from 2019. I don't know what it was I guess a survey or something or a review of the building and what needed to happen and there's some things in here that just don't make sense. I also don't understand why it wasn't there some kind of a focus group that involved people from rock cave to solve this problem to keep this school open. This is like the center of the universe for us. This is where we have our voting poll. This is where the Southern Upshur Business Association has the beginning of the parade that goes down the road. So I'm just asking that you really consider this and please search your heart. Please I don't have kids that go to this I didn't go to the school either but I believe in the people that come here. Thank you

Mrs. Craig: thank you Wayne straighter

Hi, I'm Wayne Strader I'm a CPA and have a business down here in southern Upshur County. My message to folks sitting here in the community is something I haven't seen anybody talking about. Economic development in 2006 Joe Manchin's government team came up with a new slogan for West Virginia they said we're open for business a couple years later we went back to wild and wonderful West Virginia which is perfect but we still are a community that working on developing West Virginia period so a couple of statistics that I pulled together. So, the US population from 2010 to 2025 increased by 33.4 million people, that's a 10.8% increase. In that 15 year. West Virginia stayed stagnant but my point is we're going to develop West Virginia period those people are eventually going to get here. We may be the last one; we're the 4th largest oldest median age state in the country. So those are some important things to keep in mind. West Virginia economic development office is quoted as saying we believe there's no better place to build and grow business in eastern United States than West Virginia. I think when we look at closing the school one of the biggest things that happens is infrastructure. Once it's closed, you let this building sit for six months and you try to come back and try to reopen, it's going to be hard to do that. I don't see this as a cost center; this is an investment in our state. This is an investment in our future, and it needs to be taken very seriously. As a state as a county and as a community when we start closing these schools down and combining them all the statements that people are making about the larger classrooms the economics the cost centers how we're going to make the budget work it's really as a state that needs to be looking at development. If we're looking at bringing companies in here the first thing that happens when you want to build it we need a workforce. The only way to get a workforce here is you have to have an area where we've got infrastructure. We've got the home base; they need to have good homes that they want to move into and one of the things that they're looking at when they're making that determination is they're looking at the school

systems. So, I went through and I pulled some of the main components of the economic development infrastructure including transportation, utilities, and social infrastructure. Social infrastructure is housing, health care facilities, and education systems. That's the three basics of that social infrastructure. West Virginia currently does have a workforce shortage which is which is obviously an issue that the state needs to work on. If we continue to close the schools and take away the social infrastructure all we're doing is making that workforce less likely to come here. We're going to have more people still continue to move away and you're not going to attract new business to come in here. We've got opportunities. We're in a technology world. We've got opportunities and places that those companies could come in here but if we don't have this school infrastructure in place it's going to be detrimental to that. A couple of other things that are pulled in; They're talking that school and housing are consistently ranked as top tier crucial factors for attracting new businesses primarily because they directly impact the company's ability to attract and retain a quality workforce. Businesses need a stable skilled talent pool and employees with families prioritize communities offering quality education and affordable living conditions. Quality education is obviously demonstrated by what this school has done. We've had some challenges and they've overcome those. We're now at a point where we're ready to be developed and move forward. We take this away once it's gone we can't get it back. I really want to the board to consider that we're looking at a state as a whole it's not just about the cost factor of what this school cost us and the fact that we do have a small budget period we're short on our budget yes there's some cost issues there that we need to go through. Additionally it's about you know the infrastructure it's important that we look to save this and keep it where it's at period enrollment is down but again as a state I've just shown in those initial facts over that 15 year in the census from 2010 to 2020 for the state of West Virginia we actually declined while the rest of the country is going up and we're eventually going to get those people from Pittsburgh. They're moving down, they're in Fairmont, they're in town, they're coming this direction. I see that development up there. I've been involved in a lot of economic developments across the northeastern United States. When you look at economic development, and education you have to have the infrastructure. That social infrastructure is a major component of being able to provide this. I just wish that all of you take that in consideration when you're making your decision here today thank you

Mrs. Craig Cullen thank you, Jeremiah Bennington

hello I was first here in October and I'm just a student and I love this school so I just hope you guys don't close it. I just love the school so much it's been around for 18 I think 1893 was when this building was built so a bunch of families have gone here for a bunch of times period so I just hope we just keep this place and justice keep it full with people and with

students with joy and happiness and I hope you see for the school people that they need this school to get jobs period now I can pay for stuff and count money and so school is mostly needed for an accessible life and if the school gets moved some people might move because it's further away from this school and stuff. So we just don't want other people to like leave where they settle that and just have a happy life never leave like I have never left. Thank you

Missus Craig: thank you Jeremiah, good job. Sarah Collins

Would you like for me to wait until the gentleman makes it back? I'll wait OK while we wait thank you all for coming out I appreciate the students I know you're tired because I am too I'll see you in the morning for breakfast OK.

Missus Craig since we're waiting for the gentleman to return let's take a 10 minute break and let you stretch your legs and those of you that are still standing there are open chairs.

Good afternoon and thank you for being here at rock cave school rock cave school is the best school I have ever been to this is for my daughter by the way please don't shut it down if you shut it down where are the kids going to go French Creek may have too many kids. When I graduate I would love to walk down the hallway at rock cave but if you close it my dream will be shattered. I have a bunch of friends and families that would love to see me walking the halls, please don't shut down. I have completed pre-K through part of 5th grade there. My 5th grade year was not a good year. Our class became overcrowded with 28 students and the learning environment became too much plus not having a teacher my mom pulled me and enrolled me in French Creek to finish my 5th grade year. I was thankful I had that choice. If you were to combine the two schools that would no longer be an option. Every time I visit rock cave I remember what I did while I was there. I get off the bus there a lot and when I do the teachers always have a smile on their face. When they see me it makes me feel happy to see them please have it in your heart not to recommend the closure of rock caves school sincerely Brooklyn Collins a past student rock cave.

All right on to mine period to whom it may concern I urge you to reconsider the closure of rock cave elementary school rock cave elementary school may be a small school with only 70 to 71 students this year but this been dwindling number is due to varied reasons. I could go on about the why but I prefer to look for the present and the future our students deserve our students deserve to be in a school that is close to their home and community.

Students look forward to coming to school each day and that is why rock cave has one of the better attendance rates in Upshur county. This school means so much more to our students than some will ever know. This school is their safe place. Years ago when I was in high school they redistricted the southern part of the county. This was due to low

enrollment. We need to look at the numbers of out of district students as a county not just rock cave. Why are students out of district? Looking forward we should be looking at getting students back into their home schools. Virtual school is another factor for low enrollment period this is a substantial number that continues to grow. We need to take a deeper dive into why children should be in schools. Backspace, where they can get a free education, receive 2 free hot meals. Right now it's free meals but in the future we may have to reduce those meals. Most importantly socialization. Having both schools creates lower class sizes. Just because we can have those numbers does not mean we should. We need to consider that smaller class sizes are open for more individualized learning whether it be for intervention for students who are filling in the gaps or missing stuff or providing enrichment for students who are ready to move to more advanced learning. Students are thriving at rock cave elementary school. I cannot see why you would want to close a school down that has made it into their sustainability year through the CSI comprehensive improvement schools. When scorecard for Upshur County schools Rock Cave has no red while other schools in the county do. In closing we need to reconsider keeping rock cave elementary school open because rock cave is Upshur County's best. That's a quote from Miss Lunsford she's a wonderful principal. Onto my last this is from our wonderful read aloud partner. I am not able to attend the hearing this evening and regarding the proposal closing rock cave elementary school I'm submitting some written comments instead. My husband and I have been residents of Upshur County since the fall of 1979 and active with the community. It is my pleasure to be a volunteer reader at rock cave elementary schools first grade I have been doing this for 16 consecutive years period why did I choose rock cave? My feelings at the time I began to read aloud was that often the outlying schools were overlooked in favor of schools closer to 1's home. Additionally the atmosphere of rock cave feels like family and I've come to feel part of that family. Yes, rock cave has experienced a decline in resulting in smaller classrooms. This is not necessarily a negative factor. Through the years I have observed the closeness of all staff and the students. All teachers and classroom aides, indeed all staff at rock have elementary school And each of the students are dedicated to ensuring a positive, environment. Smaller classrooms allow for more individualized teaching according to the students learning style and needs. My comments are not based on statistics but my observations. I feared that if you can combine the result will be overcrowded classrooms as well as a potential traffic jam during daily opening and Closings. What would become of the physical structure of Rock Cave if it was to close? Thank you for your time.

Missus Craig: thank you Kevin Campbell

I'm Kevin Campbell I'm a board member of the

southern Upshur Business Association and past president for more years than I wanted to be. I moved to Upshur county back in 2006 and bought an old school, I bought the old Adrian school and over the past 19 years I've heard a lot of stories about how things used to be in Adrian and it's a far cry from what it is now. The biggest challenge being the school closed, it was merged with French Creek. The Adrian community died off rapidly. I fear the same thing as potentially going to happen here in rock cave. The people in this community have worked tirelessly to support this school. For years we would have the principal of rock cave come to student meetings and speak about what was going on and we could help with events. We could help with funding we could help with support. For 34 years we've had the best Christmas parade in Upshur County starting right out here in front. It's the only Christmas parade that's in the daylight where the kids can show off. All that grandparents aunts and uncles can come out and take pictures of their kids twirling down route 20. We get to shut down route 20 for 45 minutes. As a parade coordinator for many years that morning I got to be the boss of the sheriff and told him when to go. The involvement between the community and this school is and has been incredibly impressive. I mean I came from Cleveland so moving to West Virginia to a rural community and seeing how people interact together it's amazing it's absolutely amazing. As president of SU BA I've also been a member of the Upshur County Development Association and a voting member and the biggest thing plaguing county development is education period we can't get people to move in a county and closing one school is a step in the wrong direction. Eventually we're going to get people here because they're going to be fleeing other places that can't afford it and we need them to come here. We need them to be able to expect that there will be good schools here. Small class sizes, excellent teachers or we're doomed. We'll just be another town in West Virginia that's drying up and boiling away. We can't afford that we can't afford to have another vacant piece of property sitting here they have enough of those now. You've got no value in this building unless it's a school and it's a tremendous value to us to be open. Thank you.

Missus Craig: thank you Burton Nutter.

Good evening I see familiar faces. I'm here for three reasons. I can't contribute what these people who know this community so well can but I have 3 perspectives. I met my wife at the freshman mixer. I met her at West Virginia Wesleyan she is from Connecticut and I am from Wheeling. We made a life here, we raised four children here. I've been trying to add to the atmosphere and the education for a long time. Some people know that I came here as a preventative law officer from the Air Force. We got here the 4th of July 1976 and I spoke at the schools and I deeply believe in Upshur County. I'm very active and Wesleyan's alumni organization. It's our home among the hills but if it's all there by itself and the outlying areas fade away we're in big trouble. This is the map it's a reproduction the big 16 by 4 it's

in the center hallway of the courthouse where I've litigated cases in this area for 10 years period war waiting for the Supreme Court to give us our final victory certainly hoping for that and that means I've been here a while. Recently a Wesleyan alumnus asked me to read his novels set in Vikings and Helvetia and holly Grove starting in 1924 up to now. The history it's amazing when you hear what we've done to chase out the Native Americans tear down our forest ruin our waters and then come back through the new deal and actually have a beautiful country. You know if you drive right over to Thomas and Davis those people from the east are just flooding into that area and it's just another 45 minutes over there and when stuff happens over there and I don't want to scare anybody when it happens they're coming here. But to do my research I've been in Pickens twice recently Helvetia twice I've been up on the hill the mountain we've gone to holly Grove I went to see the Curry library and had a great visit there. When you go through Adrian and you go through Helvetia and you see there are beautiful places but this place will be like those places if you close. Thank you for your attention.

Missus Craig thank you Connie Cutright.

Good evening I am here this evening as a parent of a former rock cave student, a concerned community member, and an Upshur County voter and county taxpayer. Before I begin I must say I'm very disappointed that at least a core of the West Virginia Department of Education board members did not have enough respect for our community and our school and school system to attend this important meeting tonight, yet they get to make the decision on whether our school remains open or closes. Without hearing from our community from our students and from our teachers it may be legal but it's not right. We have all read your reasons as to why Rock Cave Elementary has been slated to close and tonight we hope you are listening to our reasons for why it should remain open. Low intendance in an article I read about the school closing it's stated 26 students that should be attending rock cave elementary are attending French Creek elementary. If I understand correctly parents were not given the option of rolling their children in pre-K at rock caves this year. I wonder how many of those 26 were transferred because of parents not wanting to have children at 2 separate goals. I couldn't blame the 26 students that should be attending rock cave but they sure would bring rock caves attendance to 97 and that's without preschool numbers. Had they been allowed to retain their preschool program there could have been 20 more. The preschool program began more than 20 years ago. I attended a meeting here but may not have been here when rock cave elementary was on the chopping block because of low attendance and lack of funds at the county level. A local parent did a deep dive into the go to bed finances and found funds that no one seemed to know about therefore the funding issue was laid aside, the attendance issue was easily resolved by redistricting students back to rock cave. Why would this not work

again? How about all of the property that the Upshur County Board of Ed owns. I doubt that the Superintendent, the assistant Superintendent, board members, and certainly not the state Board of Education members knows where all of these pieces are located or if they have any potential use in the future for the school system. Perhaps some of these properties could be sold on the revenue added to the fund balance. It's difficult for us to understand wanting to close our school for funding issues when there are pockets of potential income out there not being looked at period one idea that was mentioned to me early in the school closure compensations included moving the board offices into empty spaces in the schools. My understanding from different news articles is that there is unused space about Canada Academy at least part of which would need major renovations in order for it to be used for student space. Would that space be suitable with minor renovations for the board of Ed to be housed there? The space needed for the board of Ed employees would not be as great as the space needed in the original plan of moving tennerton students there. The board of Ed property which is a prime piece of real estate could be sold to recoup the cost of renovation with funds to spare and the school system would have one less property to maintain and less empty space in the schools. The parking at French Creek school was not sufficient for the students they have now. I counted it before we left this evening 45 spots and you're looking at having 292 students there even if you die that was say each parent you might have two that's 146 students that would have parents coming. 146 that's not grandparents that just parents attending school events have to park down the road somewhere and either walk back to the school along busy route 20 sometimes with younger children and tow or ask someone to pick them up. The educational system encourages parents to be involved in intense school functions but how can they when there's no available parking specifically safe parking. Splitting their programs into grades or when you know pre-K throughs one of their programs. That doesn't work well if you have two children in school to take two days off or two different days off work 2 afternoons off work or maybe they have to choose. Oh Gee I get to see my daughter in her program but I can't take another day off now and go see my son. I'm pretty sure if you look at the cost of preparing the ground and paving time and make that a part of the record.

Mrs. Craig thank you Angel Moss

Thank you all for being here today and allowing me to share my son's story. Scott was diagnosed with bilateral central hearing loss which means he experiences permanent hearing reduction in both ears. Because of his issues with his inner ear or his auditory nerve he has permanent hearing reduction in both ears. Simply the signals between his ears and the brain don't travel as far as most people do. His hearing is unique, one ear picks up high pitched sounds while the other low pitched sounds. As a result the assistance from the hearing aids in the classroom amplification system is absolutely vital.

Without these supports even the clearest speech and instructions can be hard for him to follow. When we learned about his diagnosis we weren't anxious filled with questions Every parent would have. What do you see about his future with, will he be able to communicate what will his experience of life with other children be. Overtime we've come to see that hearing loss is just one part of Scott's story it's a piece that has inspired us to grow in compassion, patience, and love due to the extent of his hearing loss period Scott wears hearing aids in both ears. These small devices are truly incredible, they capture sounds from his surrounding and processes them and delivers them to his ears and ways that he understands. Every morning he puts them in I'm reminded of both his resilience and his amazing technology that supports him. We now refer to his hearing aids as a superpower because that's exactly what they have become. They have helped them tap into the world of full sound connection connecting learning making it unique strong and capable just like a hero's. Gadgets that helped him accomplish incredible feats. Scott's hearing aids empower him to experience the world in his own remarkable way yet not every day is easy. There was a time when he told me he didn't want to wear his hearing aids at school he said he'd like to be normal like everyone else and this broke my heart. I understand this desire to become and belong like every child period from pre-K Scott's teachers Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Hissom, Mrs. Stemple, they've played a crucial role in his development. Their dedication and his speech and language have helped them discover his voice bit by bit. We couldn't have done this without their kindness and commitment period their more the educators, their family they're not just educators to us they're family they have cheered Scott success and shown us education is rooted in caring as much as learning. To ensure Scott's hearing and he is able to hear his teachers they need to use the classroom amplification system. That's what transcends their voices directly to his hearing. This helps him fully participate in lessons. Without this technology every great teacher would be inaccessible to him. Scott faces challenges sometimes. The world's quiet or background noises concentration becomes difficult. Technology isn't foolproof the batteries die, connections fail and is hearing aids make a huge difference. Scott may one day face complete hearing loss period with rock cave school closing I worry, I worry about having larger classes. This could be even harder for Scott to hear his teachers. Every day Scott works tirelessly to listen focus and process his information and changes such as a bigger classroom and unfamiliar spaces he is just going to have problems. When you have 33 students with IE P's in rock cave and in French Creek combined . Scotts i.e. P it ensures that he gets the support that he needs. Thank you

Missus Craig: I can't read the first name but it's Elmore. Next slide yes my name is Lisa Elmore.

My name is Lisa Elmore. I come as a local business owner of 30 plus years period I come as a former student, I come as a parent a voting member of society. I just want to thank you all for coming tonight and I want to say thank you to all of these amazing people. I look at the sea of faces and I see them every day in my store and without these people it's going to hurt all the local businesses. You know it's way easier just to run into Adrian's dollar store and get your milk and bread if you have to go pick up a kid. So we're looking at impacting not only our students but their families the local businesses and that's incredibly unfortunate period I know that a low number of students is definitely something that you all are looking at quite sternly but you know these 71 children should not be penalized. If anything looking at your faces as they're speaking speaks volumes. These kids are ripping at heartstrings. They're sitting here quietly at 9:30 at night when they should be in bed. Tomorrow they're going to be foggy and miserable the school but they're going to show up each and everyone of them because that's what they do. I have nothing but amazing memories of the school. My favorite teacher lives right there on the other side of this wall. Gene Weimer just down the road scared me to death as a fifth grader. In fact 10 years ago at a funeral I heard somebody say behind me is that Lisa Elmore? My knees buckled because it was Jean Weimer and I thought the paddle was going to be somewhere connected with her but as it wasn't she was there for the services. I have nothing but fond memories and these children should be afforded those same hopes and dreams. Personally speaking I have a son that went to school he's now a teacher at the high school. He teaches mathematics, my daughter went here and got the promised scholarship when she graduated from high school and went on to become a dental hygienist period now my wallet is not grateful but my mom heart is. She's back in school to become a dentist so I personally know of doctors lawyers dentists teachers nurses important people on our community all started right here in this tiny little school. We're not fancy look at us we're not fancy but we come hard you know we celebrate together and we grieve together and my hope is that we don't ever have to grieve losing the school. It's just something that should never ever even be considered. I know money it's always about money but sometimes you have to look past that there's exceptions to every rule. When I went to school there were paddles involved. When I went to school Eugene could strike a piece of chalk across the board that would make you buckle at the knees because he made the most perfectly straight line to teach you cursive on. Those are things that these kids I mean you don't need fancy things we don't need that what we need is teachers obviously. We thought we had to have students who were involved and dedicated to their school look at these kids look at them they're all sitting here just being angels I mean if that doesn't speak volumes to you then nothing will but like I said earlier looking at your faces while these kids are speaking you know you can be as tough as nails looking at me I can't hold a candle to them. You know I'm just somebody went to school with them when it first opened. These

kids are here right in the thick of it now. Today's hard the world is hard the world is ugly kids should be able to be in an environment that is safe that the teachers know all the names of every student that goes here. The parents feel good about dropping their kids off because that's happening. I would just like to thank everybody for coming out and showing support and I would like to thank all of you for listening thank you.

Missus Craig thank you Tyler Shrieve

Thank you all for having us tonight. It takes a village to raise a man and there's a village right here and I don't know that everybody who's making decisions realizes the impact of having a community like this behind these students. I did not attend rock cave elementary I started out in Academy then I got district to union. When I went through my third grade year and having the time changes with the bus schedules and parents that were working I was blessed enough to have a grandmother that was able to get me and take me to the bus stop and that's something that perhaps not everybody here has. I understand the business perspective of wanting to utilize an entire facility and maximize what we can bring to that but as we've seen in many productions of vehicles and tools forcing maximum production often leads to things breaking Earlier and not lasting as long and with a community like this .Just across the road there is a farm that I've caught wind has been able to give students here Plants to take home and to have access to a greenhouse. These are skills and values that cannot be quantized on charts and numbers. So I guess that's about it.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Carolyn Davis

Good evening ladies and gentlemen tonight I come to speak for our rock cave elementary school. Rock Cave Elementary School isn't just a school it's a second home. I'm a former student of rock cave elementary school I graduated here from 5th grade. Yes, we are a smaller school the bigger doesn't always mean better period if there is a smaller amount of students in a classroom that means students can have more time for help from their teachers and bond more with their teachers like their best friends. I and other former classmates of mine have so many memories here playing on the playground little games competitions so and so. We all loved all of our teachers counselors and principals all of the field trips and granny wacky prizes all filled with fun. It came to an end for us at the right time. Why not for everyone else at rock cave elementary school they should have a chance to graduate from here. The bus rides are already pretty long why should we make them even longer? People that live in Salem Ridge and other places far away from French Creek and tennerton already have a long bus ride why shouldn't we make it even longer for high schoolers middle schoolers and even elementary schoolers. For their parents would have to drive even farther to pick up their kids if they're sick for an appointment if they're just going to a function at the school that's even more work for the parents not just for the kids.

I was a member of student council here in my 5th grade year, the treasurer and that was a lot of fun. All my teachers were great and my former classmates could probably agree on that with me. We went through some principles but they were all filled with fun teachers and all the things we scheduled and did. Dances field trips and all the field days filled with fun. Please save our school and don't shut it down. Thank you for your consideration have a good night ladies and gentlemen.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Caitlin Davis

Good evening my name is Caitlin Davis and I'm here tonight not just as a former student of rock cave elementary but as someone who still carries that school in her heart and isn't afraid to speak up when something doesn't add up. I went to rock from kindergarten through 5th grade. That school wasn't just where I learned my ABC's it was where I learned who I was. I remember being the first of my kindergarten class to count to 100 the 30 minute bus ride that felt like a mini adventure and the smell of a library yes the smell it somehow made everything feel safe. That library wasn't just for books it was our library our Art Room our music room our choir space and it was the home of the book fair. It was basically the heartbeat of the school for me. But what made rock cave special wasn't just the memories it was the people teachers knew us like really knew us they knew our favorite animals our quirks and how we learned best. That kind of connection doesn't happen in crowded classrooms it happens in places like rock cave period now I've read your closure folder and in Page 4 and enrollment 3 point 2.8 it says rock cave has room for over 100 students but only has 71 enrolled. OK so sure that is a big gap in numbers but let's be real education isn't about filling seats it's about giving kids what's needed to grow. You want full classrooms and sure that looks great on a chart and in a perfect world but we don't live in a perfect world nor on a chart. This is real life and full classrooms are just chaos and bigger schools like French Creek. Teachers are stretched thin kids get less attention and classrooms are packed. Students become just another name on a list period now let's talk about Buchanan Upshur high school. In the 2425 school year it had 11120 students in a building meant for 1300 that's an 86.15% utilization rate using your charts. And yes I know high schoolers aren't the same as elementary kids. I'm a sophomore I get it but learning is learning whether you're 5 or 15 and where classrooms are full teachers can't give every student the attention they deserve. Trust me I know the teachers they teach to the middle and hope everyone keeps up that's not growth that's just getting by and now let's talk more about money because I know that's the real reason behind this. You say your biggest cost is personnel. Here's the kicker you'll still be paying those salaries, you're not cutting costs you're just moving them around. The teachers won't be at rock cave but they'll still be on the payroll somewhere else. So if saving money is the goal closing rock cave doesn't do that it just messes with the community and hurts the quality of kids education while the big

cities expense stays exactly the same. Let's look strictly at the numbers the official binder claims. The official binder claims the rock cave staff cost is \$1,456,145.32 but there's a spreadsheet compiled by my mother and other staff using actual salaries for each position and it shows that the real total is \$784,242.70 that's a difference of 671,935 dollars. That's not just a mistake it's a massive inflation and if you're making decisions about closing a school based on flawed data this whole process is going to need every serious reality check. Rock cave isn't just a school it's a place where kids are known supported and given the space to grow. Where learning isn't rushed and teachers actually have time to care period Speaking of caring I remember in first grade whenever I was little during a test I thought I did horrible and miss Davis sent me down the hallway to talk to our counselor miss Lance and she made it seem like it was just a paper delivery but I really was upset about it and she could tell just by how I was doing on the test period that is genuine teaching and caring I don't think you could go to French Creek and find that same thing so I'm asking you are you making decision based on what's best for budgets or what's best for students because if it's the latter rock tape deserves to stay open.

Mrs. Craig: my next one has two names on the line so I don't know whether you're presenting together Catherine Davis and Elena Bender I think you are. My name is Elena and I really want to save our school save our school because I really want to graduate from rock cave like my whole family did. Catherine Davis please don't shut down our school begin has the best playground. It is the only school that has a walking trail. Please don't shut our school down thank you.

Mrs. Craig: Thank you Catherine and Elena, Natasha Davis. Those are my kiddos so proud of them and my husband. I guess I'm proud of him too. I have a lot of things that I've written. I've made phone calls and I've emailed a lot of my same sentiment. My same sentiment has been echoed here tonight so I just want to reiterate those obviously we all oppose this closure. It would affect a lot more than just 71 students. It affects our whole community and we urge you in the state to take a look at other options to see if there is a way that you can still afford to keep us. Keep our kids here. If after you look at all the options and justice absolutely have to break our hearts and close our school and alter our community I do ask that you at least delay to add the additional parking needed at French Creek because that would put our kids in danger. Because I'm very active at this school and I wouldn't be at French Creek as well it's a great school I love them I would fight for them as well so when I go there if you would choose this school I don't want to walk with my four kids around walk route 20 to get to a program that's dangerous and it's scary and it needs more parking right now let alone when you add our kids our families our community members. So I hope that's in the discussion and I hope that's in the planning period ultimately I hope people don't close it I'm very good at fundraisers. I'm very active in PTO

and my fellow PTO moms are here. I mean I don't think we could fundraise 1,000,000 but we'd be willing to try just saying throw that out there but thank you guys we appreciate you coming and listening.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Natasha Justin Davis.

Let's go back to what she said about French Creek and needing more space. They've got what seems like a five year plan in place five years ago we wanted to upgrade this school. Let's just keep talking about the shutdown in five years it's going to affect the community. Think of the sickness attendance is going to go down when you start crowding rooms. Teachers will start missing kids will start missing property values like people's talked about just the safety of the kids at that school parking lot. Here is pretty safe school's pretty good teachers kick ass I mean can't really ask for much more just please reconsider I don't want to see it happen that's probably about it.

This is Craig: thank you Justin Alyssa hope

I'll be honest when I first wrote what I wanted it came out pretty bitter that's what happens around here when you're fighting for your children. But I've taken time to breathe to process and to make sure my words reflected both my passion and my love for this school. Good evening everyone my name is Alyssa hope and I'm here tonight not just as a community member but as a mom a mom who has watched her child grow learn and find fine themselves inside these school's walls we're here to talk about when I heard the word closure my heart sank because to me into so many of us this isn't just a building it's where our kids take their first step towards independence. Where they learn to read their first words and where they start to believe in themselves. It's a place where teachers know your children by name or the cafeteria lady asks about their weekend and where their principal greets them with a smile every single morning. And we are beyond thankful for Amber Lunceford our principal that's not something you can create everywhere else. My son Lucas started here scared and unsure. I still remember the mornings watching him cry as he walked into the school nervous and overwhelmed and I remember the teachers and staff who met him right at the or who knelt down to reassure him who took his hand when he needed it. This school didn't just teach him it held him overtime period because the people inside this building I watched that same little boy walked himself into school confidently proudly and without tears. That kind of growth doesn't happen everywhere, that happens in a place where kids feel safe supported and truly seen. This school gave him that gift. As a mom I see what this school gives our kids every day. Safety stability and love and for some children this is the only safe place they have period this is where they get encouragement when home life is hard this is where they feel seen if this school closes it's not just about longer bus rides or different teachers it's about taking away their home base.

For many small town families like ours this school is the heartbeat of the community the place that brings us together for Halloween parties Christmas programs. And the community outreaches without it a piece of our town soul goes missing. I know numbers and budgets matter but I also know that hearts matter too. I lost my place I know that hearts matter too and the hearts of our children should never be the price we pay to balance the spreadsheet. Please before you make this decision think about the faces of the little ones walking those hallways. The ones who proudly show you their artwork on the bulletin board are the ones who still wave to their teachers long after the bell rings. Think about what this school means to them. As a mom I am asking not in anger but from the deepest place of love please don't take this away from them let's fight for our school for their future and for their community that is some of these Children's Village.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Jeremiah Jeffries I'm a Buchanan high school senior who attended rock cave elementary kindergarten through 5th grade. I have been awarded the distinguished honor roll a first generation college student and I am in the top 10% test takers and be US. None of this would have been possible without rock cave elementary and the education I have received the education I received at rock cave was a good foundation. The teachers and students were close knit like a family. All the teachers knew each kid there. Still close friends with kids that I met in kindergarten. I feel that I have an advantage being taught at a smaller school because the teachers were able to help us individually in the way that we learned best. We were held individually accountable as well I have entered the past 2 summers at community care and rock cave and play into again this summer. I will be going to WVU in the fall of 2026 to pursue a degree in accounting. Ideally I will be employed with community care after graduation. I have also received an informal offer from the local fire department for accounting services once I graduate. I am concerned that a fraught cave elementary closes the community will suffer and my local work opportunities will be limited period I would like to live work and raise my family in the same place that I was raised. Before I interned at community care I was planning to move out of state. If young West Virginians are to stay in West Virginia there has to be something here for us. I think that closing rockabilly material would definitely be a move in the wrong direction. Rock cave is currently a stable little community. If you take away rock cave elementary you take away the basis of this opportunity and will most likely cause a lot of harm to the community as a whole. I was worried about how the closure and empty school will be a symbol of loss and decline for our small community impacting families and businesses so some of my questions for the Board of Education are what will happen to the building, will the Board of Education still have to pay for upkeep such as heat electric and lawn care or will it waste away and leave a giant eyesore in the community causing new families to choose to live elsewhere. If paying for upkeep what will that cost be versus

keeping the school up and running. The school grounds serve as a safe place for our community and families to be healthy and outdoors. With the community be able to utilize the playground and walking trail still? Would the building be sold and if so would the price be reasonable for someone to purchase? Where would the funds from selling the building go to? Would the board of Ed pay for the upkeep such as lawn care and heating or for plumbing until it is sold? If so how much is that how much will that cost and also where would voters in that precinct vote? School closures should be the last resort when balancing the budget. We heard at the end of the last school year that hodgeville and Washington district elementaries were on the chopping block. That idea quickly went by the wayside the day before the official started the school year. We learned that 10 or 10 and rock cave elementaries are in the danger of closing. The application submitted to the SBA for work that needed to be completed for Buckhannon Academy would be to absorb tennerton elementary was dated for September 11th 2025. This application shows local funds committed to be \$1,898,913. It is stated in a document September questions and answers foreclosures posted to the BOE website and the answer to the question do we currently have the funds to support this project the answer was yes in carryover from prior years period once the financial statements are finalized we will have the knowledge of estimated funding support in the form of carryover from fiscal year 2025. Fast forward October 21st 2025 it is reported that the closure of tennerton and merger with Buchanan Academy is no longer recommended because the county cannot secure funding. Thank you

Mrs. Craig Coleman thank you, Jan Barron. Hi I'm Jan Baron I'm not a parent of a student that's ever been in any school in Upshur county but I have been a part time member of the county since 1990 and I am member of the settlers club in Indian camp and a lot of you know we have the best social in the county. I came to speak about how important your second grade class is to us but I have a few other things I'd like to say too because I didn't realize how passionate I could become about this just sitting here for a few hours. Mrs. carpenter's second grade class comes to see us and that's a part of their education they're reading because they're reading about little house on the Prairie and how things work quite a few 100 years ago. They learn a lot by learning their history, our history of Indian camp and we appreciate it because they're taking our history and sharing it with friends and their family and they're helping to keep our history alive. If you don't know the history of the of Indian camp and the walks it looks like Indian and what really happened out there you're welcome to contact us come see us we'll give all our classes a tour because we love Indian camp and that those children are keeping our history continuing. That's an important part to us and we feel like it's important for them to learn history that was what I was supposed to say. I want you to know I raised my kids in North Carolina their classes were supposed to

be 24 to 26 kids their classes were up from 31 to 35. I have two brilliant sons they both have ADHD and if it weren't for the fact that it will work for them they have a very intelligent mom I knew they would have graduated because they didn't get the attention they needed because they had 31 to 35 kids in the classroom so when they come home from school mom had to make sure they got back on task they finished their homework and they learned the things they knew. I'm a preacher's kid I went to five different schools and 1/3 recession of what we called correspondence school back then. It would be online score homeschooling now what I would have given and still would give to have a school that I could walk through the hallway now and say I went to kindergarten at that room first grade there second grade there 4th grade there to have that heritage would have meant so much to me. If my family budget was screwed up by some nefarious means and I had prime property that could pay for it and for my kids to go to college I would be a fool not to sell that prime property and pay for my kids education period if the county Board of Education has property that is sitting in use but is having taxes on it has had upkeep on it and can be sold to solve financial insecurities for schools I would do that. I do vote I vote every election since I was 18 years old I'm going to vote the next election. I think that the financial aspect of this really needs to be looked at and find out where those extra dollars are hiding. If I need to look at it for extra money in my family's budget then a Board of Education, a county A nation should not make anyone pay especially children if there are funds available. My last question is not about rock cave but about the middle school and the high school. I've only heard this tonight, have you consulted professionals in child psychology to see what would be the detriment to middle school children going in with high school children. I have teenage grandchildren and I know what the detriment could be when you mix middle schoolers and high schoolers. They don't need to be in the same school they have too much that they know too early now and you really need to talk to a child psychologist before that would ever be considered thank you for your time.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Elijah Carpenter

I don't really have a speech prepared it's more like voice note thoughts that have been transcribed on my way to and from work so bear with me. Here I am a single dad full time dad and full time slave to my work so I'll leave sometimes 4:30 to 5:00 in the morning and don't get back home until 6:00 so I r so I rely on family and friends heavily with my daughter getting to and from school doing extracurricular activities and stuff. So moving to a school further away not knowing mine there's other families that you know grandparents take care of the kids we're closely involved in raising them and getting them in their own school so that's just a major complication you're going to add to a lot of people's lives. I know you know the county's trying to save money and find solutions I just have looking for the right solution what's really going to cost is the kids and the parents the teachers the staff the

families that's who's really going to have to pay for this If it goes through. But a lot of kids in the far reaches of this side of the county have the long bus ride and you know a few miles several miles and several more minutes is only going to add to that and just really be heard on the kids. I'm not sure on specifics on this it's a question I have period I know just a couple years ago I drove by and I noticed they had done a lot of work to the roof of the school a lot of new units out there and I don't know if they resealed the roof or what. The units were put up there but I'm sure it was expensive because you know units are pretty large they just put a lot of money in putting secure entrance in so there's been a lot of money put back in the school. It's a clean tidy nice school man I mean if you look around it's super clean super tidy from the outside. If you look even if you look up on Google Maps you look by the playground beautiful you know the school's nice and tidy it's a good looking place and we hate to see it you know grow up and be abandoned and just an eyesore. If you all close it down my daughter Lily she has so much pride in her school like she bleeds rock cave white and blue since day one she loves this school always has always will. The teachers and the staff the teachers the staff and the atmosphere of the school they tribute to her being so confident and has helped her shaped her into the person she is. I'm super proud of her super proud of the school for helping her. Our children you know they're in school more than they're at home so it's like their second home or their first home really. If you will teachers and staff have a major influence on them and in this school everybody's pretty close tight knit almost like a family that's why it's so important to have teachers and staff and a school and the parents to trust and believe in each other and I feel that moving our kids to another school is going to create a lot of unrest and uneasy feelings among the parents the kids and the teachers. It'll be like starting all over again for us. It'll be like starting all over again the teachers there's teachers here now that were here when I attended elementary school and that's just a rare experience that you're not going to find anywhere else in small schools like rock cave. I just want to invite any of you all on a school day to come and walk through the halls and just feel this there's just there's an embodiment of positive energy here that just vibrates through the whole school and through every student staff and parents. That's why the parents are so involved it's a great place. I've never really experienced anything like it and I invite you guys to come in on a regular day and see what that's like. I know that the modern way of thinking the modern schools and stuff you just want to pack students in and just want to see numbers and stuff like that but you know really should think of each kid as a student of education not just a number. It makes it harder on the kids the teachers and the staff and even the parents at home when they get packed in small right classrooms with big classes. I don't know why you want to pack elementary schools into a little place like sardines it already happens when they get to middle and high school. They're in a melting pot all kinds of different walks of life and students so I don't know why you want to you should grant children K through 5

the privileged to have that small group community feeling as long as they can because once they get to middle and high school they get thrown right out to the thick of it. So I feel that it's essential for students to fill that small group and to be able to know the teachers on a personal level thank you.

Missus Craig: thank you Liliana Carpenter

Hi my name is Lily and I don't want our school to be shut down because our school has so many loving teachers so many happy students. Sure our school is not a big school it is a school that has had a lot. Our school has so much history and so much love. I've been in art since kindergarten it is really good school and our school has good attendance and has a good reputation from the students to the teachers. Everybody knows each other and treats each other with kindness. Our school is the best school that I could ever have period some students parents work a lot and make them go from their way to another school complicates their life. Some people already live far away from their school so moving them will make it even longer period I think that you guys shouldn't shut down our school. Our school is a really good school and everyone loves it everybody knows each other everybody is friends. Our school is a great learning environment, our schools are really good place please don't shut it down. OK I have so much good friends and I've been at this school since I was little. Our school is a very good place please don't shut down our school thank you I actually have a short clip I want to show you guys you've heard a lot about the safety issues at French Creek like whenever recently I showed this and I'll show you this. **(The next part is not audible or cannot be understood but anew person I believe is Sean Carpenter is stating what is on the video that shows the parents parking along route 20 and the safety issues and concerns that they have there and that was on a regular school day not when there is an event)**. Also many kids you know you're going to lose attendance even more because there's going to be a lot of kids and parents that will go to private school or home schooling if rock kid gets shut down so that's something to consider. There's a lot of business owners a lot of individuals that you know we've paid taxes in this district their whole life and you know it would be a appropriate for our kids to be able to go to school in the district that they live in. Obviously we've got a grocery store lots of small businesses and health clinic a pharmacy and many businesses that operate that pay taxes within the district. Again you know our students and parents deserve to be able to send their kids to a school that's in the district that they live in not that in the district you know 8 miles away 6 miles away whatever it is so we need to keep the school. It's a very important part of development for the community and also for young school aged children and their first years of education to be at a local school in their district. Just note that there will their will and that we will not let our school go even if it takes litigation. There are some wealthy members of the community that will dedicate time and funds to see that

the discrepancies of the state county and impact statements will be exposed and a battle will be fought.

Mrs. Craig: Thank you, Mary Hyre

Well it's almost over. My name is Mary higher for those of you that did not know me I've lived my lifetime in Upshur County. The past 30 years of it have been in rock cave. I worked with the Board of Education for 35 years including four years at French Creek elementary and I retired from rock cave elementary in 2017. Both are good schools but rock cave elementary is our school. As a child I attended Adrian grade school along with most of my family. I can personally see what happens to a community when it loses its school. Once the school goes a steady decline starts. The school is the focal point of the community and I think you all realize that this evening. I'm here representing the stargazer Garden Club and the rock cave Eastern Star alpha chapter #82, both have been very active community supporters of rock cave elementary school. We will start with the alpha chapter of Eastern Star. We have helped and pretty much started with the help of Amanda Craig the past principal the backpack program in this area. I ordered the food, I was the cafeteria manager, I ordered the food for the backpack program. Our members from the Eastern Star time and we packed backpack sweetly. Later we had alliance club and a couple of other organizations that came to help us and we alternated weekends. We were not allowed to pack backpacks for quite a while and then thanks to the new principle that is here now she is allowing us to pack backpacks but of course we have to pack them out there in that back wall because we can't get around the kids because we are old people and aren't going to go through background checks. We have sponsored the local Easter egg hunt for years and years we give away baskets and bicycles you name it we have around 50 kids that come out each year for the Easter egg hunt. Eastern Star also gives two \$500 scholarships every year 1 to a graduating senior from rock cave elementary and one to a graduating senior from French Creek elementary. I want you to know that regardless of what happens here this will continue so you kids apply, the applications that have been submitted by rock cave elementary students have been absolutely wonderful. I see them come in the door when they're this high and now I hug them when they're bringing me in here tonight. It's good feelings. Stargazer Garden Club planted most of the trees you see in this playground. The fruit trees you see on the side of the building down here were all bought and planted by the stargazer Garden Club. Members gardening started at rock cave as a monthly club. Principal Craig said ohh we're going we're going to have clubs we're going to try that and see how that works one minute one minute OK good OK anyway we built container beds and we started in with milk cartons and come up to container beds. We wrote grants and we have the greenhouse now and that greenhouse is being used. It may be only being used by two people right now but at one time we were using it and my question to you is if you

decide to close this there is still money in that fund and I feel that the greenhouse needs to be moved to French Creek elementary along with the children. If that be your decision and if you come short on money you give me a call I have contacts thank you

Mrs. Craig: thank you James tuning

Hi I'm Jason from 2000 December 2018 until August of this year I've had at least one daughter in this school. I still have two in this school right now but due to family members declining health we had to move to Tennerton to stay with them to take care of them and whenever we told our daughters that we were going to have to do that and then pulled them from this school it devastated them. My wife and I promised that next year we're going to bring them back up here. Yeah I'm going to do that I'm going to bring them back up here. 2018 is when our daughters were placed in foster care and my oldest daughter who is now a freshman at the high school found out we were coming up here and she said I want to go but she had a prior engagement and in like 10 minutes she wrote this and her name is summer tuning. The reason why I think rock cave elementary school should stay open is because I have been tossed from school to school because I was in foster care and I only remember rock cave school. When I started to go to rock cave school I was scared and nervous but all the teachers helped me through it. Rock cave school is the only school I can trust. Also I found my best friend there and everyone got the support that they needed. Also the cooks made sure we were fed. I would like the chance to walk the halls of rock cake school whenever I graduate. When this girl came into this school in second grade she couldn't read her name couldn't spell her own name in 2000 her third grade year that's when COVID hit. She struggled but the teachers were still involved even during that. They called they did all they had to do to keep her at the end of her year she had a 3.5 GPA. We told her I think it was about a month ago that they were going to be closing the school right now. She currently has four F's because she doesn't care anymore because she was looking forward so much to when she graduated.

Mrs. Craig: thank you Betty heater

hi everyone my name is Betty heater this is my son Keegan here and I just wanted to let you guys know some issues that you'll have to spend more money on him next year in his school. He has seizures and I was told last year that he could write a school bus because he has a narcotic that he has to take if he has a seizure and they told me my best bet was to drive him to school to and from. I work at community care they made arrangements so that I would be able to do that. If French Creek is full next year I'm not going to be able to transport so you're going to need a bus driver because they said the medicine can't be with other kids on the bus because it is a controlled substance and he'll need an aid he'll be in fifth grade. I'm hearing that's going to be 100% capacity. He doesn't have normal seizures

he has focal seizures and he doesn't shake and do all this stuff he just stares off. Him being in a school in a class with 30 to 35 kids they may not catch a seizure in time period he has to have medicine within 4 minutes so I just want you guys to know issues that you will have to take accommodations for him if you do close down our school here. Everyone here knows him and he's safe he knows if he has an issue his teachers will be there. They all know what needs to be done if he has a seizure. They all have the training because the nurses train them all. That's all the stuff that you will have to do for the whole staff at French Creek. Mrs. Craig then asks the young man if he wants to say anything and he does not.

Mrs. Craig: thank you this now concludes our portion of the public speaking. I will not ask administration to respond to any information that is presented. Mrs. Miller so one of the questions that was asked this evening was how much money is saved by closing rock cave asking about all personnel cost upkeep and utilities that is in the impact statement chart that has been put together by our treasurer at the board office. So the question is how much money is being saved. So when we're looking in the impact statement at the numbers the treasurer did provide those are based on items that she could pull from her financial statements including personnel costs which includes all personnel costs the peripherals which includes insurance taxes Social Security everything that has to be paid. So when we talk about a teacher or service personnel salary that doesn't include all of that and she has that all included in the impact statement. When we're talking about utilities and upkeep again she took what she had available based on a year's worth and then went back and looked at the average to come up with what the upkeep and utilities cost were. I believe the other questions have been about alternatives and if alternatives have been looked at period I know that there were some other schools that were mentioned one was Washington district which cannot be closed due to COVID rules. When you use that money which was done of course prior to my arrival it has to stay open for a minimum of 10 years due to the changes that were made in that school to their HVAC system. There were other considerations that we had to look at in hodesville not just transportation. There have been mention of selling properties timbering properties. That would be a one time influx of funding for this school system. As a school system we do not look at that. I feel we finally have what we feel is a pretty good list of properties that are sitting out there and we are working on taking care of those. A question was asked about unrestricted funds and why can they not be used. Unrestricted even though they're labeled unrestrictive and I will ask your ride to make sure I'm saying this right that is in our budget and our financial statements those unrestricted funds are still earmarked to be spent on certain projects and objects within a county budget period am I saying that correctly?

Mr. Uriah Cummings WVDE. OK yes so the question about the unrestricted fund balance came up several times tonight. There is currently an influx of funds within the unrestricted fund balance of the county however just some history and maybe some of you already know this period from 2016 through 2019 the county was in an operating deficit or like \$0.00 which means there was no money at all in the county to be able to put towards these things that we're talking about. Then we had COVID and COVID brought forth some additional funding from the federal level that really helped boost the fund balance of the county. Another thing that we really haven't talked about tonight in much detail is the fact that the county also had an excess levy in effect throughout that period of time as well which has failed and actually 2025 was the first year the county didn't have those excess funds that equaled about 3.5 million. So the fund balance that existed in 2024 which is in that on that impact statement when you look at 2025 and how they closed out. The county is actually down about \$2,000,000 so we're already seeing the trend of that unrestricted balance declining. So you know when the questions are asked how much money is needed to keep rock cave open there's really not a number. You know what we're trying to or what the county is trying to decide upon is how do we slow down that snowball effect because that's currently what we're in the midst of year over year now. The county is trying to find ways to keep some of what has been covered on the excess levy while also trying to maintain services and it's just this big hodgepodge of a perfect storm that's hit. Again they have to make certain decisions at the county level accordingly so I hope that helps answer that question as to why the fund balance exists. One other thing is that we advise at the state level that the county maintain a certain fund balance percentage which is 16.67% of the levies or the operating revenue of the county. With the most recent reduction of fund balance the county now falls below that recommendation so we have that recommendation in place in case of emergencies and so forth. If a county needs a roof replacement, you just don't know what's going to take place throughout the course of the year so there's a recommended fund balance percentage that the county is now below again.

Some questions have arisen regarding the outdated info on the facilities that are in the impact statement. Those were the only available ones that have been completed back when the comprehensive educational facilities plan was completed prior to any of us being here. It was for a 10 year. And the arch architecture firm that helped support the county in that provide that for us. Some have mentioned about an expedited schedule that we were following with timelines from policy. As we were working through this process and after decisions are made here this will go to the state board S. Asking about how funds are going to be used, we will be able to make sure that the budget as Uriah was speaking about has the funds necessary to keep the entire system functioning. We have looked at traffic at

French Creek and I want to assure you of that and the suggestion of making sure that we take care of those issues prior to moving the students there is a time frame that we can do that. We understand the impact of school closures on the public and the local community we do understand that because we do know that this does remove dollars from businesses and it can also impact your property values. We are very acutely aware of that and we also as several of you have mentioned things about redistricting the students being out of district schools have been looking at that. Mr. Reynolds the transportation and director and I have been looking at routes and looking at students with Mrs. Baisden where parents have requested that students go to out of district schools. We are looking at those redistricting lines again and with our open enrollment policy it does state that if there is not room in certain grade levels then we have to do a denial of students being able to attend those schools. Every dollar that we saved will be put back into the entire school system it's not going to go to any other place to help us but it will help us with our continuing issues like I stated at the beginning this is not easy it's not easy on any of us. We pulled data that was available to us and we did use a projection method because there's a lot of data that is not readily available and has not been certified. We are continuing to look at all avenues as we go through this process so I think I've hit on all the major topics that were shared this evening.

Mrs. Craig: this now concludes the public hearing portion. We do have future meetings one on November 18th at BHS at 6:00. The hearing for the closures on November 20th that is at 5:30 at BHS and December 2nd and December 16th at Buchanan Upshur high school. Do I have a motion for adjournment? Mr. Parker do I have a second Mrs. King all of those in favor please signify by saying aye we are now adjourned at 10:40 thank you all for coming

Speech Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Delivered by a Concerned Community Member and Taxpayer

Good evening, everyone. My name is Delora Brown, and I stand before you tonight not only as a lifelong resident of this community, but also as a dedicated taxpayer and a voter who cares deeply about our children, our future, and the values that bind us together.

I am here to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. Like many of you, I am concerned that our local tax dollars, and the votes we cast to support our schools, are not being respected or considered in this decision. Since our local board of education is currently under state takeover, it feels as though our voices have been silenced at a critical time for our community.


This situation raises serious ethical questions. Is it right for the state to make decisions with such lasting consequences for our families, our children, and our local economy—decisions that will impact us for decades to come—without truly listening to those who live and work here? What message does it send when local input is dismissed, even though it is our tax money funding these schools?

We must also ask: How will closing Rock Cave Elementary actually benefit our community? Will our children have better access to education? Or will they face longer bus rides, decreased parental involvement, and the loss of a safe and nurturing environment? Will property values and community spirit improve, or will they decline?

The research on rural school closures is clear: the disadvantages far outweigh any potential savings or perceived benefits. Studies show that closing rural schools often leads to declining academic achievement, lower graduation rates, and reduced community engagement. Our school is more than just a building—it is the heart of Rock Cave, providing stability, support, and opportunity for our children. When a rural school closes, the community suffers, and what we lose cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

I urge those in power to reconsider this decision. Let us restore local control and listen to the people who know this community best. Our children, our families, and our future deserve nothing less. Please, stand with us and keep Rock Cave Elementary School open.

Thank you.


Delora L. Brown, Previous student of RCES, Community Member, Tax Payer

Good evening, members of the board and community. My name is Cheyenne Troxell.

Before we begin, let's define what a **hearing** is in its legal and official sense:

- **An official meeting to collect facts about an incident or problem.**
- **A formal proceeding, often before a court or administrative body, to decide on a specific matter.**

Now, let's ask the critical question: **How is this process ethical when the state has taken over our local board of education—the very body that, by law, is supposed to propose a school closure per W.Va. Code 18-5-13a?**

Under the current arrangement, the state-appointed superintendent acts as the **prosecutor**, while the State Board of Education serves as both **judge and jury**. This creates an extreme and undeniable bias. Every decision-maker in this process is from the state level. Meanwhile, we—the community, the parents, the students—are treated as the **defendant**, given only **five minutes** to plead our case. We have **no legal representation**, and **no advocates** for the children whose lives will be directly impacted.

This is not a fair hearing. It is a predetermined process disguised as due process. When the same entity that proposes the closure also controls the outcome, the principle of impartiality is completely lost. The law envisions checks and balances, but here, there are none. Instead, we have a system where the state controls every lever, and the voices of those most affected—the families—are reduced to a token gesture.

I urge you to consider: **Is this truly a hearing, or is it a formality to legitimize a decision already made?** If the purpose of a hearing is to collect facts and weigh them fairly, then this process fails that definition entirely.

Our children deserve better. Our community deserves better. And our democratic principles demand better.

Objection to Acceptance of the Impact Statement

I must also strongly oppose the acceptance of the impact statement prepared by the state-appointed superintendent. This document fails to provide the factual information necessary for the State Board of Education to make an informed decision. Instead of presenting objective data and a transparent analysis of how the proposed closure will affect our students, families, and community, the statement is vague and lacks substantive evidence.

Without clear, accurate, and relevant facts, the impact statement cannot serve as a reliable foundation for any decision that so profoundly affects our children's futures. The absence of meaningful data undermines the integrity of the process and further erodes trust in the fairness of these proceedings. I urge the board to reject this inadequate impact statement and demand a thorough, fact-based assessment before any action is taken.

- You can reference the following sections to observe the inadequacies yourselves starting with the entire process itself per W. Va. Code 18-5-13a. Which states that the county must start this entire process. There are no new codes that I could find that referenced this process during a state takeover. Facilities section 3.2.b has inaccurate information on adequate parking at FCES other speakers tonight and the impact statement that we created shows clear evidence of this. Personnel section 3.2.d. has multiple discrepancies which can be compared throughout the impact statement packet. Student transportation section 3.2.e has incorrect information as bus routes will exceed even the waiver times. The student educational program section 3.2.f and community section 3.2.g should be removed as they are only based on opinion rather than facts. Student enrollment section 3.2.a has major discrepancies claiming no issues but based off of enrollment and birth rate numbers classrooms will exceed the max capacity at FCES. Facilities section 3.2.b. is inaccurate you can inspect it yourselves while at our school. WV SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form Site Evaluation is from 2019 and totally inaccurate as you can see many of the listed renovations have already been completed.

Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

A Business Owner's Perspective on Community, Education, and Economic Stability

Introduction

Good evening, my name is Tim Troxell, and I am the owner of Raven Contracting LLC. I stand before you today not only as a local business owner, but also as a tax-paying citizen who deeply cares about the future of our community, businesses, and the well-being of our children. I'm extremely frustrated over the mismanagement of funds from the previous administration and the current decisions, proposals, and so-called good ideas from the current administration! Your actions have been an absolute disgrace to our children and communities. Instead of individuals having to take responsibility for their actions our children have been left with this burden. It has been stated by you guys that there are millions of dollars in "unrestricted funds" currently and knowing that RCES was already budgeted for how is it even a possibility that we are standing before you today pleading our cases? This sounds to me like yet again another mismanagement of funds is happening robbing the taxpayers, children, and communities of their right to a fair education.

The Heart of Our Community

- Rock Cave Elementary School is more than just a building; it is the heartbeat of our town. It is where our children learn, grow, and form the connections that will carry them into adulthood. The decision to close our school would ripple far beyond its walls—it would impact every household, every storefront, and every family in this district.

As business owners, we pay our taxes with the understanding that those funds will help strengthen our community—providing essential services, improving infrastructure, and most importantly, supporting our local schools. The

children of Rock Cave, many of whom are the sons and daughters of business owners, deserve the right to attend school within their own district.

The Economic Impact of School Closures

Research has consistently shown that closing schools in rural communities can have devastating economic effects. According to studies from the National Education Policy Center and the Rural School and Community Trust, when a local school closes, it often leads to a decline in population, reduced property values, and a loss of jobs. Businesses, such as mine, rely on a strong community to thrive—and that strength starts with a local school. Since you are all so worried about your own funding and nothing else, just think about what will happen when the property values drop, job loss, and closure of businesses happen. You will receive way less money from your levy. Your actions will and do have consequences.

For lower-income areas like ours, the impact is even greater. School closures disproportionately affect families who may not have the means to transport their children to distant schools, leading to decreased attendance and engagement. All of which is required for them to receive funding and maintain qualified professionals. You are setting them up for failure with this proposed merger. When families are forced to relocate for better access to education, small businesses lose loyal customers and employees. The economic well-being of our community is threatened and the chance of it to have a future is diminished.

Social and Emotional Consequences

Beyond the financial fallout, closing Rock Cave Elementary would break the social fabric that binds us together. Schools act as community centers, hosting events, meetings, and gatherings that foster pride and unity. When a school closes, families lose a safe space for their children and their hub for community involvement. The sense of loss and isolation can be severe in rural and lower-income communities, where alternatives are limited. Use of the playground and pavilions for birthday parties and after school activities would

no longer be available, as you all stated that you intend to sell the property. Property that was purchased by the tax paying citizens of Upshur County for the sole purpose of providing a school to the area! Not to mention the fact that the citizens don't get to have a say so on this matter other than getting their 5-minute plea today, which is disproportionately unfair.

Call to Action

We must recognize that the closure of Rock Cave Elementary is not simply a matter of budget cuts—it is a decision that will shape the future of our town for generations. As tax-paying business owners, we urge you to consider the profound consequences for our children, our livelihoods, and our community's wellbeing. Let's work together to find alternate solutions that keep our school open and our community strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Let's stand united for Rock Cave, for our businesses, and most importantly, for our children.

Sincerely,

Tim Troxell
Raven Contracting LLC
Owner

Good evening, my name is Abigail Jeffries. My children who are now a BUHS senior, and Sophomore at WVU, attended Rock Cave Elementary K-5. I volunteered extensively within the school during that time. Most recently I was a foster parent to children who attended both Rock Cave and French Creek elementaries. Today I am speaking as a concerned community member.

I, along with many others, feel that closing Rock Cave Elementary would be a grave mistake, with effects that would be felt for decades to come. My opposition to the potential closure is multifaceted and it has been difficult to decide what aspect to focus on during this allotted time.

I have chosen to discuss the prudence in making such a far-reaching and permanent decision so hastily (14 weeks and 2 days from formal announcement to final vote). And while I much prefer that Rock Cave Elementary remain open indefinitely, I have challenged myself to consider possible options and solutions to the problems that have been noted by those in opposition to the current proposal.

My greatest concern is for the children of BOTH elementary schools. Children whose safety, health and education should NEVER be compromised. Children who WILL suffer effects should the proposed closure and merger proceed. These effects could be minimized by a true partnership between the Board of Education, the students, families and staff of both schools, and community stakeholders. One that allows time to construct a solid foundation where the success of ALL students can be built on.

The safety and health of these students is of utmost importance. Rock Cave students would be moving from a school that currently has a safe entrance to one that does not. This move results in an even greater potential for a mass disaster. Additionally, there is photographic evidence of overcrowded lots and overflowing parking that reaches to Route 20 and beyond during student pick up and special events. A merger would undoubtedly cause larger class sizes that would be a breeding ground for sickness (e.g. Covid) and could lead to increased or overlooked issues with medically fragile students. It would be prudent to address the issues of safe entry and parking lot expansion prior to a merger and construct a solid plan to minimize the impact to the health of students and staff.

The entire reason we are all here is EDUCATION. When researching the topic of the effects of school closure, I could not find ANY articles that did not include the decline of test scores, attendance, parent involvement and student morale. All articles indicated that these effects were even more pronounced in rural areas. As per prior BOE meeting minutes, there have been marked improvements on benchmarks and attendance. It is not prudent to reverse these positive changes with a hasty decision. At risk students should be

identified prior to any merger with plans in place to ensure those students continue to build upon past growth and do not get lost in the shuffle.

In closing, while reviewing the approved BOE meeting minutes for Sept. 11, 2025 , under the WV Department of Education section, I noted the quotes by the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Jeffrey Kelley ; “put kids first”, “ prioritize teaching and learning and putting kids first” , and “ prioritize kids, teaching, and learning.” If those quotes truly reflect the mission of our WV Board of Education, then I am confident that they will decide that Rock Cave Elementary School shall remain open, until measures are met to ensure the success of ALL our students.

Respectfully,
Stigal Jeffries

Preserving Rock Cave: A Plea for Our Students and Community

Good evening. My name is Autumn Loudin, and I am talking to you as a parent and a voice for the countless families who rely on Rock Cave Elementary. I am here to plead with you Mrs. Miller to **reconsider this harmful proposal** to close our beloved school. This is more than a logistical decision; it is a moral one concerning the well-being and safety of all the students, their families, staff members, and the community.

1. The Educational Impact: Why Smaller Classes Matter

I want to talk about classroom sizes first. The Impact Binder focuses mainly on capacity, stating that we *can* have up to 28 students in a 4th or 5th-grade classroom. But I ask: **Does *can* mean *we should*?** I believe that would be a step in the wrong direction. Both schools have proven consistently that smaller class sizes are essential for student success and test scores. There's been so many studies in the last 25 years that have demonstrated that students in smaller classes consistently **outperformed their** peers, with the greatest gains seen in high-needs students. In 2021 Rock Cave Elementary was a high-poverty school, with **over 63%** of its students identified as economically disadvantaged. That was the highest percentage in the county. This population benefits most from intensive, individualized instruction. Consolidating ensures overcrowded classrooms, leading to less attention, more behavioral disruptions, and teacher burnout. We would be sacrificing proven academic success for administrative convenience.

National Center
for Education
Statistics
Review

2. French Creek's Parking Lot: A Safety Hazard

My second concern is the impending **safety hazard** of French Creek's parking lot. The Impact Binder's claim that French Creek doesn't need additional parking is false. The **2019 SBA Review** already identified the lot as **inadequately lit** for safety. If it was inadequate then, how can it handle a massive influx of new families?

In the last few weeks after work, I've gone through French Creek multiple times and witnessed:

- Cars lined up all the way down the school's driveway to the **main road at evening pick-up**. Causing some to drive somewhere farther down the road so they could wait to pull in.
- I've witnessed Halloween Party over-flow parking on the sides of the main road and we have
- Families telling us that they park at the Dollar General that's .4 miles down the road so that they can carpool to the school to avoid the chaos.
- I also witnessed families forced to park at the Post Office lot—despite the "No Unauthorized Parking" signs

- Vehicles parked around the "NonParking" signs to the right of the schools driveway that belong to the school's neighbor, which were originally put there because of property damage that happened to the the neighbor's land from the families parking there in 2023.
- I also seen Over-flow parking .3 miles down the road in a private lot that's actually for sale and isn't even visible from the school. .

We would be adding Rock Cave families to a system that cannot safely handle its current enrollment now. This is an accident waiting to happen. I have pictures to give you after I'm done rambling.

3. The Busing Burden: Hours Lost to the Road

Finally, I must address transportation. While the students will be allowed to be on the bus for 45 minutes, that amount of time should still be completely unacceptable for younger students and kids with specific needs or health problems. The Impact Binder suggests getting a new driver and bus routes, yet we have faced persistent **bus driver shortages** for years—to the extent that routes are sometimes canceled. We also need to factor in substitute drivers who don't know the exact stops, and inclement weather on difficult routes like Salem Ridge, Pritt Mountain, Hunter's Ridge and Cherry Fork. We are on one of those routes and it is nothing new for the bus to be over 15-20 minutes late. Imagine a six-year-old on an unlit, icy road, spending 45 minutes up to over an hour on the bus *before* the first bell. This exhaustion impacts their focus, their performance, and their family time.

A Call for Trust and Transparency

Mrs. Miller and Board Members, the majority of Upshur County opposes this plan. Closing schools without exploring all financial alternatives is a hasty and reckless choice that should not be taken lightly by any of the parties involved. I strongly urge the decision-makers to be on the right side of history and allow our Board of Education and the people of Upshur County, the people who live here and know our county's needs the best, to have the time to truly explore every single viable financial and structural option. Please put our children's best interests—their safety, their academics, and their welfare—at the heart of this decision and **keep Rock Cave open.**

Thank you.



10/31 Cars parked by a very busy main road



10/31 bottom of French Creeks driveway



10/31 Private Lot that's currently ""For Sale" .3 miles down the road (Not viewable from the school)



10/31 Every parking spot is filled (concrete and grass)



Families even parked where there is "No Parking Signs"



10/31 Some parked at the post office, where there is ""No unauthorized Parking" Signs



10/27 Pick-Up Line goes to the road. Some had to drive past and wait until the line died down.

French Creek Elementary School
May 6, 2021

We appreciate our families' patience this evening when buses were behind schedule and traffic was backed up! Thank you for being understanding with us, making adjustments and changing your plans to get all of our students home safely! We truly appreciate you all!

Like Comment Share

Amanda Bailey + 36

Most relevant

Thank you for keeping our children safe as we worked to get there to pick them up!

Like Reply

And we appreciate you!

French Creek Elementary School
Nov 30, 2023

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF Parents,

I wanted to ask that we be respectful when we're lining up for parent pick-up at the end of the day. Please do not block driveways near the school entrance and please stay off of the property of our neighbors. We've caused some property damage already and would like to prevent it from happening in the future.

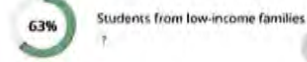
Thanks,
Mr. Baisden

Great! **SCHOOLS & BUS**

Overview Academics Student Life Reviews

STUDENT LIFE
Student Demographics

Schools that create a positive culture help all students thrive. See how.



Thu, Sep 11, 2025 at 08:55 AM

Good morning. This is a message from Upshur County Schools. Bus 18 running 20 to 25 minutes behind today, Thursday, September 11th.

Upshur County Schools West Virginia
Oct 1, 2023

Bus 86 will not run Monday morning, October 2nd. Middle and High School students need to meet at Rock Cave Elementary School no later than 7:10 a.m. Bus 33 will be transporting middle and high school students to their schools. Bus 23 will be transporting elementary students to French Creek Elementary and will pick up students at regular stops and times.

Melinda Lipscomb + 3 57 shares
Like Comment Share

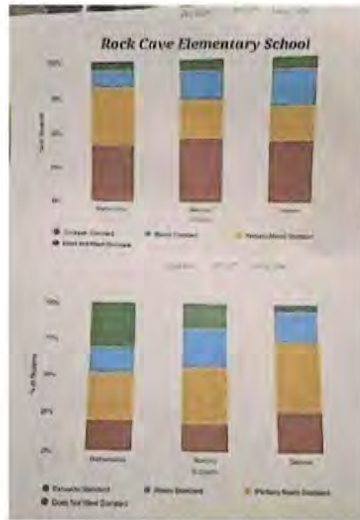
Fri, Sep 12, 2025 at 06:26 AM

Good morning. Buses running on the southern end of the county will be running about 20 minutes late due to an accident near the General Store.

Rock Cave Population

Data after 2023 is projected based on recent change

YEAR	POPULATION	GROWTH	ANNUAL CHANGE
2025	369	25	7.27%
2024	344	24	7.5%
2023	320	25	8.43%
2022	295	-104	-26.07%
2021	399	13	3.37%
2020	386	0	0%

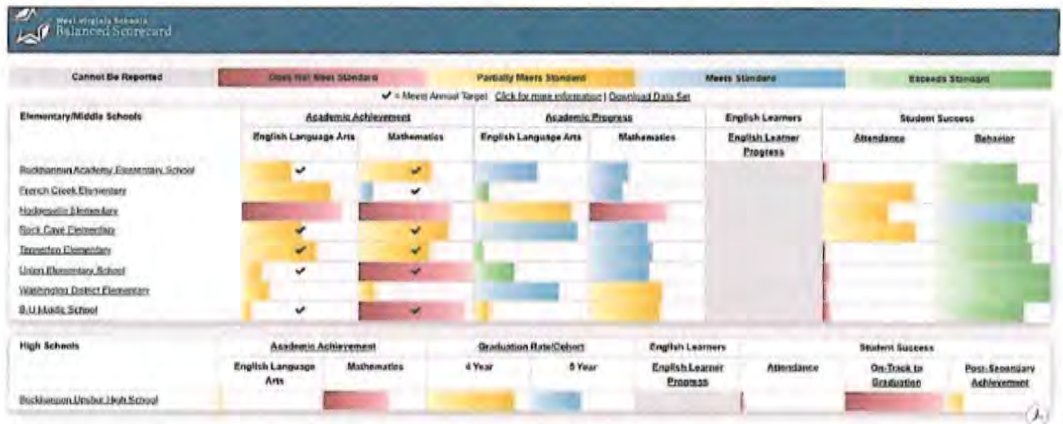


Average Daily Attendance rates for 8/14/25-8/16/25

School	Average Daily Attendance
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	94.161%
French Creek Elementary School	94.623%
Hodgesville Elementary School	94.557%
Rock Cave Elementary School	94.817%
Tennerton Elementary School	94.933%
Union Elementary School	93.986%
Washington District Elementary School	93.267%
Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School	93.448%
Buckhannon-Upshur High School	93.515%

Upshur County Schools Attendance 8/14/25 - 9/19/25

School	Average Daily Attendance
Rock Cave Elementary School	93.484%
French Creek Elementary School	95.343%
Tennerton Elementary School	93.626%
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	94.941%
Buckhannon-Upshur High School	94.366%
Washington District Elementary School	94.267%
Union Elementary School	94.133%
Hodgesville Elementary School	94.332%



Notes

TRANSPORTATION

Christine Miller
November 9, 2023

Dear Families,

Upshur County Schools sincerely apologizes for the lack of buses running today, November 9, 2023. We have a dedicated group of drivers that at times need to be off for various appointments requiring substitutes to fill their runs. Unfortunately, we do not have enough currently to cover when our drivers need to be away from their positions. Upshur County is not unique to this, across the state runs are cancelled daily in many counties. We are always looking for folks willing to complete the required training to provide for situations like today.

We once again apologize and thank you for your support as we move forward in providing a quality education for all of our students.

Christy Miller, Superintendent

Upshur County Schools West Virginia
Feb 21, 2023

Bus 32 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at Hodgesville Elementary and get on bus #31 at 9:15AM and will be returned at 3:55PM. Bus 88 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at Rock Cave Elementary and get on bus 93 at 9:10AM and will be returned at 3:45PM. Bus 92 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at Rock Cave Elementary and get on bus 94 at 9:10AM and will be returned at 3:45PM. Bus 238 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at French Creek Elementary and get on bus 17 at 9:25AM and will be returned at 3:45PM. Bus 243 will not be running AM or PM. HS/MS Students can catch bus 29 at BAES at 9:35AM and return at 3:40PM.

Bus 30 will not be running AM route this morning HS/MS students can meet at Washington District Elementary and get on bus 26 at 9:20AM.

27 comments 29 shares

Date: November 5, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education

Subject: Opposition to the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Dear Members of the Upshur County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. After attending the past three Board of Education meetings and reviewing the financial impact statement presented, I have serious concerns regarding the accuracy, transparency, and validity of the financial data being used to justify this decision.

It has become evident that multiple line items in the budget are already over-extended and were not properly accounted for. This raises significant questions about the fiscal management and planning processes currently in place. Furthermore, the Board has acknowledged uncertainty regarding the number of properties and acreage it owns, which is deeply troubling and suggests a lack of comprehensive asset oversight. Why can't these vacant properties be sold or timbered to pay for the alleged shortfall of funding needed for or school to remain open? How is it ethical to close a school when there are millions of dollars in unrestricted funds meaning that our school has already been budgeted for and that is your extra money? How is it ethical to continue to possess so many vacant properties and still consider the closing of a school when they can be sold? How is it ethical to show incorrect numbers and exceed multiple line items budgets on your budget when that is against rules and regulations for public entities?

Most concerning is the fact that the carryover amounts—critical to understanding the district's true financial position—were not available until the end of October according to your financial representative. This means that all figures included in the impact statement are merely estimates, not verified data. Making a decision as consequential as closing a school based on incomplete and speculative financial information is not only irresponsible but potentially harmful to our community.

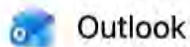
Additionally, the justification for the closure includes references to a 2019 report from the School Building Authority (SBA). This report is outdated by six years and fails to reflect the current status of the school, especially considering that many of the projects listed have already been completed. Relying on obsolete data to support such a significant action undermines the credibility of the entire process.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than just a school—it is a cornerstone of our community. Its

closure would disrupt the lives of students, families, and staff, and diminish the educational opportunities available in our rural area. I urge the Board to reconsider this proposal and instead commit to a transparent, data-driven approach that includes updated financials, accurate property records, and current facility assessments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record and that the concerns raised herein be addressed before any further action is taken regarding the closure of Rock Cave Elementary.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne troxell

**Fw: Continued comments from the Rock Cave Elementary closure hearing**

From Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>

Date Tue 11/18/2025 8:09 AM

To Uriah Cummings <uriah.cummings@k12.wv.us>; Micah Whitlow <micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us>; Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

fyi

Jeffrey Kelley

Assistant Superintendent

District & School Accountability



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330
304.558.3199 P
E-Mail: jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us
<http://wvde.us>

From: Abigail Jeffries <mrsabigailjeffries@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 10:21 PM

To: Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>

Subject: Continued comments from the Rock Cave Elementary closure hearing

You don't often get email from mrsabigailjeffries@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kelley,

My name is Abigail Jeffries and I am continuing my comments and concerns from the Rock Cave Elementary School closure hearing that was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Regarding my concerns of legalities, I missed commenting that the most blatant misrepresentation in the impact statement is who proposed the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and who will be voting on the school closure. All wording in the impact statements references the county BOE as initiator and final decision makers, when the closure was proposed solely by the state appointed superintendent, with the state DOE and BOE voting. This is a gross misrepresentation in the disclosure of public information to the people of Upshur County.

Mr. Cummings' explanation of the past deficit and the WV Department of Education's expectations regarding unrestricted funds was helpful. During his comments he also pointed out the fact that the levy did not pass. I believe we all know far too well, just why the levy did not

pass. I am confident that time will heal those wounds and a levy will pass again in the future. I do not believe that would be the case, if schools are closed, particularly if they are closed in a forceful manner by the state BOE with no input from our county board representatives.

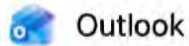
Superintendent Miller responded to questions of options other than the closure of Rock Cave Elementary being explored by stating the closure of other schools (Hodgesville, Washington District, Tennerton) had been explored. I would like the record to reflect that we do not find the closure of any school to be an acceptable option.

Superintendent Miller also mentioned that the sale of property the county owns would "just" be a one-time influx of revenue. We realize that, but that revenue would allow more time and opportunity to find budgetary solutions other than closure. It was announced earlier this month that FirstEnergy plans to build a natural gas plant in Harrison County, with plans to be filed to the WV Public Service Commission in early 2026. Over 3,260 construction jobs are expected to be created. It is also estimated to support 2,000 plus jobs when in operation, at the plant and in WV's natural gas industry. These jobs will likely create population growth in Upshur County, as we offer an affordable cost of living. There is also an article written by Lori Kersey from October 1, 2025 where WV BOE president Paul Hardesty is quoted to say "...on public education, I think they played a little heavy handed, and they've got some unintended consequences from their actions." The they he is referring to is the WV Legislature. In that same article Del. Joe Ellington who is chairman of the House Education committee, said through a House spokeswoman that "it's too early to say" if lawmakers will address the school funding formula during the next legislative session. "But we have spent a good deal of time looking at the formula, and it's possible the Public Education Subcommittee may have some discussions about it before the regular legislative session," The closure of Rock Cave Elementary is proposed for future budgetary concerns due to trends and hypotheticals, why don't we allow time for the possibility that there will be positive improvements and upward trends? A school can be closed at a later time, but it is most likely to never reopen once closed. Closing Rock Cave Elementary and merging with French Creek Elementary would definitely cause detriment to students at both schools, and to the entire Rock Cave Community, let's err on the side of positive caution and KEEP Rock Cave Elementary open!

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Abigail Jeffries



Fw: Potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary in Upshur Co.

From Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>

Date Wed 11/12/2025 7:48 AM

To Micah Whitlow <micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us>; Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

For your records.

Jeffrey Kelley

Assistant Superintendent

District & School Accountability



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Charleston, WV 25305-0330

304.558.3199 P

E-Mail: jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us

<http://wvde.us>

From: Sonya White <snjwhite@k12.wv.us>

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 7:40 AM

To: Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>

Subject: Fw: Potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary in Upshur Co.

Sonya J. White, Ed. D.

Superintendent

Logan County Schools

(304) 792-2060

E-mail: snjwhite@k12.wv.us



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From: Abigail Jeffries <mrsabigailjeffries@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 7:42 PM
To: Sonya White <snjwhite@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary in Upshur Co.

You don't often get email from mrsabigailjeffries@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Deputy Superintendent White,

My name is Abigail Jeffries. My children who are now a Buckhannon-Upshur High School senior, and Sophomore at WVU, attended Rock Cave Elementary K-5. I volunteered extensively within the school during that time. Most recently I was a foster parent to children who attended both Rock Cave and French Creek elementaries. Today I am speaking as a concerned community member.

I, along with many others, feel that closing Rock Cave Elementary would be a grave mistake, with effects that would be felt for decades to come. My opposition to the potential closure is multifaceted and it has been difficult to decide what aspect to focus on during this allotted time.

I have chosen to discuss the prudence in making such a far-reaching and permanent decision so hastily (14 weeks and 2 days from formal announcement to final vote). And while I much prefer that Rock Cave Elementary remain open indefinitely, I have challenged myself to consider possible options and solutions to the problems that have been noted by those in opposition to the current proposal.

My greatest concern is for the children of BOTH elementary schools. Children whose safety, health and education should NEVER be compromised. Children who WILL suffer effects should the proposed closure and merger proceed. These effects could be minimized by a true partnership between the Board of Education, the students, families and staff of both schools, and community stakeholders. One that allows time to construct a solid foundation where the success of ALL students can be built on.

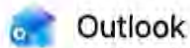
The safety and health of these students is of utmost importance. Rock Cave students would be moving from a school that currently has a safe entrance to one that does not. This move results in an even greater potential for a mass disaster. Additionally, there is photographic evidence of overcrowded lots and overflowing parking that reaches Route 20 and beyond during student pick up and special events. A merger would undoubtedly cause larger class sizes that would be a breeding ground for sickness (e.g. Covid) and could lead to increased or overlooked issues with medically fragile students. It would be prudent to address the issues of safe entry and parking lot expansion prior to a merger and construct a solid plan to minimize the impact of the health of students and staff.

The entire reason for my concern is EDUCATION. When researching the topic of the effects of school closure, I could not find ANY articles that did not include the decline of test scores, attendance, parent involvement and student morale. All articles indicated that these effects

were even more pronounced in rural areas. As per prior BOE meeting minutes, there have been marked improvements with benchmarks and attendance. It is not prudent to reverse these positive changes with a hasty decision. At-risk students should be identified prior to any merger with plans in place to ensure those students continue to build upon past growth and do not get lost in the shuffle.

In closing, while reviewing the approved BOE meeting minutes for Sept. 11, 2025, under the WV Department of Education section, I noted the quotes by the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Jeffrey Kelley; "put kids first", "prioritize teaching and learning and putting kids first", and "prioritize kids, teaching, and learning." If those quotes truly reflect the mission of our WV Board of Education, then I am confident that you will decide that Rock Cave Elementary School shall remain open, until measures are met to ensure the success of ALL our students.

Respectfully, Abigail Jeffries



Re: answers to questions

From Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>

Date Fri 11/7/2025 11:40 AM

To Shanah Carpenter <shanahcarpenter@yahoo.com>; Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

Mrs. Carpenter - I believe I have identified a number of questions that may be pertinent to your request. Please examine them and let me know which of the questions remain unanswered. For example, I am assuming the Tennerton questions are moot at this juncture.

1. Why are plans not shared until they appear on social media or in the news?
2. Why isn't there a real Q&A section on the county website?
3. Is the entire SBA application available for public viewing?
4. What exactly happens at the November 20 "Final Action" meeting?
5. Can the merger be paused for broader stakeholder input and planning?
6. What does Mrs. Miller mean by "smaller class sizes"?
7. How many total classrooms will there be after renovations?
8. What does "alternative learning school" and "different educational approaches" mean?
9. What will classrooms look like?
10. Why are some facility descriptions inaccurate (e.g., greenhouse usage, parking lot condition)?
11. Why is the SBA Collection Form from 2019?
12. Why is the condition of outside buildings misrepresented?
13. Is the bus loading/unloading and access road at Rock Cave truly insufficient?
14. What are the specific sources of the \$865,982.81 savings from closing Rock Cave?
15. Will the county still maintain the sewage treatment plant after closure?
16. How will transportation costs be saved if students still need to be transported?
17. Why are savings from Tennerton's closure lower (\$419,850.86)?
18. Are utility savings excluded because the Board of Education office will move there?
19. How does the claimed savings align with actual utility and maintenance costs?
20. What accounts for discrepancies in staff numbers across different pages of the Impact Statement?
21. Will RIFs eliminate the equivalent of Rock Cave's staff?
22. What does "combined staff" mean—will Tennerton teachers be placed at Buckhannon Academy?
23. What about Rock Cave teachers—will new jobs be created at French Creek?
24. Have special education student numbers been considered in merger planning?
25. Why has there been a lack of consistent administration and support at Rock Cave?
26. Why has there been a mass exodus of highly qualified teachers?
27. Why is it implied that Rock Cave students receive inferior education?
28. What will happen with overage students in merged classrooms (e.g., 28–29 in 4th grade)?
29. Will Buckhannon Academy absorb excess students?
30. Why are projected bus ride times exceeding state guidelines (30 minutes)?
31. Why are projected times (50–64 minutes) inconsistent with stated expectations?

Jeffrey Kelley

Assistant Superintendent
District & School Accountability

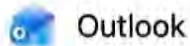


1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330
304.558.3199 P
E-Mail: Jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us
<http://wvde.us>

From: Shanah Carpenter <shanahcarpenter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 3:03 PM
To: Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>
Subject: answers to questions

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Since Mrs. Miller can't get technology to cooperate to upload answers to my questions from BOE meetings in October, could she send them to me in an email?
Thank you, Shanah Carpenter



Upshur County Concerns

From Shanah Carpenter <shanahcarpenter@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 11/6/2025 7:13 AM

To Willie Parker <willie.parker@k12.wv.us>; Jan Craig <jmcraig@k12.wv.us>; Susan King <sking@k12.wv.us>; Roy Wager <rwager@k12.wv.us>; Sherry Dean <sherry.d.dean@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>; Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>; docjoereed@gmail.com <docjoereed@gmail.com>

You don't often get email from shanahcarpenter@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am Shanah Carpenter, second grade teacher at Rock Cave, concerned Upshur County BOE employee and citizen. Mr. Parker, thank you for questioning Upshur County finances, please continue to do so. My perspective without any paperwork to help understand....why would only \$60,000 be budgeted for service employee substitutes when we have long term subs in some positions? That would roughly be salaries of 3 long term subs for a year. I am assuming that number covers all sub bus drivers, custodians, cooks, aides (which are in all K, 1, 2, and 3 classrooms, special ed. aides). Who is making our budget? We have no say on spending money on Jimmy Casa group, they definitely haven't had any positive impact on Rock Cave, and an enormous amount of money has gone there. Who is making that decision? If the state has been in control of our budget for almost 4 years, why is it still unclear and why do the state dept. people that help Ms. Wills not come to our meetings to help answer questions? If the state is going to give back some control to our local BOE then our local BOE needs to be in the process. I don't teach subtraction without scaffolds.

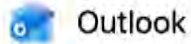
Also, please look at the Impact Statement that Mrs. Miller made for the closure of Rock Cave/merger with French Creek. Even if you have no say you need to question the things in that document. Yes, our county MUST make some adjustments or changes, but closing one school at just over \$110,000 savings to overcrowd another DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. We need to stop this and make a plan for the sustainability of Upshur County.

Do you realize that we have a retired, contracted (paid) teacher and BOE employee coming to "train" us on writing. I do not understand that expense when we have that perfectly qualified employee. Why are we have 2 people doing the job of one? Why are we paying someone retired to come back and do what the current employee can do?

Do you realize that we do not have a long term sub for PE? We just got a long term sub for Music. We do not get subs very often. I know there are not many subs. But, we think that our absences are not being sent out to be filled by subs.

Also, what happened to the days when all directors attended BOE meetings to update on what they are doing? I question the amount of employees in our BOE office and the amounts of money that they are making. We seem, from the trenches, to have an awful lot of people doing jobs that we don't even know what they are or how they impact our system.

Thank you, Shanah Carpenter



Fw: Rock Cave Elementary School, Upshur County

From Micah Whitlow <micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us>
Date Wed 11/5/2025 1:14 PM
To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

Hello,

I received the following request. I have the CEFP amendment. Are the SBA forms in the closure document the original ones, or did they get updated or anything like that? I don't want to send the wrong thing.

Thanks!

Micah Whitlow

Director School Facilities

Offices of School Operations



Building 6, Suite 650
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Charleston, WV 25305-0330

304.558.2969

micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us

wvde.us

[f | t | Y |](#)

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From: Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 11:09 AM

To: Micah Whitlow <micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Fw: Rock Cave Elementary School, Upshur County

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I'm just looking for the most current/updated CEFP the one Upshur County has on their website isn't updated with the amendments from 2022, etc.

I also was curious how to get a legible copy of the SBA report for Rock cave and french creek elementary schools. the ones provided in the impact/closure packet is very hard for me to read.

Thanks for your time,
Natasha Davis

From: Driver, Shannon L <shannon.l.driver@wv.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 3:24 PM
To: Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Rock Cave Elementary School, Upshur County

Good afternoon,

You'll want to reach out to Micah Whitlow at the Department of Education for that information. They house all of the CEFP's and he will be able to grant you access to that document. His email is micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us and his number is 304-558-2969. Thank you.

Thank you,

Shannon Driver

Shannon L. Driver, Executive Assistant

School Building Authority of WV

2300 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Charleston, WV 25311

P: 304-558-2541

F: 304-558-2539

www.sba.wv.gov

On Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 2:59 PM Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com> wrote:

One more question for your please, where can I find the most up to date CEFP 202-2030 plan for Upshur County? The one on their county BOE website does not list the amendment and revisions reflected in the June 2022 SBA minutes. Since there have been multiple discussions/changes, I'd like to find the most recent/accurate one.

Thanks for your time,
Natasha Davis

From: Driver, Shannon L <shannon.l.driver@wv.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Rock Cave Elementary School, Upshur County

Good morning Ms. Davis,

Please contact the WV Department of Education for this request. They can be reached at 304-558-2681. Thank you.

Thank you,

Shannon Driver

Shannon L. Driver, Executive Assistant

School Building Authority of WV

2300 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Charleston, WV 25311

P: 304-558-2541

F: 304-558-2539

www.sba.wv.gov

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 9:41PM Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com> wrote:
Is there a way to get a more legible copy of form 134/campus information form from 2019 for Rock Cave Elementary School? It is included in the impact/closure statement but it is very hard to read. I cannot find it online. Please help. I'd like to be an informed stakeholder.

Thanks for your time,
Natasha Davis

Date: November 5, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education

Subject: Opposition to the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Dear Members of the Upshur County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. After attending the past three Board of Education meetings and reviewing the financial impact statement presented, I have serious concerns regarding the accuracy, transparency, and validity of the financial data being used to justify this decision.

It has become evident that multiple line items in the budget are already over-extended and were not properly accounted for. This raises significant questions about the fiscal management and planning processes currently in place. Furthermore, the Board has acknowledged uncertainty regarding the number of properties and acreage it owns, which is deeply troubling and suggests a lack of comprehensive asset oversight. Why can't these vacant properties be sold or timbered to pay for the alleged shortfall of funding needed for or school to remain open? How is it ethical to close a school when there are millions of dollars in unrestricted funds meaning that our school has already been budgeted for and that is your extra money? How is it ethical to continue to possess so many vacant properties and still consider the closing of a school when they can be sold? How is it ethical to show incorrect numbers and exceed multiple line items budgets on your budget when that is against rules and regulations for public entities?

Most concerning is the fact that the carryover amounts—critical to understanding the district's true financial position—were not available until the end of October according to your financial representative. This means that all figures included in the impact statement are merely estimates, not verified data. Making a decision as consequential as closing a school based on incomplete and speculative financial information is not only irresponsible but potentially harmful to our community.

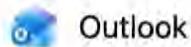
Additionally, the justification for the closure includes references to a 2019 report from the School Building Authority (SBA). This report is outdated by six years and fails to reflect the current status of the school, especially considering that many of the projects listed have already been completed. Relying on obsolete data to support such a significant action undermines the credibility of the entire process.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than just a school—it is a cornerstone of our community. Its

closure would disrupt the lives of students, families, and staff, and diminish the educational opportunities available in our rural area. I urge the Board to reconsider this proposal and instead commit to a transparent, data-driven approach that includes updated financials, accurate property records, and current facility assessments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record and that the concerns raised herein be addressed before any further action is taken regarding the closure of Rock Cave Elementary.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne troxell

**Re: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure**

From Cheyenne Walters <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/5/2025 12:32 PM

To Chris Stansbury <cstansbury@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Debra Sullivan <debra.sullivan@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Robert Dunlevy <robert.dunlevy@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Victor Gabriel <victor.gabriel@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Gregory Wooten <gregory.wooten@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Larry Hardesty <larry.hardesty@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Superintendent <superintendent@k12.wv.us>; Darcel Vermillion <dvermill@k12.wv.us>; Sonya White <snjwhite@k12.wv.us>; Cathy Justice <cathy.justice@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>; Tim Derico <tderico@k12.wv.us>; April Senic <asenic@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Comments <comments.wvde@k12.wv.us>

1 attachment (28 KB)

Rock_Cave_Elementary_Opposition_Letter.docx;

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I have attached another dispute for the closure of RCES due to financial discrepancies at the last 3 local BOE meetings between the state take over board and the local board. These issues should not be taken lightly and everyone deserves transparency when it comes to making major decisions that will affect our children, communities, and local infrastructure.

Thanks,
Cheyenne troxell

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 14, 2025, at 11:59 AM, Cheyenne Troxell <chevellegirl90@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

> Hello everyone, I have attached a formal letter expressing my concerns and grievances over the potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. I look forward to hearing back from each of you to further discuss this matter.

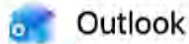
>

> Thanks,

>

> Cheyenne Troxell

> <formal grievance for RCES closure.docx>



Outlook

Re: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure

From Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>**Date** Mon 11/3/2025 2:48 PM**To** Cheyenne Walters <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>

The state board cannot receive any information until it is an item on their agenda from the county as this could be considered an attempt to sway their decision. They will receive the full Impact Statement as well as the transcript from the hearing and the agenda and what the vote was from November 20th when the decision is made locally to either move forward with the recommendation to close or to remain open. They usually receive one week prior to their scheduled meeting. They will decide at the December 10th meeting so I would say they will receive by December 3rd or 5th at the latest.

Respectfully,
Christy

Christine Miller

Superintendent

Upshur County Schools

Phone: 304.472.5480

Fax: 304.472.0258

102 Smithfield Street

Buckhannon, WV 26201

www.upshurschools.com

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From: Cheyenne Walters <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 2:40 PM
To: Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Re: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure

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Yes thank you so referring to this part of your email.

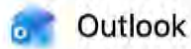
The WVBE will not see all the documents until they receive their informational packet prior to the December state board meeting where they will either affirm or deny the recommendation to close Rock Cave Elementary.

What documents have they not received? Also what all is included in their informational packet? When will they receive that?

Thanks for the clarification,
Cheyenne
Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 3, 2025, at 1:47 PM, Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us> wrote:

The WVBE will not see all the documents until they receive their informational packet prior to the December state board meeting where they will either affirm or deny the recommendation to close Rock Cave Elementary.



Re: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure

From Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>
Date Mon 11/3/2025 1:47 PM
To Cheyenne Troxell <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

The WVDE received two weeks prior to the Impact Statement being released so they could review and ensure data was entered in the appropriate places and any statements made were as they should based on the category. When they are put together specific instructions are given and we must follow those prior to the release to the public. All data is what we have available to us from multiple sources including US Census Bureau, WV Vital Statistics and other agencies that we rely on for our data regarding population, birth and death rates as well as the age group composition of the county. Enrollment numbers are taken from certified data numbers from year to year as the county is required to complete in October and June.

The WVBE will not see all the documents until they receive their informational packet prior to the December state board meeting where they will either affirm or deny the recommendation to close Rock Cave Elementary.

I hope this assists you and answers your questions. If you have more please do not hesitate to reach out and I will respond as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,
Christy

Christine Miller
Superintendent
Upshur County Schools
Phone: 304.472.5480
Fax: 304.472.0258
102 Smithfield Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201
www.upshurschools.com



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From: Cheyenne Troxell <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 1:42 PM

To: Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

Subject: Re: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure

You don't often get email from chevellegirl90@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello, I have a question regarding the impact statement for the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. When was this document formulated and when did the WVBE receive it? I know that public inspection began on October 13, 2025 and ends on November 13, 2025 but would like to know how long the WVBE has had to review it.

Thanks,

Cheyenne Troxell

On Tue, Oct 14, 2025 at 12:06 PM Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us> wrote:

Good morning Mrs. Troxell,

Thank you for sharing your concerns. We will be holding formal hearings on this matter at Rock Cave Elementary on November 13, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to sign in to speak, and we will make your letter a part of the packet that is sent to the West Virginia Department of Education for approval by the West Virginia Board of Education at their December meeting. We also have shared with Rock Cave Elementary's principal and LSIC chair a copy of the data that is required to be a part of the proposal, and it can be reviewed at the school. Please reach out to the school to inquire when the best time is to review. We also have a copy at the board office, and it can be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns.

Respectfully,
Christy

Christine Miller

Superintendent

Upshur County Schools

Phone: 304.472.5480

Fax: 304.472.0258

102 Smithfield Street

Buckhannon, WV 26201

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From: Cheyenne Troxell <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Chris Stansbury <cstansbury@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Debra Sullivan <debra.sullivan@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Robert Dunlevy <robert.dunlevy@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Victor Gabriel <victor.gabriel@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Gregory Wooten <gregory.wooten@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Larry Hardesty <larry.hardesty@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Superintendent <superintendent@k12.wv.us>; Darcel Vermillion <dvermill@k12.wv.us>; Sonya White <snjwhite@k12.wv.us>; Cathy Justice <cathy.justice@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>; Tim Derico <tderico@k12.wv.us>; April Senic <asenic@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Comments <comments.wvde@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure

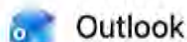
You don't often get email from chevellegirl90@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello everyone, I have attached a formal letter expressing my concerns and grievances over the potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. I look forward to hearing back from each of you to further discuss this matter.

Thanks,

Cheyenne Troxell

**Re: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure**

From Cheyenne Troxell <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>

Date Mon 11/3/2025 1:42 PM

To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

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Hello, I have a question regarding the impact statement for the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. When was this document formulated and when did the WVBE receive it? I know that public inspection began on October 13, 2025 and ends on November 13, 2025 but would like to know how long the WVBE has had to review it.

Thanks,

Cheyenne Troxell

On Tue, Oct 14, 2025 at 12:06 PM Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us> wrote:
Good morning Mrs. Troxell,

Thank you for sharing your concerns. We will be holding formal hearings on this matter at Rock Cave Elementary on November 13, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to sign in to speak, and we will make your letter a part of the packet that is sent to the West Virginia Department of Education for approval by the West Virginia Board of Education at their December meeting. We also have shared with Rock Cave Elementary's principal and LSIC chair a copy of the data that is required to be a part of the proposal, and it can be reviewed at the school. Please reach out to the school to inquire when the best time is to review. We also have a copy at the board office, and it can be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns.

Respectfully,
Christy

Christine Miller
Superintendent
Upshur County Schools
Phone: 304.472.5480
Fax: 304.472.0258
102 Smithfield Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201
www.upshurschools.com



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Subject: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure

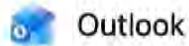
You don't often get email from chevellegirl90@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello everyone, I have attached a formal letter expressing my concerns and grievances over the potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. I look forward to hearing back from each of you to further discuss this matter.

Thanks,

Cheyenne Troxell



RCES

From Alyssa Hope <ahope0930@gmail.com>

Date Tue 10/28/2025 9:09 PM

To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

[You don't often get email from ahope0930@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Alyssa Hope, and I'm a parent and community member from Rock Cave. I want to thank the Board and Superintendent for the opportunity to write to you on behalf of our school.

I'm here to ask that you reconsider the proposal to close Rock Cave Elementary and merge it with French Creek.

This decision would deeply affect our children, our families, and our entire community.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than a school — it's the heart of our area. Our small class sizes allow teachers to truly know and support every child. Students receive one-on-one attention that helps them grow academically, socially, and emotionally. That personal connection is something larger schools simply cannot provide.

If the school closes, many students will face long and tiring bus rides — some over an hour each way. These commutes will take away from rest, family time, and after-school opportunities. For our youngest learners especially, that's a huge burden.

French Creek Elementary is already near capacity, and combining two student bodies will only increase strain on teachers and resources. Every child deserves an environment where they can learn without overcrowding or overstressed classrooms.

Rock Cave Elementary also represents generations of history, pride, and community involvement. Closing it would not only hurt education — it would take away one of the few remaining anchors that keeps this part of Upshur County connected.

Our school may be small, but it makes a big difference. Once a rural school closes, it rarely reopens — and communities like ours suffer for years to come.

I ask the Board to look beyond the numbers and consider the lives behind them — the children who thrive in these small classrooms, the families who rely on this local school, and the community that rallies around it.

Please keep Rock Cave Elementary open. Our kids, our families, and our future depend on it.

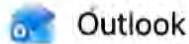
"When you take away a small school, you don't just close a building — you close a piece of a community's heart."

11/18/25, 4:26 PM

Mail - Christine Miller - Outlook

Thank you for your time and your commitment to our schools.

— Alyssa Hope



Re: Questions about RC after closure

From Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com>
Date Wed 10/15/2025 2:22 PM
To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

I can understand that. Thank you very much for the quick response. I appreciate it.

From: Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com>; April Senic <asenic@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Re: Questions about RC after closure

Natasha,
Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns and love for the school. The questions you are asking are good ones and not ones that can be answered at this time. As we go through this process equipment and other items can be considered for moving if there is room at the receiving school. Those decisions will be made after we know if the state board will agree to the closings as we propose to them in December. I am sorry I cannot give a more definitive answer at this time but will as soon as we know.

Christy

Christine Miller
Superintendent
Upshur County Schools
Phone: 304.472.5480
Fax: 304.472.0258
102 Smithfield Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201
www.upshurschools.com



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From: Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 1:39 PM
To: Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>; April Senic <asenic@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Questions about RC after closure

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Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Senic,

I'm currently going through the stages of grief after the proposal for Rock Cave School to close. It is very close to my heart. I wish it could stay open but I do understand the reality of it. I do have a few questions that I would love to have answered if possible.

- (1) What happens to the Greenhouse? Could that be given to French Creek Elementary so students can still use it?
- (2) What happens to the playground equipment? Could the public still use it until the property is sold or would we not be allowed access anymore? If possible, could the county donate the equipment to our small local community center—Arlington Community Center? That way it can still be enjoyed by our children?
- (3) Is there any chance it could be closed, then reopened if the need arises?

Thank you for your time,
Natasha Davis

Formal Grievance Regarding the Proposed Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Date: October 13, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education
West Virginia State Board of Education

From:

Cheyenne Troxell, Parent of a Rock Cave Elementary Student

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my deep frustration and strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School at the end of the 2025–2026 academic year. This decision, if enacted, will have devastating consequences for our students, families, and the broader Rock Cave community.

Rock Cave Elementary is not just a school—it is a pillar of our rural community. It boasts the highest attendance rates in Upshur County, a testament to the dedication of its staff and the trust it has earned from families. The school fosters a nurturing environment where children feel safe, supported, and engaged. Closing this school would disrupt the educational continuity of our children and erode the social fabric of our community.

Evidence-based research consistently shows that closing rural schools leads to:

- Lower academic performance due to longer commutes, larger class sizes, and loss of personalized instruction.
- Decreased community engagement, as schools often serve as hubs for local events, services, and civic participation.
- Increased dropout rates and emotional distress among students, especially those from low-income families.
- Economic decline, as families may relocate to areas with more stable school systems, further reducing enrollment and funding.

These outcomes are not hypothetical—they are documented realities in communities across West Virginia and the nation.

What is equally troubling is the lack of transparency and communication from the Upshur County Board of Education. Teachers at Rock Cave Elementary reportedly learned of the closure proposal through Facebook, not through official channels. Parents have been left in the dark, with no clear timeline, no public hearings scheduled, and no meaningful opportunity to provide input. This is unacceptable and undermines public trust in our

educational leadership.

Furthermore, the fact that Upshur County remains under state control due to prior financial mismanagement raises serious concerns about the motivations behind this proposal. Decisions affecting our children's futures should be made with community collaboration, not imposed from above without due process.

At the most recent Board of Education meeting, there were multiple discrepancies between the state and local board members regarding financial reporting. It was revealed that the board has millions of dollars in its unassigned budget, commonly referred to as a 'rainy day fund.' Despite this, they are proposing to close Rock Cave Elementary over a budget shortfall of just \$800,000.00. How is this acceptable? How can the state determine where our local tax money is allocated without a public vote or community input? This lack of fiscal clarity and disregard for democratic process further erodes trust in the decision-making authority of the Board of Education.

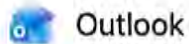
It is deeply unfair that our children are being forced to bear the consequences of financial mismanagement committed by previous superintendents and board members—individuals who have faced no repercussions for their actions. Why are they not being held accountable, while our innocent children are? Why is the state allowed to make decisions that will impact our county and our children for years to come, when they have no personal investment in our community? These decisions should be made by those who understand and care about the long-term well-being of our families, not by distant officials with no stake in our future.

We respectfully demand the following:

1. Immediate suspension of the closure proposal until full public hearings are held.
2. A transparent and data-driven justification for the closure, including financial breakdowns and educational impact assessments.
3. A community-led task force to explore alternative solutions to budgetary and enrollment challenges.
4. A commitment to preserving rural education, recognizing its unique value and role in community development.

We will not stand by while our children's futures are compromised. Rock Cave Elementary is worth fighting for—not just for its academic success, but for the heart and hope it brings to our community.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne Troxell
Parent, Advocate, and Concerned Citizen

**Re: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure**

From Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

Date Tue 10/14/2025 12:06 PM

To Cheyenne Troxell <chevellegirl90@gmail.com>; Chris Stansbury <cstansbury@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Debra Sullivan <debra.sullivan@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Robert Dunlevy <robert.dunlevy@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Victor Gabriel <victor.gabriel@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Gregory Wooten <gregory.wooten@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Larry Hardesty <larry.hardesty@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Superintendent <superintendent@k12.wv.us>; Darcel Vermillion <dvermill@k12.wv.us>; Sonya White <snjwhite@k12.wv.us>; Cathy Justice <cathy.justice@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Tim Derico <tderico@k12.wv.us>; April Senic <asenic@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Kelley <jeffrey.s.kelley@k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Comments <comments.wvde@k12.wv.us>

Good morning Mrs. Troxell,

Thank you for sharing your concerns. We will be holding formal hearings on this matter at Rock Cave Elementary on November 13, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to sign in to speak, and we will make your letter a part of the packet that is sent to the West Virginia Department of Education for approval by the West Virginia Board of Education at their December meeting. We also have shared with Rock Cave Elementary's principal and LSIC chair a copy of the data that is required to be a part of the proposal, and it can be reviewed at the school. Please reach out to the school to inquire when the best time is to review. We also have a copy at the board office, and it can be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns.

Respectfully,
Christy

Christine Miller
Superintendent
Upshur County Schools
Phone: 304.472.5480
Fax: 304.472.0258
102 Smithfield Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201
www.upshurschools.com



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Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:59 AM

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Subject: Rock Cave Elementary School Closure

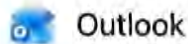
You don't often get email from chevellegirl90@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello everyone, I have attached a formal letter expressing my concerns and grievances over the potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. I look forward to hearing back from each of you to further discuss this matter.

Thanks,

Cheyenne Troxell



Out of the box idea

From Natasha Davis <natashadavis2290@outlook.com>

Date Tue 10/7/2025 4:57 PM

To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I was planning to speak tonight at the BOE meeting but my daughter is still not feeling well. So I'd like to send my thoughts to you. I appreciate your consideration.

My name is Natasha Davis. I am here as a concerned parent. My daughters attend Rock Cave Elementary, B-U Middle and B-U High schools. I want to throw an out-of-the-box idea out to you all in hopes of saving our elementary schools.

We all know the middle school is our county's (physically/building), "problem-child". It's old and needs some major improvements. We've tried the past few years to pass levies with no success. So, what if there was a way we could eliminate that building and save our beloved Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools? I would like to challenge this board to look at all options and even try some more creative approaches.

Have you heard of multi-age classrooms? Multi-age classrooms are also known as composite classes, multi-grade or mixed-age classrooms. Students can span multiple grade levels, often ranging from one to three years apart in age. One of the closest, multi-age classroom-based schools to us is in Frederick, Maryland. The Carrol Creek Montessori Public Charter School had 315 students enrolled for the 23/24 school year with over 2,000 applicants applying to join. Their classrooms are broken down into a Primary (prek and kindergarten), Lower Elementary (1,2, 3), Upper Elementary (4, 5, 6) and Middle School (7 and 8). Carrol Creek Montessori Public Charter School, Frederick, MD.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gj6EMjIQNN2sauLcqwRnPljPhc51a1Zf/view?pli=1>

This could be a great model for Upshur County to study and from which to make our own.

Multi-age classrooms offer benefits like: deeper teacher-student relationships and a stronger sense of community, promoting peer learning and leadership, enabling individualized instruction and flexible pacing, and encouraging cooperation over competition. These types of classrooms offer flexible grouping based on ability, reduce grade-level labels, and can lead to higher student confidence, leadership skills, and positive social/emotional development. Often found in [Montessori](#) and other nontraditional schools, multiage classrooms typically span two or three grade levels. In a Montessori lower elementary classroom, for instance, students from ages 6 to 9 may be in a single class together, but break up into different small groups by ability in different subjects.

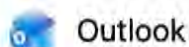
"The curriculum in a multiage classroom is flexible to the needs of each child", says Sandra Stone, professor emeritus at [Northern Arizona University](#) and founder of the university's National Multiage Institute. For example, she says, "in one multiage classroom she observed, 9- to 11-year-old children who were excelling in math were given the opportunity to advance to

algebra, a subject typically not taught until eighth grade, when students are 12 or 13. "In the multiage classroom, every child moves forward and is not limited by a grade-level curriculum," Stone says.

According to <https://montessoricensus.org/> there are zero public multi-age, Montessori-based public schools in West Virginia. In a time where more and more parents are looking for different schooling options, let's try something different. Multi-age classrooms could be a great way to attract more students into Upshur county by offering something no other county has. This could be the way we make our schools better for our students and more attractive for our parents. If we wanted to, surely, we could make this work. Many states have schools similar to this and they are in higher demand than the traditional public school. This could save schools, jobs and elevate our students' education to a higher level.

Please give this consideration.

Sincerely,
Natasha Davis
Rock Cave Elementary Parent



Re: School Closure Concerns

From Sherry Dean <sherry.d.dean@k12.wv.us>
Date Tue 10/7/2025 9:37 AM
To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>

Christy Gaudet and My Buckhannon. Then Roy's daughter gets on The My Buckhannon post and demands they take his picture off the news article because he had nothing to do with it.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 9:10:40 AM
To: Sherry Dean <sherry.d.dean@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Re: School Closure Concerns

Thank you for sharing, much misguided information just as we get at every meeting from Christy Gaudet.
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 7, 2025, at 8:52 AM, Sherry Dean <sherry.d.dean@k12.wv.us> wrote:

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Lauren Celender <lauren.celender@k12.wv.us>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 7:38:52 AM
To: Chris Stansbury <cstansbury@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Debra Sullivan <debra.sullivan@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Robert Dunlevy <robert.dunlevy@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Victor Gabriel <victor.gabriel@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Gregory Wooten <gregory.wooten@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; Larry Hardesty <larry.hardesty@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Superintendent <superintendent@k12.wv.us>; Darcel Vermillion <dvermill@k12.wv.us>; Sonya White <snjwhite@k12.wv.us>; Cathy Justice <cathy.justice@wvbe.k12.wv.us>; carl.martin@wvhouse.gov <carl.martin@wvhouse.gov>; bill.hamilton@wvsenate.gov <bill.hamilton@wvsenate.gov>; Jan Craig <jmccraig@k12.wv.us>; Roy Wager <rwager@k12.wv.us>; Sherry Dean <sherry.d.dean@k12.wv.us>; Willie Parker <willie.parker@k12.wv.us>; Susan King <sking@k12.wv.us>
Subject: School Closure Concerns

I am third grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary School in Upshur County. We were identified as a CSI school at the end of the previous county administration. We are currently on our Sustainability year. This is due to the teachers, staff, and

students at the school, with VERY LITTLE credit to be given to the CSI people, county administration, or school administration.

As a third-grade teacher my student's test scores are a direct result of coming out of CSI status. Our school is on the upward climb of becoming a successful school. With positive moves in the right direction. All last year's third, fourth, and fifth grade student's test scores were a result of their hard work and the teachers hard work, with no support from admin on any level. We as a collective staff continue to go above and beyond for our students and their successes.

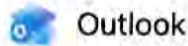
Although this is only my second year at Rock Cave, I chose to transfer from another school in the county and go to Rock Cave. That said school is now on CSI status and has showed little to no academic success. Aside from having no support from admin last year, I have choose to stay and continue to try and make a positive change, despite our school year being started with a bombshell being dropped and told there were proposals of us closing. No matter what good our small school has showed in just a year's time, it seems like it all goes unnoticed and we continue to get kicked while we are down. We are never informed of proposals, plans, or included in any decisions being made that deeply affect us and our lives/lively hood.

Due to the turmoil and current county administration we have very low enrollment. We now have strong staff in place, though still lacking a music teacher, and excellent administration in our school. We are ready to build and grow. Yet, with the positives we are making, our school is facing closure.

I am concerned for Upshur County as a whole, and decisions being made for change without addressing ongoing concerns that our county has had for decades. Parts of our middle school are very old and have been decaying for several years. There were efforts to make changes by the previous county administration, but they were the vision of few and not well planned, and so not supported.

Our largest elementary school, Buckhannon Academy Elementary School, has been added on to and now is spread out and so not the best set up for young students. The current, appointed by the state, superintendent, Christy Miller, is making plans to merge two of our elementary schools into two others; Rock Cave Elementary with French Creek Elementary, and Tennerton Elementary with Buckhannon Academy Elementary. I am afraid she is doing this without considering what is best for the entire Upshur County, our future and our students. Yes, enrollment is down and needs addressed. We have inadequate staffing in some of our schools, but what about finding a solution to fix the problems we have had for several years in addition to addressing current concerns. Is getting rid of a school that is in good shape and has made amazing progress in the last year going to address the ongoing problems we have in Upshur County or is it just a fix for the money? We need your help in addressing our Upshur County's problems in a way that gives input from all stakeholders as well as transparent planning and dissemination of facts and information.

Ms. Lauren Celender
Third Grade Teacher
Rock Cave Elementary
Upshur County Schools



concerns

From Shanah Carpenter <sdcarpen@k12.wv.us>

Date Sun 10/5/2025 8:25 AM

To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>; Tim Derico <tderico@k12.wv.us>; April Senic <asenic@k12.wv.us>; Jan Craig <jmcraig@k12.wv.us>; Roy Wager <rwager@k12.wv.us>; Sherry Dean <sherry.d.dean@k12.wv.us>; Willie Parker <willie.parker@k12.wv.us>; Stephen Wotring <swotring@k12.wv.us>; Susan King <sking@k12.wv.us>

I am writing concerning your plans to merge our elementary schools. The plans that we are being made aware of through news reports and social media have changed frequently. Currently, I believe that we are planning on merging Rock Cave with French Creek and Tennerton with BAES. What happened to plans for the middle school? When looking at our county as a whole, the middle school has been in need of attention for many, many years. I see that decreased enrollment is a concern across our county. I see that a lack of adequate staffing is an issue in some of our schools. I feel that the current plans are not being made with the inclusion of appropriate stakeholders, their ideas, views, and input, or with considering what is best for ALL students in Upshur County. Our county, while under state control, has another school identified as needing CSI. Are we really focusing on the needs of our county and students?

Questions from research I have made and things I have read:

:

What is Mrs. Miller's vision of smaller classes as stated in the SBA application?

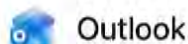
How many classrooms will the renovations be getting rid of? It is stated that there will be 16 added. How many total classrooms will there be after all work is completed?

What does Mrs. Miller's statement mean, "...designed for a new alternative learning school aimed at supporting students who require different educational approaches." 1. What are these classrooms going to look like?

2. and what does "different educational approaches" mean?

Where exactly do the savings of \$865,982.81 from the closing of Rock Cave Elementary School come from?

The \$419,850.86 from Tennerton?



Closing Schools

From Kayla Sack <kayla.sack91@gmail.com>
Date Thu 8/14/2025 4:03 PM
To Christine Miller <cemiller@k12.wv.us>; robbie_skinner@buckhannonwv.org <robbie_skinner@buckhannonwv.org>
Cc Kayla.sack91@gmail.com <kayla.sack91@gmail.com>; WVDE - Superintendent <superintendent@k12.wv.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kayla.sack91@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Opposition to Closing Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools and Combining Middle & High School

Kayla Sack
105 Jolynne Drive
Buckhannon, WV 26201

August 12, 2025

To:
Board of Education Members
Upshur County West Virginia

Subject: Opposition to Closing Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools and Combining Middle & High School

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong concerns about the proposed closure of Tennerton Elementary School and Rock Cave Elementary School, and the plan to merge middle

and high schools. While navigating budget constraints is essential, this approach raises serious negative developmental, academic, and community consequences, especially in a rural county like ours. Below is compelling evidence from West Virginia-specific studies and local data that should inform your decision.

1. Developmental and Academic Consequences of Consolidation

- A study examining school and district size in West Virginia found that small schools significantly facilitate academic achievement for impoverished students, whereas larger schools primarily benefit affluent students. This suggests that our most at-risk students thrive in the close-knit environment of smaller, community-run schools like Tennerton and Rock Cave.
- West Virginia Public Broadcasting's "Closing Costs" investigation revealed that consolidating over 300 schools between 1990 and 2002 did not save money, despite widespread promises. Rather, it led to:
 - Higher transportation costs and longer bus rides (with many students exceeding state guidelines), causing stress, lower grades, and reduced participation in after-school activities.
 - The elimination of advanced courses—some consolidated high schools offered fewer advanced placement or foreign language classes than their predecessors, hurting academic rigor.

2. Broader Educational Recovery Trends in West Virginia

- According to the Harvard–Stanford Education Recovery Scorecard, West Virginia has made strides in academic recovery—but still lags behind pre-pandemic achievement:
 - Math: ~0.45 grade level below 2019 levels
 - Reading: ~0.74 grade level below 2019 levels

This shows we cannot afford disruptions like school consolidation that worsen academic recovery and lower achievement—especially for younger students.

3. Community & Safety Impacts

- Consolidation tends to erode the community fabric: small schools are often community hubs, fostering social cohesion, local events, and strong parental involvement.
- From local experiences: "...the loss of the community feeling ... the loss of the community feel and history as well as their comfort and safety/peace in their current environments." These firsthand reflections underline that consolidation often costs more than it saves—through diminished community engagement and student well-being.

4. Summary of Key Concerns with Evidence-Based Support

Concern Area	West Virginia–Specific Impact/Stat
Academic Performance	Small schools boost achievement for poorer students
Cost Efficiency	Consolidations failed to deliver savings; transportation costs skyrocketed
Curriculum Quality	Consolidated schools often dropped advanced courses
Learning Disruption	Academic recovery remains incomplete post-pandemic
Community Impact	Schools serve as social anchors; consolidation erodes community bonds
Local Educator Concern	Losing community-based schools affects safety, belonging, and comfort

Final Appeal

Given this evidence, consolidating Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools—and combining them with middle and high school—is likely to reduce academic performance, stifle student development, strain families, and erode community identity—all while providing little to no actual savings or educational improvement within West Virginia’s context.

I urge the board to pause these plans and instead:

- Prioritize local academic data and community feedback
- Invest in rebuilding trust and transparency post-embezzlement
- Explore interim solutions (e.g., shared resources, grants, targeted improvements) that preserve these schools while addressing fiscal challenges

Our students and families deserve education that supports not only academic success but also belonging, safety, and community continuity.

Thank you for considering this deeply.

Sincerely,

Kayla Sack

IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING DATA
FOR THE
OPPOSITION FOR THE CLOSURE OF
ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY
MERGING INTO
FRENCH CREEK ELEMENTARY

ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY STAFF, PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND
STAKEHOLDERS

Prepared Pursuant to

W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a
and
WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204

Public Hearing Date: November 13, 2025
County Board Approval Date: November 20, 2025

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3.1. County Procedures

WVDE Application for school closure and/or consolidation

Upshur County Schools

Closure and Merger of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek

Elementary. Scheduled Date(s) of Hearing(s): November 13,

2025

Scheduled Date(s) of County Board Vote(s): November 20, 2025

County Procedures

This template shall be used to accumulate and present the data that is requested in Policy 6204 and W.Va. Code 18-5-13a to support the closure or consolidation of a WV public school.

The county shall prepare and submit an impact statement and supporting data concerning proposed school closings or consolidations to the WVBE for approval in accordance with this policy and W. Va. Code §18-5-13a. The impact statement and supporting data shall:

- be available for public inspection in the office of the county superintendent during the 30 days preceding the date of the public hearing; and*

Be delivered in duplicate to the:

- principal of a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and of any school which the county designates to receive the students who are relocated because of the closure or consolidation; and*
- chair of the local school improvement council (LSIC) representing a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and any school that the county designates to receive the students who are relocated as a result of the closure or consolidation.*
- A copy of the notice shall be posted at all schools, bus garages, and maintenance areas in the county in conspicuous working areas, for all professional and service personnel to observe.*

Superintendent

Date:

3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements

County Procedures

Staff and community members are collaborating to create their own impact report to address the discrepancies identified in the booklet prepared by Superintendent of Schools, Christine Miller.

Enrollment 3.2.a. (Starting on Page #7)

Like all counties in West Virginia, Upshur County Schools continue to experience a decline in student enrollment. This trend has accelerated year over year with the expansion of educational choice options such as learning pods, microschoools, charter schools, private schools, and the implementation of the Hope Scholarship program.

At the beginning of the 2022–2023 school year, enrollment in grades PK–12 was 3,689. For the 2025–2026 school year, enrollment has decreased to 3,063, which includes students participating in the district's virtual learning option that has been available since the 2021–2022 school year. With the district's increased emphasis on virtual learning, the county appears to be showing a lack of support for in-person instruction.

What these figures do not reflect is the growing number of homeschooled students, which has reached 240 for the 2025–2026 school year. This enrollment decline corresponds with an overall decrease in county population, from 24,415 in 2010 to an estimated 23,177 in 2025. Population demographics also indicate a shift toward an older population and a decline in the number of residents aged 5–19.

Over the past ten (10) years, Rock Cave Elementary has experienced a decrease of 77 students. The 2016–2017 school year recorded the highest enrollment of the past decade, with 149 students. Enrollment has fluctuated over the years, reaching another peak in the 2023–2024 school year before declining 76 students. As of October 1, 2025, the current enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year is 71 students. Rock Cave Elementary has a building capacity of 171 students, resulting in a current utilization rate of approximately 41 percent.

Over the past ten (10) years, French Creek Elementary has experienced a decrease of 26 students. The 2017–2018 school year marked the highest enrollment of the past decade, with 247 students. The current enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year is 221 students, which includes 26 transfer students from Rock Cave Elementary. French Creek Elementary has a building capacity of 322 students. Following the proposed merger of French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary in the 2026–2027 school year, the combined enrollment is projected to be 293 students.

Facilities 3.2.b. (Starting on Page #11)

Rock Cave Elementary is located approximately 4.7 miles from French Creek Elementary. The school building is currently in average condition and requires only limited safety and entry upgrades. Student loading and unloading from buses are efficiently managed and safely monitored. The parking lot is in average condition, and the access road to and from the property is adequate.

The detached building that previously housed the pre-Kindergarten (PK) classroom is no longer used for that purpose, following the relocation of the PK program from Rock Cave Elementary. However, one portion of this building is currently used for music instruction, and for the library. A second building on site is utilized for speech services, Title I storage, a bookroom, and the Clothes Closet program.

French Creek Elementary is in good overall condition but requires improvements to ensure a safe and secure school entrance. The school also has an urgent need for a well-organized area for student loading and unloading, as the current setup presents safety concerns—particularly if enrollment increases. Walkways are in need of minor improvements. The parent pick-up and drop-off area currently extends onto Route 20, which places it beyond direct staff supervision and further heightens safety risks.

Finance 3.2.c. (Starting on Page #17)

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary and its merger with French Creek Elementary will not save the Board of Education \$865,982.81 annually, even when including projected savings from maintenance and operational costs associated with aging facilities.

Personnel 3.2.d. (Starting on Page #19)

The Upshur County Board of Education has continued to reduce staff over the past few years due to declining student enrollment in order to align with the state aid funding formula for professional and service personnel. The merger of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary will result in the reduction of nine (9) professional personnel positions and seven (7) service personnel positions, while increasing the likelihood that students will be taught by fully certified teachers. Upshur County Schools will continue to follow the West Virginia Department of Education's recommended guidelines regarding the number of professional employees per grade level, as outlined in WV Code §18-5-18a, and will maintain the staffing levels necessary to deliver educational programs to all students.

Student Transportation 3.2.e. (Starting on Page #21)

French Creek Elementary is located approximately 4.7 miles from Rock Cave Elementary. Existing bus routes will be used to transport students to French Creek Elementary; however, these routes will exceed the recommended 30-minute travel time guideline outlined in WVBOE Policy 6200. For students residing near the Webster County line and in the Salem Ridge area, travel times already exceed this guideline by an additional 10 to 15 minutes. Most Rock Cave Elementary School bus routes begin before 6:30 a.m., with students arriving and being released at the school around 7:20 a.m. This early start results in some students spending nearly an hour on the bus each morning, which may increase further following the proposed consolidation.

Student Educational Program 3.2.f. (Starting on Page #23)

Upshur County Schools has been on a path of continuous improvement since the state assumed control, with key areas identified based on the accountability provisions outlined in WVBOE Policy 2322. The district remains dedicated to preparing students for success in a changing workplace, higher education, and military service. The mission statement—*“Upshur County Schools is committed to creating a united community for educational excellence”*—reflects this ongoing commitment. Upshur County Schools continues to build a culture in which education is valued within a supportive and future-focused environment. However, the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and its merger with French Creek Elementary does not align with this path of improvement.

The merger will not provide all students with access to enhanced educational opportunities and programming. Following the merger, French Creek Elementary will continue to serve students in Pre-K through Grade 5. It is recommended that the Pre-K program be reinstated at Rock Cave Elementary School. Restoring the program would provide local families with access to early childhood education within their home community, reduce transportation barriers, and strengthen enrollment and family engagement at the school. Both Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools are Title I schools, and Title I funding will continue to support county interventionists and quality parent engagement initiatives that promote student learning. In addition, students receiving special education services will benefit from instruction delivered by certified teachers who will continue to meet the individual needs of students as outlined in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) at both schools.

Community 3.2.g (Starting on Page #25)

Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools are located approximately 4.7 miles apart. Although the distance between them is short, they serve two distinct communities. Rock Cave Elementary is at the heart of a small town that includes local diners, an IGA, Family Dollar, Arlington Mini Mart, several churches, the Parish House, and a number of small businesses that take pride in supporting the school. These businesses frequently donate goods and provide assistance to Rock Cave Elementary as needed.

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary would disrupt these long-standing community relationships. While many students and families will continue to participate in local activities, their community identity will become part of a larger, more centralized school population. The combination of the two schools may not strengthen community ties, as families will need to adjust to new routines and environments. Additionally, the merger could create hardships for Rock Cave families who may face challenges attending school events due to distance or lack of reliable transportation, which may limit their ability to volunteer or engage in school activities.

Both Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary serve as voting precincts for their respective communities. The closure of Rock Cave Elementary would not only impact students and families but also affect the community's access to a convenient polling location, which has long served as a central gathering place for civic participation.

3.2.a Student Enrollment

County Procedures

Enrollment and Population Table

Trends in student population growth or decline in the county for the previous 10 years.

Upshur County Schools

Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total	3785	3757	3762	3737	3701	3947	3774	3601	3380	3214

Enrollment Table 1

Trends in student population growth or decline in the attendance area of the school targeted closure or consolidation for the previous 10 years.

Rock Cave Elementary

Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total	149	134	136	135	129	123	138	130	105	71

Enrollment Table 2

Trends in student population growth or decline in attendance area of the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students affected for the previous 10 years.

French Creek Elementary

Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total	236	247	246	220	227	212	213	236	214	221

Enrollment Table 3

Population data and characteristics for the county. At a minimum, the data shall include the total population, number of births, number of deaths, and age composition of the county for the previous ten years. The requisite information shall be cited and may be obtained from local, state, and national agencies for health and statistics.

The following table represents the best available data from Vital Statistics and US Census Bureau. Year 2025 in births and deaths is an estimate based due to the year not ending at time of this analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Population	24758	24658	24092	24117	24193	24048	23903	23758	23613	23468
Births	252	252	248	227	204	241	169	174	181	189
Deaths	250	250	243	267	307	241	220	200	200	200

Enrollment Table 4

Age Composition: Estimates from Census Bureau begin in year 2021. WV Vital Statistics Prior

Year	5 year s or less	5- 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75- 84	>84
2016	1427	2863	3472	2831	2752	3132	3410	2823	1871	477
2017	1317	2885	3484	2756	2714	3080	3358	2832	1535	504
2018	1311	2864	3444	2770	2687	3057	3306	2879	1585	502
2019	1201	2860	3415	2748	2671	2938	3274	2970	1597	502
2020	1236	2813	3433	2743	2690	2837	3268	3021	1629	560
2021	1157	2523	3394	2721	2675	2763	3232	3072	1669	581
2022	1140	2452	3355	2699	2660	2689	3196	3123	1709	602
2023	1114	2406	3316	2677	2645	2615	3160	3174	1749	623
2024	1104	2381	3277	2655	2630	2541	3124	3225	1789	644
2025	1062	2391	3283	2633	2615	2467	3088	3276	1829	665

Enrollment Table 5

Upshur County Schools Rock Cave Merger into French Creek Elementary

Projections of enrollment, by grade and school, in the affected attendance area, for the next ten years.

Rock Cave

Year	2025- 2026	2026- 2027	2027- 2028	2028- 2029	2029- 2030	2030- 2031	2031- 2032	2032- 2033	2033- 2034	2034- 2035
Grade PK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade K	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 1	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 3	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 4	10	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 5	12	10	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0

Enrollment Table 6 - All years except 2025--2026 are estimates

French Creek Elementary

Year	2025- 2026	2026- 2027	2027- 2028	2028- 2029	2029- 2030	2030- 2031	2031- 2032	2032- 2033	2033- 2034	2034- 2035
PK	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
K	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
1	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
2	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
3	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20
4	42	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20
5	33	42	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20

Enrollment Table 7 - All years except 2025-2026 are estimates

French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Merged

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
Grade PK	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade K	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 1	29	33	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 2	35	42	33	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 3	37	50	42	33	19	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 4	42	52	50	42	33	19	20	20	20	20
Grade 5	33	52	52	50	42	33	19	20	20	20

Enrollment Table 8 -All years except 2025--2026 are estimates

Projection Method

Explanation of the projection method utilized addressing the relationship between the most recent Certified October Enrollment, the Certified October Enrollment for the previous three years, and the most recent census data for the county.

Upshur County Schools' enrollment is projected to continue declining over the next ten years. Both French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary have experienced a downward trend in enrollment, reflecting the broader pattern observed throughout the district. Enrollment projections were determined by analyzing the past ten years of enrollment trends for each school, certified October 1st enrollment figures from the past three years, and the most recent county census data. The recent arrival of an oil and gas company in the area may attract families seeking employment and a lower cost of living. This potential influx could influence local school enrollment patterns and may partially offset projected declines in student numbers over the coming years.

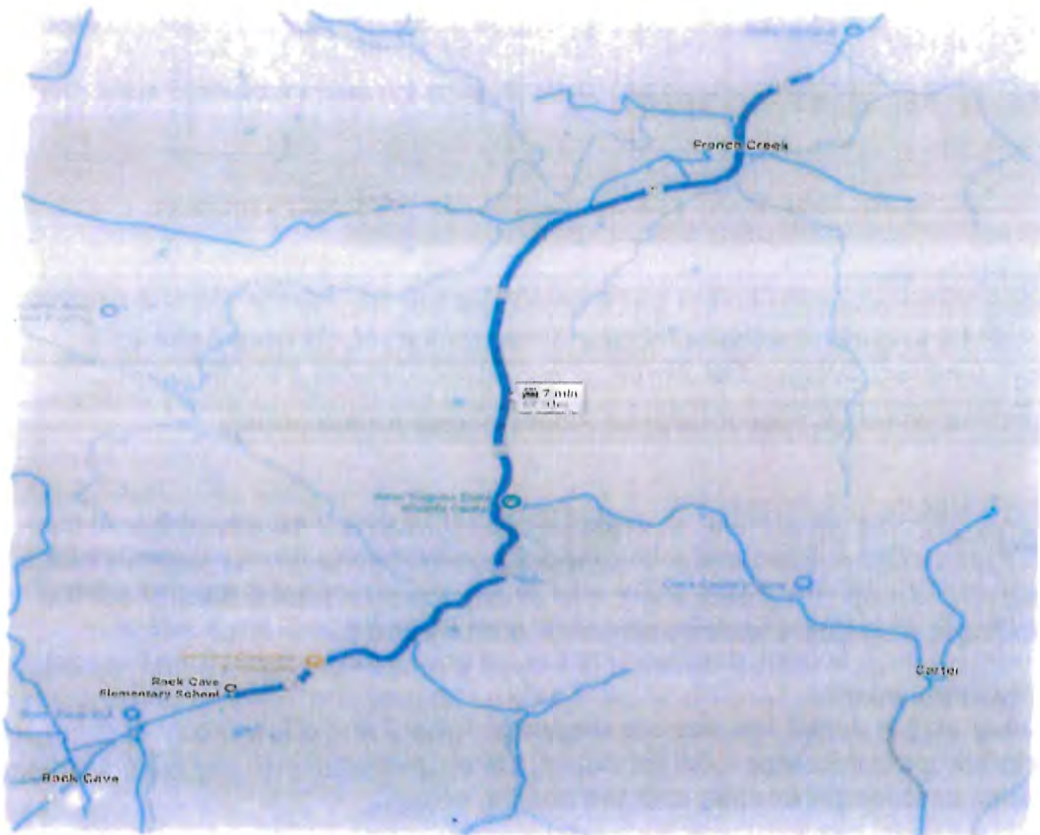
3.2.b. Facilities

County Procedures

Descriptive Maps

General Reference Maps showing prominent natural and manmade features where the location of school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) that the county designates to receive the students are highlighted.

Charts shall be provided indicating the grade configuration, student enrollment, utilization percentage, and mileage between each school on the map.



Map 1

The dark blue line shows the distance from Rock Cave Elementary to French Creek Elementary (4.7 miles). The time shown is provided by Google Maps for car travel between the two schools.

Upshur County Schools Rock Cave Merger into French Creek Elementary

School	Grade Con-fig.	Enrollment Before/After Action	Utilization Before/After Action	Distance to School A	Distance to Rock Cave	Distance to New or Receiving French Creek
Closing Rock Cave	K-5	72	Before- 80% After 42%			4.7 miles
New or Receiving French Creek	PK-5	221	Before -76% After - 90%	4.7 miles		

Facilities Table 1

Written Facility Condition Description

Written description of the physical condition of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students. This description shall include age, number of buildings, general conditions, and adequacy of structural, electrical, and mechanical systems to provide a safe and healthy environment.

Rock Cave Elementary

The one-story school was originally constructed in 1971 with 9,800 square feet. A single addition in 1988 expanded the facility to 17,104 square feet, including two portable buildings added in 1995. The building has been well maintained. It features load-bearing masonry walls, slab-on-grade construction, a steel joist roof structure, masonry exterior and interior walls, and a modified bitumen roof that was replaced in 2016.

The site encompasses 9.02 acres, of which 6.42 acres are usable; meeting recommended acreage guidelines. The property is entirely outside the 100-year floodplain, and the access road to and from the site is adequate. Physical education spaces, playfields, and play courts are all in good condition.

French Creek Elementary

The one-story, 26,300-square-foot building was constructed in 1983 and has been well maintained. The facility features load-bearing masonry walls, slab-on-grade construction, steel joist roofing, masonry exterior and interior walls, and a mechanically fastened roofing system.

The site encompasses 23.21 acres, of which 15.83 acres are usable; meeting recommended acreage guidelines. The property is entirely outside the 100-year floodplain. However, the site is not well organized for student loading and unloading, and the parking area is inadequately lit, creating potential safety concerns for visitors and staff. Physical education spaces, playfields, and play courts are in good condition, although walkways require improvement to ensure safe access throughout the campus.

Educational Programs and Related Student Services

Evaluation of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools that the county designates to receive the students in regard to the school(s) adaptability to the present and proposed educational programs, and the provisions of related student services.

The most recent Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) was used to guide and plan necessary improvements at French Creek Elementary. Rock Cave Elementary serves students in grades K–5. Both Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary have sufficient space to accommodate classrooms for Pre-K through grade 5.

The instructional programs at Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary align with WVBOE Policy 2510. Both schools are equipped with a wireless network to support daily technology use by students, staff, and other stakeholders. The planning phase for the merger considers the need for appropriate staff to support students with a whole-child focus. However, staff reductions and the potential for larger class sizes may shift attention away from individualized student support, potentially impacting the quality of instruction and student engagement.

Currently, Rock Cave Elementary receives counseling support from a Community Care counselor once a week, with additional services provided weekly by Mr. Larry Lance. Another counselor is scheduled to begin once a week to provide grade-level counseling classes. Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary also share an Art and Music educator, with the Wellness teacher dividing time with Buckhannon-Upshur High School.

Following the merger, Rock Cave students will gain access to a full-time counselor as well as full-time Art, Music, and Wellness instruction at French Creek Elementary. However, the assigned counselor will have a caseload approaching 300 students, raising concerns about how much individualized time each student will receive for counseling services.

School Enrollments, Capacities, and Utilizations

School	Enrollment	Building Capacity	Utilization %
Closing School - Rock Cave	71	171	42%
Receiving School French Creek (Projected #)	292	328	89.02%

Facilities Table 2

Required Services and Barrier-free Environments

Comparison of the school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) which the county has designated to receive the students in regard to providing the required services and barrier-free environments to students with disabilities.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary were constructed to meet ADA compliance standards at the time of their original occupancy. Since then, both schools have implemented upgrades and modifications to enhance accessibility, ensuring continued compliance with current accessibility guidelines and providing equitable access for all students, staff, and visitors.

Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

Elaboration on the effect the proposed school closing or consolidation will have on the school system's future plans regarding grade configuration, educational programs, and facility requirements.

Closing Rock Cave Elementary and merging it with French Creek Elementary is expected to allow for improvements such as secure entrances for all schools, as identified in the 2020–2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP). However, it is unclear whether the original CEFP specifically planned for the merger of these two schools, or if this consolidation is a more recent proposal outside the scope of the original facilities plan.

Rock Cave Elementary currently serves grades K–5, while French Creek Elementary serves Pre-K through grade 5, providing families the opportunity for students to remain in the same school for all seven years of early learning. Pre-K was removed from Rock Cave Elementary this year, which led some families to opt out of Pre-K or enroll their children elsewhere. Pre-K has been successfully offered at Rock Cave Elementary for over 20 years. Reinstating the Pre-K program at Rock Cave Elementary would allow families to have their children attend the same school for seven consecutive years, supporting continuity in learning and community engagement.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary are both Title I schools. While the merger may affect enrollment and resource allocation, the budget structure for each school should remain independent, ensuring that Title I funds continue to support students' learning needs without being contingent on consolidation.

Construction Work Required for the Proposed Action

Elaboration on the planned facility for additions, renovations, or replacements that are required by the county to accommodate the proposed closing and consolidation.

Rock Cave Elementary does not currently require, nor are there any proposed additions, renovations, or replacements. The building is considered structurally sound and adequately meets the needs of its students and staff.

Additions, renovations, or replacements are not currently required for French Creek Elementary. However, with the proposed merger, the construction of secure entryways could be considered to enhance safety. Additionally, an increase in student enrollment may necessitate additional teachers, which could create a need for more classrooms. At present, French Creek Elementary does not have sufficient space to accommodate additional classrooms without new construction.

The Future of Closed Facilities

Elaboration on the future use or disposal of facilities designated by the county for closure.

Rock Cave Elementary will be closed and offered for sale in accordance with state statute and West Virginia Board of Education (WVBOE) policy regarding the disposal of surplus property. However, the Upshur County Board of Education currently owns 50 properties, some of which are not used for educational purposes. It is unclear why these surplus properties have not been sold or repurposed, raising questions about the district's approach to managing its real estate assets.

This situation highlights the need for transparency and strategic planning in managing district-owned properties. Selling or repurposing unused properties could provide additional revenue or resources to support educational programs, rather than relying solely on school closures to achieve budgetary savings.

The proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary is presented as a cost-saving measure; however, the Upshur County Board of Education owns multiple unused properties that have not been sold or repurposed. Strategic management or disposal of these surplus properties could generate revenue to offset maintenance and operational costs, potentially reducing the financial pressure that is being used to justify the RCES closure. Without leveraging these existing assets, the district may be overlooking alternative solutions that do not require disrupting students, staff, and the community.

School Building Authority of WV (SBA)

Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation is contingent upon

receiving funding from the SBA.

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary and its merger with French Creek Elementary is not contingent upon receiving funding from the School Building Authority (SBA).

SBA facility Condition Documentation

Attachment of the most recent SBA facility evaluation form for each school affected and an updated form if the most recent SBA facility evaluation form is five years old or older.

See Appendix for this Documentation - This is included in the original impact statement binder provided by the county.

The original impact statement binder contains information that appears contradictory. In some sections, the schools are described as being in "average" or "above-average" condition, yet other sections list costly repairs and upgrades as necessary. Additionally, over the past several years, summer work crews at Rock Cave Elementary have not completed major projects, which raises questions about the urgency or necessity of these repairs. This inconsistency may lead stakeholders to question whether some of the listed projects are truly required.

Supporting Photographs and other Documentation

Provide relevant facility photos, and any supporting documentation the county determines would be helpful. Examples of supporting documentation may include reports from architects, engineers, Fire Marshall, and insurance companies.

See Appendix for this Documentation

3.2.c. Finance

County Procedures

Itemization of Anticipated Cost and Savings

Itemization of the anticipated cost or savings the county will experience in all areas as a result of the proposed school closure or consolidation. Such itemization shall be in the form of a table indicating the following:

Closing School(s) Annual Current Cost

The current annual cost at the school(s) to be closed for:

Rock Cave

Item	Amount
Utilities	
Personnel	\$784,242.07
Maintenance	
Transportation	
Other	
Total	

Finance Table 1

Other items include non-teach wages, food expense, supplies, utilities, facilities, janitor and grant funds

Receiving School(s) Annual Current Cost

The current annual cost at the school(s) to be receiving for:

French Creek Elementary

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$1,827.00
Personnel	\$2,138,069.82
Maintenance	\$91,969.94
Transportation	\$284,185.50
Other	\$278,343.14
Total	\$2,787,295.31

Finance Table 2

Other items include non-teach wages, food expense, supplies, utilities, facilities, janitor and grant funds

Anticipated Annual Cost after Action

The anticipated annual cost at the school(s) to be receiving for:

French Creek Elementary

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$1,073.26
Personnel	\$1,344,998.00
Maintenance	\$74,967.00
Transportation	\$42,673.33
Other	\$14,094.2
Total	\$1,477,105.79 +\$980,177.92

Finance Table 3

Net Cost or Savings

the net cost or savings of the school(s) to be closed and the school(s) designated by the county to be receiving students for:

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

Item	Cost or Savings	Amount
Utilities	Savings	\$28,289.26
Personnel	Savings	\$748,316.78 (671,903.75 difference)
Maintenance	Savings	\$21,324.02
Transportation	Savings	\$972.34
Other	Savings	\$58,319.90
Total	Savings	\$856,982.81 -\$190,079.06

Finance Table 4

With the merger, personnel will still be employed and paid, and students will continue to require food and transportation. Many expenses categorized under "other" will remain regardless of the students' location. Additionally, utilities and maintenance costs for Rock Cave Elementary will continue until the property is sold. Given these ongoing expenses, it is unclear how much, if any, actual savings will be realized by closing the school.

Anticipated Construction Cost to Accommodate Action

Cost of any renovation or addition resulting from the proposed school closure or consolidation, including all proposed funding sources.

There are no renovation or construction costs associated with this proposed closure or merger.

County Expense Fund History

Five-year history of the county's unrestricted general current expense fund balance and that balance as a percentage of the county's approved levy estimate.

Year	Unrestricted General Current Expense Fund Balance	Approved Levy Estimate	Percentage of Approved Levy Estimate
2023-2024	\$1,477,105.79	\$1,477,105.79	100%
2022-2023	\$1,477,105.79	\$1,477,105.79	100%

Finance Table 5

3.2.d. Personnel

The Upshur County Board of Education is currently under state control. However, the current leadership has kept the board informed and has worked to minimize the impact on personnel during this period of declining student enrollment. Although previous efforts have been made to reduce staff, the past two years have seen increases in personnel despite the continued decline in student population.

The consolidation of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary will result in the reduction of nine (9) professional personnel positions and seven (7) service personnel positions. This consolidation may increase the likelihood that students across the county will be taught by certified teachers, provided those teachers choose to remain within the Upshur County School system. Upshur County Schools will continue to follow the West Virginia Department of Education's recommended guidelines regarding the number of staff required to deliver educational programs to students. Reductions in personnel may occur due to the duplication of positions following the merger.

Analysis of Anticipated Personnel Changes

An analysis of the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on professional and service personnel. The analysis shall include, at a minimum, the following data regarding the anticipated increases or decreases in employment because of this proposed closure or consolidation:

Rock Cave Elementary - Current School Personnel Data Chart				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	1	7.5	0	0.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	1	5	1	1

Personnel Table 1

French Creek Elementary- Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	1	8	1	1

Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>			2	

Personnel Table 2

Current Affected School Total - Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>		25.5		

	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>		17		

Personnel Table 3

French Creek Elementary - Anticipated After Proposed Action				
	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school (s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>				
	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>				

Personnel Table 4

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary - Anticipated Net Change After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>the anticipated net change in professional personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>		7.5		
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>the anticipated net change in service personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>	1	5		

Personnel Table 5

(Post Merger) French Creek Elementary -Attrition and Reduction in Force Summary - Professional				
	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>				

decrease that will occur through a reduction in force		3.5		
	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary

decrease that will occur through attrition				
decrease that will occur through reduction in force				

Personnel Table 6

3.2.e. Student Transportation

French Creek Elementary is located 4.7 miles from Rock Cave Elementary. Existing bus routes transport students to French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary. The routes currently exceed the 45-minute recommended guideline as outlined in policy 6200.

Analysis of Anticipated Transportation Time Changes

Explain any variances of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Regulations, Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses (Policy 4336), section 15, Guidelines for Bus Routing, and the effects the variances may have on transportation. Provide the following bus route data and travel times:

Current and Differences of Travel Times

List the current travel time by bus route for students in the communities of the schools planned for closure or consolidation and the estimated increase or decrease in travel time as a result of the closure; and

Rock Cave

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Route 22	Rock Cave/Chesapeake Heights	42 minutes	45 minutes	3 minutes
Route 33	Chesapeake Heights/Culpeper	43 minutes	47 minutes	4 minutes
Route 48	Rock Cave	32 minutes	34 minutes	2 minutes
Route 32	Rock Cave/Chesapeake Heights	37 minutes	37 minutes	0 minutes
Route 34	Rock Cave/Culpeper	50 minutes	51 minutes	1 minute

Franklin County

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Route 17	Fresh Creek	17 minutes	17 minutes	0 minutes
Route 18	Adrian/Fresh Creek	18 minutes	18 minutes	0 minutes
Route 19	Hicksville	23 minutes	23 minutes	0 minutes
Route 20	Adrian	23 minutes	23 minutes	0 minutes
Route 21	Appleton	22 minutes	22 minutes	0 minutes
Route 22	Franklin/Dorchester	22 minutes	22 minutes	0 minutes
Route 24	Beech Town	34 minutes	34 minutes	0 minutes

Transportation Table 1

Anticipated Routes and Waiver Requests

List all anticipated bus routes after the proposed closure or consolidation with the estimated total one-way travel time for each route. Clearly identify any bus routes that exceed the recommended travel times and any routes which will require a waiver of Policy 4336.

Rock Cave Elementary

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes /no)*
Route 21	Rock Cave	50 Min	5 Min	YES
Route 33	Rock Cave	53 Min	8 Min	YES
Route 38	Rock Cave	64 Min	19 Min	YES
Route 43	Rock Cave	37 Min	0 Min	No
Route 94	Rock Cave	56 Min	6 Min	Yes

French Creek

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes / no)*
Route 10	French Creek	17 Min	0 Min	No
Route 8 17 Run #1	Adrian French Creek	18 Min	0 Min	No
Route 14 Run#2	Hinkleville Adrian	25 Min	0 Min	No
Route 238	Abbot/Adrian	35 Min	0 Min	No
Route 239	Freshinton/Carterville	38 Min	11 Min	No
Route 240	Beech Township Carterville	38 Min	0 Min	No

Transportation Table 2

*A waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 is only required for elementary school routes that have a one-way transportation time greater than 45 minutes.

Travel Time to Neighboring County Public School

Identify and provide the travel time to any neighboring county public schools that could serve the population of the closing school(s) where travel time to the identified out-of-county school is less than or equal to the schools(s) designated by the county to receive students.

3.2.f. Student Educational Program

Analysis and Assurance of Consideration

Complete a projected educational program improvement analysis which includes a statement of assurance that the following have been considered:

Upshur County Schools continuously monitors the academic growth of both Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary. The district is committed to ensuring that student learning remains the primary focus, and that educational programming supports academic progress for all students.

On the General Summative Assessment (GSA) administered during the 2024–2025 school year, Rock Cave Elementary students achieved proficiency rates of 61.78% in Mathematics, 57.78% in English Language Arts, and 26% in Science. These results represent a marked improvement and have resulted in Rock Cave Elementary being removed from identification as one of the lowest-performing Title I schools, previously

designated for Comprehensive School Improvement.

During the same assessment period, French Creek Elementary students scored 66.81% proficient in Mathematics, 66.81% proficient in English Language Arts, and 26% proficient in Science.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary are both Title I schools and rank as the second and third highest-need schools in Upshur County. Rock Cave has 61.68% of students identified as low income, and French Creek has 58.54%, both above the county average of 51.92%.

Each school determines its annual Title I budget based on student needs, as identified in collaboration with the County Federal Programs Director. In the past, portions of the budget were allocated to county-wide interventionists who served as instructional coaches, supporting classroom teachers through agreed-upon impact cycles to improve student learning outcomes. Even without the merger of Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools, students will continue to benefit from the support of county-wide interventionists and a county-hired instructional coach.

Rock Cave Elementary does not currently have a full-time counselor or a Communities in Schools Coordinator due to county budget constraints. Community Care does provide counseling services at RCES, and Mr. Larry Lance works with the fifth-grade class. In contrast, French Creek Elementary has a full-time counselor but does not have a Communities in Schools Coordinator. With the proposed merger, Rock Cave students will gain access to a full-time counselor, though the counselor's caseload is expected to approach 300 students.

Both Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary currently share an Art and Music educator, with the Wellness teacher splitting time with Buckhannon-Upshur High School. Following the merger, Rock Cave students will have increased access to a full-time counselor, as well as dedicated Art, Music, and Wellness instruction at French Creek Elementary. This additional support will enhance academic and social-emotional programs for students.

RCES students currently receive the state-required amount of instructional time for Art, Music, and Physical Education. For three years, Hannah Lively filled a dual role as Art and PE teacher to ensure all students had access to these classes. She was later reassigned to another school, taking this role out of the school.

Rock Cave Elementary does not currently have a Pre-K classroom, while French Creek Elementary does. The availability of a Pre-K program at French Creek will be a valuable option for Rock Cave families who wish to enroll their children in this early learning opportunity. Rock Cave Elementary previously operated a successful Pre-K program for more than 20 years, up until the current school year.

In earlier years, French Creek students attended the Pre-K program at Rock Cave Elementary until French Creek established its own program. During that time, the Rock Cave Pre-K program consistently operated at full capacity. However, due to low initial enrollment this year, the Pre-K program was not offered at Rock Cave Elementary. As a result, some families chose to send their children to French Creek Elementary, while others opted not to enroll their children in Pre-K because it was not available at their home school. In several cases, families relocated their older children to French Creek to keep siblings together.

In accordance with West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2419, special education students will have access to programs including multi-categorical, autism, speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy, as prescribed in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Following the proposed merger, with an estimated 33 special education students, how will the schedule ensure that each student receives the required minutes of services, including instruction in small groups, as outlined in their IEPs?

3.2.g. Community

An impact statement regarding the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on the affected communities and their students. Where schools and their respective communities are all defined by their own unique relationships, each proposed action will result in varying types and degrees of community impact. To better understand this diverse relational dynamic, the impact statement shall describe:

1. *The known relationships that exist among the affected schools and their communities.*

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

The communities of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary share a longstanding history of collaboration, mutual support, and shared values centered around student success and community pride. Even though these existing relationships may form a strong foundation for which consolidated schools could thrive, each school would blend into one- losing their individually. Both schools are deeply rooted in their own local communities with families, educators, and leaders who prioritize close-knit relationships and student-centered learning. Although consolidation offers an opportunity to unify these values, it will create a school culture where students are competing for adult attention and the approval of newly found classmates. In turn, it leads to more behavioral issues.

Educators and staff across both schools have often worked together through district initiatives, professional development, and community events. These established professional relationships should be strengthened in a consolidated setting, fostering deeper collaboration, shared expertise, and a supportive work environment. However, if teachers are bumped out of their positions at French Creek Elementary by more qualified teachers from Rock Cave Elementary, animosity may occur. Three staff members from Rock Cave Elementary have already moved to French Creek Elementary due to staffing and previous administration issues. Several positions have been open through the last few years at French Creek Elementary and no one else from Rock Cave Elementary took the opportunity to transfer.

Many families have connections across both schools through extended family ties, community organizations, and extracurricular activities. Consolidation will allow these relationships to flourish in a single school environment, enhancing social bonds and

creating a more inclusive and dynamic student experience. How will this be possible when French Creek Elementary cannot hold all the families for them to attend their students' events? How are social bonds going to be enhanced? How is having more students making learning and experiences more inclusive and dynamic?

Both Rock Cave and French Creek communities have demonstrated strong support for their schools through volunteerism, fundraising, and active participation in school events. Each school is self-sufficient and manages its own resources.

2. How the existing known relationships could be impacted by the proposed action.

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

With the closure of Rock Cave Elementary, there will be opportunities for new relationships to be developed with the breaking of already made relationships. The existing ties between families, staff, and students across both schools will be battling to find shared goals and a unified school culture. Consolidation provides a platform for schools to blend into one common value and tradition while creating new opportunities for joint community events, volunteer efforts, and parent engagement. Both schools lose their individuality when they blend, and their efforts are limited in the process.

Many educators and support staff already know one another through district-wide initiatives or professional development. Consolidation will not allow these relationships to flourish in a shared environment, encouraging teamwork mentorship and the exchange of best practices that benefit students and staff alike. Again, animosity and the stressful feelings of additional students will soon bring resentment in the French Creek Elementary teachers. A benefit of working at both schools is the small, intimate class sizes. They are more manageable and successful. Successful students lead to proud teachers!

Students from both schools already interact through extracurricular activities and community programs. Although some students may get along outside school and make stronger relationships, others may bring rivalry to school. Thus, causing more behavior outbursts.

Families who have collaborated across schools, whether through district committees, shared transportation routes, or community events, will now have a single point of engagement. These activities include youth sports, Stockert Youth Center, faith-based activities, and 4-H. This can simplify communication, increase participation, and create a more cohesive parent community that advocates for all children. Both schools have had these opportunities for many years; having a single point of engagement will have no impact.

Both schools are rooted in a commitment to quality education. Consolidation or no consolidation stakeholders can still align their efforts toward a shared vision,

leveraging existing relationships to support strategic planning, resource allocation, and continuous improvement.

3. *The potential for new relationships that could be developed under the proposed action.*

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

The consolidation of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary into a single school presents a powerful opportunity to cultivate new relationships that in hindsight will enrich the educational experience and strengthen the broader community. But long-standing relationships that students developed at a young age will be destroyed. Many students from Rock Cave Elementary have been subjected to traumatic events within their lives. Rock Cave Elementary and the staff have been their "safe place" and their comfort. Removing these adults from their lives will be a traumatic experience.

Students from both schools will have the chance to form new friendships and peer networks, expand their social circles, and learn from one another's diverse experiences. These new connections can foster empathy, collaboration, and a stronger sense of belonging. With the goods also comes the bad. There are behavior issues at both schools that will escalate if consolidated.

Families who may not have previously interacted will not come together in support of a shared school community. This does not open the door for new partnerships, increased volunteerism, and a more dynamic and inclusive environment for parent engagement and involvement. It makes them more reluctant to interact with the school community.

Educators and staff will not benefit from new professional relationships, bringing together varied expertise, teaching styles, and perspectives. Educators and staff have worked previously together, so nothing new will come out of what there already is.

The consolidation encourages broader community engagement, as local organizations, businesses, and leaders will not unite to support a single, larger school. Small businesses provide small schools. Adding on a large number of students will make the donations and community engagement less due to the cost. As the two schools merge, there is an opportunity to create new traditions that do not honor the legacy of both while building a shared identity. These new experiences can weaken relationships across generations and suppress pride in a unified school culture.

3.3 County Board Meeting Speeches

- **Sara Collins**
- **Abigail Jeffries (2)**
- **Amber Anderson (2)**

- Cheyenne Troxell (4)
- Tim Troxell
- Natasha Davis
- Petition to Keep Rock Cave Elementary Open By Angel Moss
- Impact Statement from Community Members (2)
- Gary Bonnett II
- Andrew Pinkney
- Samantha Ribeiro Matos
- Rodney Rolenson
- Pam Hissam
- Shanah Carpenter
- Austin Carpenter
- Delora Brown
- Kelly Bowyer

Appendix of Supporting Data

- WV Property Search
- July 8, 2025 meeting highlighting PREK – shows what RCES missed by not having a PREK this year
- Assessment Achievement
- Statement of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2026 (highlighted central office salaries)
- Attendance data County wide vs. School break down
- 8/13/24 Highlighted cost for Virtual School and funds allocated for RCES highlighted
- Building Program Utilization Worksheets from County Impact Book
- Rock Cave History of the Rocket
- Bus Routes

To Upshur County Board of Education,

We often hear about the opportunities in large schools, but today I want to talk about the power of small schools and the incredible advantages they offer for student success. Small schools build strong community, personal connections, enhance academics, and personal growth. Small schools also have **better attendance rates**.

This can be attributed to more space per student. Each student has a dedicated space and room around them. When we have overcrowded rooms or rooms at max capacity, germs spread so much quicker. Germs spreading creates sickness among the classroom that can then run rapid through the school.

Cleanliness in small schools is more manageable. Our students are able to wash their hands more often. Cutting absences down from sickness. Our janitor is able to deep clean spaces more often than due to less normal day messes being made.

Relationships are built between not only among the students but among the staff and students. The students then want to come to school and see their friends and teachers. This again brings our attendance rate up.

Rock Cave has been able to keep our attendance rates up. We were able to reach our sustainability year through the CSI (Comprehensive School Improvement). Attendance was one of those qualifying factors. The last

few years we had CIS (Community in Schools) and they were able to help get attendance on track tremendously. This year we no longer have CIS, but our attendance rate stays one of the best in Upshur County.

As a small school when buses do not run, our families are able to find transportation for their student to our school. While I know that is an excused absence the instruction they miss is invaluable. We need to keep our school open. Small schools are better for academic achievement and attendance.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and thoughts. Please join with me in keeping Rock Cave Elementary School Open.

Thanks,

Sara Collins

My name is Abigail Jeffries. My children who are now a BUHS senior, and Sophomore at WVU, attended Rock Cave Elementary K-5. I volunteered extensively within the school during that time. Most recently I was a foster parent to children who attended both Rock Cave and French Creek elementaries. Today I am speaking as a concerned community member.

I, along with many others, feel that closing Rock Cave Elementary would be a grave mistake, with effects that would be felt for decades to come. My opposition to the potential closure is multifaceted and it has been difficult to decide what aspect to focus on during this allotted time.

I have chosen to discuss the prudence in making such a far-reaching and permanent decision so hastily (14 weeks and 2 days from formal announcement to final vote). And while I much prefer that Rock Cave Elementary remain open indefinitely, I have challenged myself to consider possible options and solutions to the problems that have been noted by those in opposition to the current proposal.

My greatest concern is for the children of BOTH elementary schools. Children whose safety, health and education should NEVER be compromised. Children who WILL suffer effects should the proposed closure and merger proceed. These effects could be minimized by a true partnership between the Board of Education, the students, families and staff of both schools, and community stakeholders. One that allows time to construct a solid foundation where the success of ALL students can be built on.

The safety and health of these students is of utmost importance. Rock Cave students would be moving from a school that currently has a safe entrance to one that does not. This move results in an even greater potential for a mass disaster. Additionally, there is photographic evidence of overcrowded lots and overflowing parking that reaches Route 20 and beyond during student pick up and special events. A merger would undoubtedly cause larger class sizes that would be a breeding ground for sickness (e.g. Covid) and could lead to increased or overlooked issues with medically fragile students. It would be prudent to address the issues of safe entry and parking lot expansion prior to a merger and construct a solid plan to minimize the impact of the health of students and staff.

The entire reason we are all here is EDUCATION. When researching the topic of the effects of school closure, I could not find ANY articles that did not include the decline of test scores, attendance, parent involvement and student morale. All articles indicated that these effects were even more pronounced in rural areas. As per prior BOE meeting minutes, there have been marked improvements with benchmarks and attendance. It is not prudent to reverse these positive changes with a hasty decision. At risk students should be

identified prior to any merger with plans in place to ensure those students continue to build upon past growth and do not get lost in the shuffle.

In closing, while reviewing the approved BOE meeting minutes for Sept. 11, 2025, under the WV Department of Education section, I noted the quotes by the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Jeffrey Kelley; "put kids first", "prioritize teaching and learning and putting kids first", and "prioritize kids, teaching, and learning." If those quotes truly reflect the mission of our WV Board of Education, then I am confident that you will decide that Rock Cave Elementary School shall remain open, until measures are met to ensure the success of ALL our students.

Respectfully, Abigail Jeffries

School closures should be the last resort when balancing the budget. We heard at the end of last school year that Hodgesville and Washington District Elementaries were on the chopping block. That idea went by the wayside. The day before the official start of this school year we learn that Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementaries are in danger of closure. The application submitted to the SBA for work that needed to be completed for Buckhannon Academy to absorb Tennerton Elementary was dated for September 11, 2025. This application shows local funds commitment to be \$1,898,913. It is stated in the document 'September questions and answers for closure' posted to the BOE website, in answer to the question, Do we currently have the funds to support this project?, "Yes, in carryover from prior years and once the financial statements are finalized we will have knowledge of estimated funding support in the form of carryover from fiscal year 2025." Fast forward to October 21, 2025. It is reported that the closure of Tennerton and merger with Buckhannon Academy is "no longer recommended" because the county can not secure funding even if SBA funding would go through. This reversal indicates that this was not a well thought out plan, the funds were not already secured (or even available) and that the proposal was based on hypotheticals and unknowns. It also has the appearance of being a smoke screen to the real goal of closing Rock Cave Elementary. This begs the question, have any other options been considered, let alone, explored? Has there been thought to sell any or many of the multiple unused properties currently owned by the BOE? Instead of "gaining" money from a forced RIF masked as a school closure, where the county would lose multiple, qualified teaching staff, could there be a RIF at the Board Office level? It has been noted that there are multiple staff hired to "support" even higher earning overseers. Other counties do not utilize this model, indicating that it is not a necessity. Current financial and academic standings suggest that increased staff at the administrative level has not helped, either. Please ensure that any and all other options have been exhausted before heeding to the closure of Rock Cave Elementary (or any) school. Our children deserve so much better.

Argument Against Closing RCES

By Amber Anderson

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,

Most of you know me as an educator, because I have dedicated my life to the students of Upshur County since 2001. However, my most cherished role is a parent... a parent who has put 3 children with one more to go through Rock Cave Elementary! My first child started Rock Cave in first grade back in 2004, but my other 3 began their educational journey there in PreK. Ironically, in the closure documents, it was said, "Parents don't have the option to send their children to RCES for the full seven years." Taking the PreK out of our building this year was a devastating hit.

Each year, hundreds of schools across the country close because of low enrollment, budget shortfalls, and poor performance. Decades of research have shown that those closures have a negative impact on students' academic achievement, with researchers documenting drops in test scores, attendance, and high school graduation rates.

*The following is from NEA Today about school closures. It's called, "**How Educators Are Stopping School Closures**" by Mary Ellen Flannery, Senior Writer Published: January 27, 2023*

"When neighborhood schools close, whether it's in urban or rural communities, students are forced to attend schools farther from their homes. The new distance—plus the trauma of displacement—can affect student attendance and performance.

Parents, especially from lower-income families without reliable transportation, also face challenges in getting to their children's schools. This curtails their opportunities to volunteer in classrooms or attend after-school events—or even parent-teacher conferences.

The efforts to close schools have been traumatizing to students, and they mask the solutions that educators know would really help our students.

Closures also affect the health of communities. In rural areas, they may be the biggest employer. Everywhere, they're places that "tie people together," *Tieken* says. Meanwhile, evidence hasn't been found that school closures actually save money—which is the goal.

Instead of closing schools, school boards should invest in community schools that focus on what students in the community truly need to succeed, such as free meals, after-school programs, mental-health supports, etc.

These kids are the reason I teach—and they deserve to know their home will not be taken from them. I'm here to do everything I can to protect the environment that allows them to thrive and prosper.

Our students want to be at school. They feel safe there and they're thriving. Just look at our attendance rates and test scores! This is an unnecessary trauma for our students. They're confused and scared because adults in this district have decided to propose decisions without thinking about how it will affect them.

If you vote yes to closing the schools in this manner, you are saying we don't respect you.

If you vote no to close the schools in this manner, you are saying we respect you enough to have an honest conversation with you and come up with a plan.

"What is the cost of a school closure, not just in dollars, but in dreams?"
"What does a school truly represent to our children and our community?"

We are the heart of the Rock Cave community. Each year, our school hosts several community events from the annual StarGazer Easter Egg Hunt to the SUBA Christmas Parade. Have I also mentioned that we are a voting precinct? Many families hold birthday parties on the playground. I know my son and his friends looked forward to the annual birthday party at their school playground each year! Or what about the local kids who just want to shoot basketball in the evenings? What happens if the school is closed and no longer open to the public?

Rock Cave may only be a few miles from French Creek, but we are our own little community. Our ties run deep with the local businesses from The Family Dollar, IGA, Rock Cave Diner, Community Care, and the Arlington Mini Mart. The local businesses are always willing to assist us when asked.

We at Rock Cave Elementary are a family with an exceptional leader! All of our staff, with the exception of one teacher, are highly qualified teachers. Most schools don't even have a special education teacher! When we lack subs in our building, we have staff members that don't think twice about stepping up and filling those roles so the students get the education they need. I have been a special education teacher at Rock Cave for 12 years and I don't have any plans to leave. But if I'm forced to leave, do you think I'll stay in Upshur County? I'm not sure. I love my students, and I had a chance to leave them this year, but I didn't. These are my students, and I will fight for them and their education! They deserve small classes with dedicated teachers, not classes that are up to max capacity because the money is better. There will be about 33 special education students if we combine with French Creek, how much individualized time or small group time will they be able to secure then?

Upon graduation, my son wanted to take a job where he could make money. So, he decided to move out of state and work on the rigs. Then he found out he had a baby on the way. Do you think he thought about money? Yes, but he also thought about his child. So, what did he do? He searched and applied until he found a good paying job close to home.

Why? Because his baby girl and her momma were more important to him than money. He makes enough money to support them comfortably, and he holds their love and happiness with the up most importance. There are other options; we need to explore and apply! There is enough money in the bank to put the students first! Sometimes difficult sacrifices are the most rewarding.

Our enrollments have faced challenges, but we need a plan to strengthen our school, and we need your help to ensure a vibrant and successful future for our students! Some of our students may have transferred to other schools due to previous administration, but we also have students from Webster and Lewis County that attend our school. One family actually drives every morning and evening from Lewis County just for their child to attend Rock Cave Elementary.

The proposed cost savings are speculative, and they come at an incalculable cost to our children and our town. Instead of giving up, we should be reinvesting and exploring options. Instead of closing our doors, we should be opening our minds to solutions that will truly help our students succeed.

The choice is clear. We can choose to cut corners and pay for it with our community's well-being, or we can choose to invest in our future. I urge you to choose our future. I urge you to vote 'no' on closing RCES and read "Ghosts in the Schoolyard" before making any decisions.

Thank you for your time!

10/21/25

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to our small town of Rock Cave, My name is Amber Anderson, and I am speaking to you tonight regarding the proposal to consolidate Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools into a single school. As you can see, our community is united in opposition to this proposal. As a parent of three children and one grandson who have attended Rock Cave Elementary—and with a child currently in third grade here—I have a deep connection to this school community. I am also currently in my 13th year serving as the special education teacher at this school. For three of those years, I also supported French Creek Elementary several hours each week to assist with their overflow.

Five minutes isn't enough time to even scratch the surface of why this consolidation is a mistake. I've chosen to use my time to talk about what matters most—our students and the relationships we build with them. You'll hear about the budget from others, but for me, students will always be the heart of education. Education is the most powerful tool—it opens minds, builds futures, and shapes a better world. Education means studying to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of a variety of subjects applicable to daily life. Education is not limited to just knowledge from books but can also be obtained through practical experiences outside of the classroom.

As our students have already said, every staff member knows every student by name. That's the essence of who we are—we are a family, supporting each other every day. Rock Cave Elementary proudly puts students first in everything we do. The relationships nurtured within these walls are meaningful to both students and staff, shaping our school community every day.

Given the high poverty level among our students, many of them are being cared for by grandparents or other family members, highlighting the unique challenges our community faces. Many students have endured traumatic experiences in their early lives and view school as a source of comfort. In a small school, the environment itself becomes a 'safe spot' while dedicated teachers serve as their 'safe people'. Transitioning these students into a larger school, where they must adjust to new teachers and peers, can be deeply disruptive and may intensify trauma, especially when established relationships are broken for financial reasons. We, the teachers, know our students—their strengths, their dreams, and what helps them thrive. If their parents want them in a larger school, then why are they here? Families have the option to send their children to French Creek, but they deliberately choose Rock Cave Elementary, showing the value they place on our school community.

I also want to touch on the WV Watch article from October 1, 2025, in which Mr. Paul Hardesty addressed the topic of school closures and consolidations. He stated that, "Because private schools can't often accommodate students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Hardesty said the Hope Scholarship has taken the state's "best and brightest" and left the public schools with the responsibility of educating children with social, developmental and economic challenges." "It's left us the toughest to try to educate," Hardesty said. "And we'll take that challenge head on, but it's hard. It's very expensive to provide the services for those children."

Let us take a moment to think about these students: those labeled as 'socially, developmentally, and economically challenged,'

students with IEPs, and those considered the most difficult to educate. These are the students proposed for consolidation into a larger group. With dedicated adults providing support, they cost no more to educate than any other student. At Rock Cave Elementary, we don't shy away from challenges. We welcome the opportunity to support students and parents, no matter how difficult the circumstances are.

Students who value education build the foundation for their success. When students lack guidance, they lose their compass and drift toward trouble. With dedication and care, teachers guide their students to reach their full potential.

It is inspiring to watch students grow and develop, witnessing former students who have broken challenging family cycles and gone on to lead productive lives.

Rock Cave Elementary is committed to building strong foundational skills, employing exceptional teachers, and engaging both students and parents. Mrs. Carpenter and I provide after-school tutoring to address learning gaps, while our whole staff collaborates to strengthen the school culture, implement personalized learning, foster meaningful community partnerships, and proactively ensure the success of both our students and our school.

The proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary is presented as a cost-saving measure; however, the Upshur County Board of Education owns multiple unused properties that have not been sold or repurposed. Strategic management or disposal of these surplus properties could generate revenue to offset maintenance and operational costs, potentially reducing the financial pressure

that is being used to justify the RCES closure. Without leveraging these existing assets, the district may be overlooking alternative solutions that do not require disrupting students, staff, and the community. Why allocate \$900,000 toward a virtual school program and \$81,057.15 for a single teacher salary when maintaining a brick-and-mortar school such as Rock Cave Elementary would cost less? Investing in in-person learning provides direct academic, social, and emotional benefits to students while preserving community connections and local educational opportunities.

As I close, I leave you with one critical question about funding, particularly considering Mr. Hardesty's article: Will the school aid formula be revisited to recognize the unique challenges faced by our rural and geographically isolated communities? And if so, will the Board of Education and the legislature work together to find funding solutions that preserve our small rural schools, putting students first and helping West Virginia rise in national education rankings? Our students deserve better. It is not acceptable for West Virginia to consistently rank near the bottom nationally, with some studies placing us last among public schools or even as the least educated state.

Thank you for listening to me tonight. Our school is more than a building—it's a community. Please, do not close Rock Cave Elementary.

11/13/25

Date: November 5, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education

Subject: Opposition to the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Dear Members of the Upshur County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. After attending the past three Board of Education meetings and reviewing the financial impact statement presented, I have serious concerns regarding the accuracy, transparency, and validity of the financial data being used to justify this decision.

It has become evident that multiple line items in the budget are already over-extended and were not properly accounted for. This raises significant questions about the fiscal management and planning processes currently in place. Furthermore, the Board has acknowledged uncertainty regarding the number of properties and acreage it owns, which is deeply troubling and suggests a lack of comprehensive asset oversight. Why can't these vacant properties be sold or timbered to pay for the alleged shortfall of funding needed for or school to remain open? How is it ethical to close a school when there are millions of dollars in unrestricted funds meaning that our school has already been budgeted for and that is your extra money? How is it ethical to continue to possess so many vacant properties and still consider the closing of a school when they can be sold? How is it ethical to show incorrect numbers and exceed multiple line items budgets on your budget when that is against rules and regulations for public entities?

Most concerning is the fact that the carryover amounts—critical to understanding the district's true financial position—were not available until the end of October according to your financial representative. This means that all figures included in the impact statement are merely estimates, not verified data. Making a decision as consequential as closing a school based on incomplete and speculative financial information is not only irresponsible but potentially harmful to our community.

Additionally, the justification for the closure includes references to a 2019 report from the School Building Authority (SBA). This report is outdated by six years and fails to reflect the current status of the school, especially considering that many of the projects listed have already been completed. Relying on obsolete data to support such a significant action undermines the credibility of the entire process.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than just a school—it is a cornerstone of our community. Its

closure would disrupt the lives of students, families, and staff, and diminish the educational opportunities available in our rural area. I urge the Board to reconsider this proposal and instead commit to a transparent, data-driven approach that includes updated financials, accurate property records, and current facility assessments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record and that the concerns raised herein be addressed before any further action is taken regarding the closure of Rock Cave Elementary.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne troxell

Public Hearing Speech on the Proposed Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Addressing Legal, Logistical, and Community Concerns

Good evening, my name is Cheyenne Troxell. I stand before you today to address the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School, a matter that profoundly affects not only our children but the very fabric of our community. My remarks will focus on key issues within the impact statement and the process by which it has been submitted, with the aim of ensuring that our voices and facts are fully considered in this critical decision.

Legal Process: Authority Under W. Va. Code 18-5-13a

First and foremost, I must highlight a procedural concern regarding the submission of the impact statement. According to W. Va. Code 18-5-13a, only the county board of education is authorized to submit such a statement. The statute does not list the state-appointed superintendent or anyone else to carry out this responsibility other than the county in their verbiage. Adhering to the code is essential for the legitimacy of this process, and I urge the board to review whether the current submission aligns with statutory requirements.

Facilities: Inadequate Loading and Unloading at French Creek Elementary

Turning to Facilities section 3.2.b, I wish to draw attention to the inaccuracies stating that French Creek Elementary student loading and unloading areas are adequate. Daily traffic congestion is a persistent issue congesting route 20, and during school events, overflow parking often spills onto the main route and private owned lots, creating unsafe conditions and logistical challenges. These shortcomings raise serious concerns about the capacity of French Creek to safely and efficiently absorb additional students and traffic flow.

Personnel: Impact of Job Losses on the Community

Under Personnel section 3.2.d, it is noted that 21 employees from Rock Cave Elementary would lose their jobs should the school close. This is not just a statistic—it represents families, livelihoods, and a significant loss of community cohesion. Such layoffs would have a ripple effect, local stores, diners, and businesses would suffer the loss of many of

their customers as the traffic flow would solely be directed towards town creating an unfair business ecosystem solely impacting southern Upshur County.

Student Transportation: Excessive Bus Travel Times and Safety Risks

Student Transportation section 3.2.e addresses bus routes, and I must emphasize that the proposed changes would lead to travel times exceeding the 30min recommended limit from the state. This would necessitate waivers and expose our children to prolonged commutes, increasing safety risks, particularly in adverse weather conditions, with many students having nearly two hours of travel daily, which even exceeds the allowable waiver time per Code 18-2E-5d of 45 min. The well-being of our students should never be compromised for logistical convenience.

Impact Statement Accuracy: Removal of Opinion-Based Sections

I respectfully request that sections 3.2.f (Student Educational Program) and 3.2.g (Community) be removed from the proposed impact statement. These sections are based on opinions rather than verifiable facts, and the community was not involved in their formulation. For the integrity of the process, only substantiated and objective information should be included.

Student Enrollment: Overcapacity and Lack of Growth Potential

Student Enrollment section 3.2.a has major discrepancies, with the submitted numbers implying, "no issues with the merger", but according to SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form LEA ID: 087205 merging Rock Cave Elementary with French Creek would result in classrooms exceeding and reaching maximum capacities based off current enrollment numbers. The listed classroom max capacity column for FCES shows grades pre-k – kindergarten is limited to (20per class) and 1st-5th to (25 per class). According to the max capacity regulations listed this discrepancy alone would totally void the request for a merger of the schools. Additionally, with local birth rates on the rise over the past four years shown in your chart, this leaves no room for future enrollment, placing unnecessary strain on resources and limiting educational opportunities for our children. Federal law 20 U.S.

Code 1701 declares that all children in public schools are entitled to equal educational opportunities. West Virginia Compulsory School Attendance law 18-8-1 mandates that children must attend school. This merger clearly would violate these laws and codes by denying our children adequate and equal opportunities for enrollment.

Facilities Clarification: Parking Lot and Pre-K Program

Regarding Facilities section 3.2.b, I must refute the claim that Rock Cave Elementary's parking lot requires paving. The existing lot is functional and does not present the immediate need for replacement as suggested. Additionally, Rock Cave Elementary has ample space for a pre-K program, which was closed by the superintendent but could easily be reopened to serve our youngest learners. Our greenhouse is also being utilized and is flourishing which was stated in the impact statement as "unused".

Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

This section implies that there is a need for secure entrances for all schools per the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities plan. Rock Cave Elementary already has a secure entrance installed and French Creek Elementary does not which would put our student's safety in jeopardy.

Future of Closed Facilities

RCES would be closed and sold as surplus property. Who gets the money? Do the taxpayers that paid to build it have a say so? Why can't the BOE look into selling or timbering their other vacant tracts of property that haven't been in use? How will our children being uprooted benefit from its sale? Community members will have a decrease in their property value and lose their access to the playground and pavilion for after school activities, local businesses will suffer a loss in revenue, and local first responders will receive less funding. How will you make up for this loss to the local people?

School Building Authority of WV SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form Site Evaluation

These evaluations were conducted on 10-17-2019! None of the information is up to date or correct. This evaluation is implying an extremely inflated renovation expense on RCES

causing an unfair disadvantage in decision making for our closure. Numerous projects have already been completed including the secure entrance which was stated in the impact statement as a need. The cost summary sheet also includes extremely inflated pricing for supplies and installation. Who decides this pricing and where does the information come from? Are the jobs properly put out to bid to ensure fair pricing? Also why aren't these Site Evaluations conducted more often to ensure that all schools, local boards, and state boards are receiving accurate information?

Conclusion: Call for Reconsideration and Community Involvement

In closing, I urge the board to reconsider the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary. Let us adhere to the proper legal processes, base our decisions on objective facts, and ensure meaningful community involvement in decision making. The impact statement does not have appropriate factual information due to repeated incorrect information and statements based on opinion for the State Board to make a final decision on this matter. Our children, employees, and the broader community deserve a transparent and thoughtful approach—one that truly serves the best interests of all. Our children are paying the consequences for adults that didn't have them in their best interest and there is not a value that anyone can put on their rights, they are not line items on your budgets, they are our future and the decisions you make now will impact them for years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Cheyenne Troxell

Formal Grievance Regarding the Proposed Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Date: October 13, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education
West Virginia State Board of Education

From:

Cheyenne Troxell, Parent of a Rock Cave Elementary Student

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my deep frustration and strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School at the end of the 2025–2026 academic year. This decision, if enacted, will have devastating consequences for our students, families, and the broader Rock Cave community.

Rock Cave Elementary is not just a school—it is a pillar of our rural community. It boasts the highest attendance rates in Upshur County, a testament to the dedication of its staff and the trust it has earned from families. The school fosters a nurturing environment where children feel safe, supported, and engaged. Closing this school would disrupt the educational continuity of our children and erode the social fabric of our community.

Evidence-based research consistently shows that closing rural schools leads to:

- Lower academic performance due to longer commutes, larger class sizes, and loss of personalized instruction.
- Decreased community engagement, as schools often serve as hubs for local events, services, and civic participation.
- Increased dropout rates and emotional distress among students, especially those from low-income families.
- Economic decline, as families may relocate to areas with more stable school systems, further reducing enrollment and funding.

These outcomes are not hypothetical—they are documented realities in communities across West Virginia and the nation.

What is equally troubling is the lack of transparency and communication from the Upshur County Board of Education. Teachers at Rock Cave Elementary reportedly learned of the closure proposal through Facebook, not through official channels. Parents have been left in the dark, with no clear timeline, no public hearings scheduled, and no meaningful opportunity to provide input. This is unacceptable and undermines public trust in our

educational leadership.

Furthermore, the fact that Upshur County remains under state control due to prior financial mismanagement raises serious concerns about the motivations behind this proposal. Decisions affecting our children's futures should be made with community collaboration, not imposed from above without due process.

At the most recent Board of Education meeting, there were multiple discrepancies between the state and local board members regarding financial reporting. It was revealed that the board has millions of dollars in its unassigned budget, commonly referred to as a 'rainy day fund.' Despite this, they are proposing to close Rock Cave Elementary over a budget shortfall of just \$800,000.00. How is this acceptable? How can the state determine where our local tax money is allocated without a public vote or community input? This lack of fiscal clarity and disregard for democratic process further erodes trust in the decision-making authority of the Board of Education.

It is deeply unfair that our children are being forced to bear the consequences of financial mismanagement committed by previous superintendents and board members—individuals who have faced no repercussions for their actions. Why are they not being held accountable, while our innocent children are? Why is the state allowed to make decisions that will impact our county and our children for years to come, when they have no personal investment in our community? These decisions should be made by those who understand and care about the long-term well-being of our families, not by distant officials with no stake in our future.

We respectfully demand the following:

1. Immediate suspension of the closure proposal until full public hearings are held.
2. A transparent and data-driven justification for the closure, including financial breakdowns and educational impact assessments.
3. A community-led task force to explore alternative solutions to budgetary and enrollment challenges.
4. A commitment to preserving rural education, recognizing its unique value and role in community development.

We will not stand by while our children's futures are compromised. Rock Cave Elementary is worth fighting for—not just for its academic success, but for the heart and hope it brings to our community.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne Troxell
Parent, Advocate, and Concerned Citizen

Inquiry Regarding Ethical Practices in State Board of Education Interventions

Letter to the West Virginia Ethics Board

October 15, 2025

West Virginia Ethics Board

210 Brooks Street, Suite 300

Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Members of the West Virginia Ethics Board,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen regarding the ethical implications of the State Board of Education's intervention and subsequent control over the affairs of local boards of education, specifically in situations where major decisions are made that have profound and lasting impacts on our communities.

My primary concern stems from recent actions taken while the State Board is in control of a local board of education. These actions include, but are not limited to, school closures, the termination of staff positions, and significant financial decisions. What is troubling is that these decisions are being made by individuals who are not elected by our community and, therefore, do not have a direct stake in our local interests or future. I am seeking clarification on how such practices align with ethical standards governing public service and decision-making.

For example, our county board of education currently holds nearly \$8 million in unrestricted funds. Despite this, there is an ongoing proposal to close a rural elementary school, citing a financial shortfall of \$865,982.81. This decision would not only disrupt the lives of students and staff but also negatively affect the fabric of our rural community. How is it considered ethical to close a school over a comparatively minor budgetary issue when substantial unrestricted funds are available?

Furthermore, the State Board's authority to make major, long-lasting decisions—such as staff layoffs, school closures, and financial allocations—while acting as a temporary administrator, raises questions about the ethical boundaries of their role. How can it be justified for appointed officials, who are not elected by the community and may not be accountable to local constituents, to make decisions that will affect our community for years to come?

I respectfully request clarification on the following points:

- What ethical guidelines govern the State Board of Education when it assumes control of a local board and makes major decisions impacting the community?
- Is it ethically permissible for the State Board to close schools and lay off staff when the local board possesses substantial unrestricted funds?
- How does the State Board ensure that its decisions reflect the interests and values of the local community, particularly when the decision-makers are not elected by those affected?
- What mechanisms exist to ensure transparency, accountability, and community input during such interventions?

I appreciate your attention to these concerns and look forward to your guidance on how ethical standards are upheld in these situations. Our community deserves to understand the rationale and ethical framework behind decisions that will shape our educational landscape and impact our children's futures.

Sincerely,

Cheyenne Troxell, Parent, Student Advocate, and Concerned Citizen

Chevellegirl30@gmail.com

Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

A Business Owner's Perspective on Community, Education, and Economic Stability

Introduction

Good evening, my name is Tim Troxell, and I am the owner of Raven Contracting LLC. I stand before you today not only as a local business owner, but also as a tax-paying citizen who deeply cares about the future of our community, businesses, and the well-being of our children. I'm extremely frustrated over the mismanagement of funds from the previous administration and the current decisions, proposals, and so-called good ideas from the current administration! Your actions have been an absolute disgrace to our children and communities. Instead of individuals having to take responsibility for their actions our children have been left with this burden. It has been stated by you guys that there are millions of dollars in "unrestricted funds" currently and knowing that RCES was already budgeted for how is it even a possibility that we are standing before you today pleading our cases? This sounds to me like yet again another mismanagement of funds is happening robbing the taxpayers, children, and communities of their right to a fair education.

The Heart of Our Community

Rock Cave Elementary School is more than just a building; it is the heartbeat of our town. It is where our children learn, grow, and form the connections that will carry them into adulthood. The decision to close our school would ripple far beyond its walls—it would impact every household, every storefront, and every family in this district.

As business owners, we pay our taxes with the understanding that those funds will help strengthen our community—providing essential services, improving infrastructure, and most importantly, supporting our local schools. The

children of Rock Cave, many of whom are the sons and daughters of business owners, deserve the right to attend school within their own district.

The Economic Impact of School Closures

Research has consistently shown that closing schools in rural communities can have devastating economic effects. According to studies from the National Education Policy Center and the Rural School and Community Trust, when a local school closes, it often leads to a decline in population, reduced property values, and a loss of jobs. Businesses, such as mine, rely on a strong community to thrive—and that strength starts with a local school. Since you are all so worried about your own funding and nothing else, just think about what will happen when the property values drop, job loss, and closure of businesses happen. You will receive way less money from your levy. Your actions will and do have consequences.

For lower-income areas like ours, the impact is even greater. School closures disproportionately affect families who may not have the means to transport their children to distant schools, leading to decreased attendance and engagement. All of which is required for them to receive funding and maintain qualified professionals. You are setting them up for failure with this proposed merger. When families are forced to relocate for better access to education, small businesses lose loyal customers and employees. The economic well-being of our community is threatened and the chance of it to have a future is diminished.

Social and Emotional Consequences

Beyond the financial fallout, closing Rock Cave Elementary would break the social fabric that binds us together. Schools act as community centers, hosting events, meetings, and gatherings that foster pride and unity. When a school closes, families lose a safe space for their children and their hub for community involvement. The sense of loss and isolation can be severe in rural and lower-income communities, where alternatives are limited. Use of the playground and pavilions for birthday parties and after school activities would

no longer be available, as you all stated that you intend to sell the property. Property that was purchased by the tax paying citizens of Upshur County for the sole purpose of providing a school to the area! Not to mention the fact that the citizens don't get to have a say so on this matter other than getting their 5-minute plea today, which is disproportionately unfair.

Call to Action

We must recognize that the closure of Rock Cave Elementary is not simply a matter of budget cuts—it is a decision that will shape the future of our town for generations. As tax-paying business owners, we urge you to consider the profound consequences for our children, our livelihoods, and our community's wellbeing. Let's work together to find alternate solutions that keep our school open and our community strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Let's stand united for Rock Cave, for our businesses, and most importantly, for our children.

Sincerely,

Tim Troxell
Raven Contracting LLC
Owner

Our school is small but it is important. The idea of losing it forever is heartbreaking to all of us.

French Creek Elementary is a great school too. I have no negative things to say about the school, staff or families. They would welcome us with open arms, I'm sure.

If they were on the chopping block, I would be standing with them and fighting for their school as well.

But, it's not **our** school. This school has been a big part of the Rock Cave community since the 1970's. It's a large employer for the area. Staff spend money at our local businesses. Our PTO purchases food and supplies for our special events from Arlington Mini Mart, IGA, and Rock Cave Family Dollar.

Our school invests money back into the local economy.

It's also a resource for local families--just like Hodgesville Elementary is important to the northern part of Upshur County and Union Elementary to the eastern part of the county. Our playground is not only used during school hours. Our community uses it as a park, birthday party venue and many get their steps in with our walking trail. Local groups host large Easter Egg Hunts for the community and Rock Cave Elementary School is used as the staging area for the SUBA Christmas Parade. On Election Days we are also a polling place. Our PTO recently installed a Little Free Pantry and we have a Little Free Library for all members of our community as well.

Local schools matter to their communities.

I urge State Superintendent Blatt and all those involved to consider all the angles.

Let's get creative and find a way to save our schools, not close them.



18th Judicial Circuit Community Corrections

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Upshur County Office
85 W Main Street
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18judicialccc@gmail.com

November 13, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

As a substance abuse counselor who works closely with youth and families in our community, I want to express my strong support for keeping our small schools open. The impact of school size and community connection on youth well-being cannot be overstated, especially when it comes to preventing and addressing substance use, mental health struggles, and trauma. Small schools provide more than education; they offer stability, belonging, and accountability. In a smaller setting, teachers, counselors, and staff are able to truly know each student recognizing early signs of distress, substance use, or isolation before these issues escalate. That personal connection is often what saves a young person from falling through the cracks. When students are moved to larger, consolidated schools, many lose that sense of identity and connection. They face increased social pressures, longer commutes, and less individual support, all of which are proven risk factors for substance use and emotional distress. For students already vulnerable due to trauma, poverty, or family challenges, those risks multiply.

Small schools also act as a protective factor for families. They strengthen community ties by allowing parents and educators to collaborate closely. This "whole community" model fosters prevention and resilience, two key ingredients in combating the rise of youth substance use and mental health crises that small towns across America are facing. Closing small schools may seem financially practical on paper, but from a behavioral health standpoint, it can have long-term costs: increased dropout rates, higher juvenile involvement, and greater demand for mental health and addiction services down the line. Investing in small schools is an investment in prevention, early intervention, and community health. I urge you to consider not only the educational outcomes but also the emotional and social safety that these schools provide. Our children deserve environments where they are seen, supported, and given every chance to thrive. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the well-being of our youth.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pinkney MS, AADC

Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

An Advocate Parent's Concerns for Disabled Children

November 13, 2025

To the Esteemed Members of the School Board and Education Officials,

I am writing as a concerned parent of two children with disabilities, both of whom attend a rural school and benefit from Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). I am also a dedicated member of the West Virginia Disabilities Council and a long-standing advocate for disabled children and their families. My intent is to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and to urge you to reconsider this decision in light of the potential harm it poses to our most vulnerable students.

Impact on Children with Disabilities and Overcrowding Concerns

Children with disabilities thrive in environments where they receive individualized attention and support tailored to their unique needs. Rock Cave Elementary has provided such an environment for children, allowing them to flourish both academically and socially. The prospect of closing this school raises serious concerns about the inevitable overcrowding that would result from relocating these students to already burdened facilities.

Overcrowding not only stretches resources thin but also significantly diminishes the quality of care and instruction children with disabilities receive. For students with IEPs, such disruptions can lead to regression and exacerbation of challenges that schools have worked diligently to address.

Evidence of Negative Effects from School Closures and Uprooting

Multiple studies have highlighted the detrimental effects of school closures and the uprooting of students with disabilities. Research published in the *Journal of Special Education* and by the National Education Policy Center demonstrates that transitions caused by school closures often result in academic setbacks, increased behavioral problems, and emotional distress for disabled children and their families. The loss of established relationships with trusted educators and support staff can have lasting

negative impacts, particularly for children who rely on consistent routines and familiar environments to thrive.

Concerns Regarding Quality of Care and Supervision

A paramount issue is the ability to provide quality care and proper supervision for children with disabilities, especially those with autism who may have elopement tendencies. In larger, more crowded schools, the risk of inadequate supervision increases, putting these children in potentially unsafe situations. As a parent and advocate, I am deeply concerned about how these students will receive the specialized attention, safety measures, and individualized instruction their IEPs mandate. Without sufficient staff-to-student ratios and appropriate resources, the well-being and safety of our children are at serious risk.

Conclusion and Offer for Further Discussion

Given the overwhelming evidence of harm caused by school closures and the unique needs of students with disabilities, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. The wellbeing, safety, and educational progress of our children must remain a top priority. I am willing to discuss these concerns further and collaborate on solutions that protect and support our disabled students.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued commitment to all children in our community.

Sincerely,



Samantha Ribeiro Matos

Parent

Member of the West Virginia Disabilities Council

Advocate for Disabled Children

Keep Rock Cave Elementary Open!!!

The proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School presents not only an educational concern but also a deeply personal and economic challenge for the families and residents of our rural community. While cost-saving measures are an understandable priority, closing Rock Cave Elementary would disrupt a foundation that supports not just student learning, but the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our area.

Educational Impact

Rock Cave Elementary offers small class sizes that allow for personalized instruction, individualized support, and strong relationships between teachers, students, and families. These characteristics are proven to enhance student achievement and emotional well-being. Transferring students to larger schools would eliminate this close-knit learning environment, leading to increased class sizes, longer commute times, and reduced opportunities for one-on-one attention.

Additionally, many rural families face transportation challenges. A longer bus route to distant schools could make attendance more difficult, especially during winter months, potentially lowering academic performance and increasing absenteeism.

Community and Economic Impact

Rock Cave Elementary is much more than a school—it is the heart of the community. The school serves as a gathering space for civic events, youth programs, and community meetings. Its closure would remove one of the few unifying institutions in the area, weakening community identity and diminishing engagement among residents.

Economically, closing the school could lead to lower property values and decreased appeal for young families considering moving to the area. Without a local school, new families are less likely to settle here, resulting in population decline, reduced local spending, and eventual economic stagnation.

Social and Emotional Consequences

The absence of Rock Cave Elementary would be especially hard on younger children, who rely on familiar teachers and community members for stability and nurturing. Students forced to attend larger, distant schools may struggle with adjustment, anxiety, and feelings of isolation.

For parents and staff, the emotional impact is equally significant. Teachers who have dedicated years to serving this community would face job loss or relocation, while parents would lose trusted partners in their children's education.

Conclusion

Closing Rock Cave Elementary School may appear financially practical in the short term, but the long-term consequences for education quality, community well-being, and local growth are far too great. Rock Cave Elementary is not merely a building—it is a cornerstone of this community's identity, opportunity, and pride. Preserving it is essential to sustaining both educational excellence and the spirit of rural life.

Sincerely,

Rodney Rolenson

You continuously cite “declining enrollment which means less funding” as your reasoning for wanting to close Rock Cave Elementary School, but Upshur County is receiving MORE state aide this year than last, per the WV Dept. of Education website.

For the 2025/26 schools year, Upshur County is receiving \$6,548.93 per pupil in Basic State Aid. Since we have 71 enrolled students this school year, just the Basic State Aide is enough to fund half of our estimated operating budget. (\$6,548.93 x 71 = \$464,974.03)

Now, let’s add in our estimated Federal Aid of about \$3,000 per pupil: that another \$213,000. (3000 x 71 = \$213,000)

That’s a combined total of \$677,974.03.

So, our county BOE/State Dept can’t afford the remaining \$1,168,186.7 a year to fund our school? Are our students in the southern part of the county not worth that investment?

RCES Staff 2025/26	
Principal	\$77,026.07
K	\$57,987.00
Teacher 1st	\$69,923.00
Teacher 2nd	\$65,810.00
Teacher 3rd	\$54,462.00
Teacher 4th	\$47,262.00
Teacher 5th	\$41,455.00 *estimate
SPED	\$61,687.00
speech	\$29,741.00
2nd aide	\$28,170.00
3rd aide	\$28,820.00
Ind.aide	\$26,930.00
1st aide	\$30,870.00
K aide	\$28,180.00
Secretary	\$28,720.00
Cafe Manager	\$28,650.00
Custodian	\$30,565.50
PE	\$27,255.50
Art	\$20,728.00 *estimate
Total cost =	\$784,242.07
	Impact statement says: \$1,456,145.82 difference of \$603,961.25
music	\$20,728.00 *none yet
counselor	*none yet
gifted	\$7,500.00 *estimate
nurse	*only 2 days a week
OT/PT	*not sure

After reading the Impact/Closure Statement, we have some questions that we would like answered before the special meeting if possible. It is important to get all the facts and those facts must be accurate before such an important vote takes place.

- What is the issue with the parking lot? It seems fine to us.
- Why is it stated that our Green house is not used? It is. Have you been inside it? Our classes have been raising seedlings since the beginning of the school year and we used it last year.
- We had a PreK up until this school year. You took that away from our school. In fact, in May during class time our PreK teacher was called and informed that there would be no PreK the 25/26 school year. Even though some families had already signed up for Rock Cave PreK and those students were automatically put onto the French Creek list, without families knowing until last minute.
- Why is it stated we do not use our library? We do. We have a great school library and have used it every year. It is delayed this year due to volunteer background checks, but to say it is not used is not factual. Our music class/instruments are also in that building. We didn't have music class until recently because there was no teacher hired. Thankfully, our wonderful 5th grade teacher has agreed to teach some music classes so our school can have a Christmas concert this year.
- We also had a counselor and CSI up until this school year. Again, those were taken away.

We can't help but assume that this was all by design. The very issues you cite for closure are by the county/state's doing.

- Also, we would like to ask for an itemized breakdown of personnel costs. Several of us have listed all the current Rock Cave staff and used the WVDE certified list for salaries and our numbers are far below the numbers in the impact statement. Like over \$600,000 below. How did you get that number? W
- Another question we have is what good did it do to have RCES as a CSI school and pay the mentor, Jim Wicham, if you were just going to shut us down right after we completed that process and increased our scores and attendance? That seems like a waste of time, resources and money. Hodegesville, you better watch out. we feel like that was the first step in this closure process for Rock Cave.
- We would also like to ask how much it costs our county BOE for the virtual option. I know it's free for students. I want to know the expenses you pay out for it. I can't help but wonder if the end goal is to get more of our students on the virtual program, since you still will receive the funding per pupil but with less overhead expenses from the brick-and-mortar schools.

Thank you. Please email answers to rockcavepto@gmail.com

Rock Cave Elementary School is very close to my heart. My mother came to this school soon after it opened and I went to school here all my grade school years. My two oldest daughters have attended since PreK and graduated 5th grade at RCES. Now, my two youngest are in 1st and 2nd grades. I would love for them to be able to graduate 5th grade as a Rock Cave Rocket too.

I have been an active school volunteer/PTO member since 2015. By volunteering with our school library, holiday parties, special events, field trips and our new school store I see firsthand what a difference our small school makes to these children. Each student has a personal connection with a staff member, and it makes a huge impact on their lives. Small classes are a good thing. They provide more tailored time to those who need extra help. Our students feel at home here because it is their home. RCES is a safe, nurturing place for the children of Rock Cave and the surrounding areas. We have some students from Lewis County and Randolph counties who attend, and I believe some from Webster have in the past.

We would have more enrollment if our PreK program had not been taken away at the last minute, last school year. Several of our families went to another school so their children wouldn't have to be in separate schools.

Our playground is not only used during school hours. Our community uses it as a park, birthday party venue and many get their steps in with our walking trail. Local groups host large Easter Egg Hunts for the community and Rock Cave Elementary School is used as the staging area for the SUBA Christmas Parade. On Election Days we are also a polling place. Our PTO recently installed a Little Free Pantry and we have a Little Free Library for all members of our community as well.

Our school is small but it is important. The idea of losing it forever is heartbreaking to all of us.

French Creek Elementary is a great school too. I have no negative things to say about the school, staff or families. They would welcome us with open arms, I'm sure. If they were on the chopping block, I would be standing with them and fighting for their school as well.

But, it's not our school. This school has been a big part of the Rock Cave community since the 1970's. It's a large employer for the area and a big resource for local families--just like Hodgesville Elementary is important to the northern part of Upshur County and Union Elementary to the eastern part of the county.

Local schools matter to their communities.

I urge State Superintendent Blatt to consider all the angles, not just the money one. Let's get creative and find a way to save our schools, not close them.

Sincerely,

Natasha Davis

Rock Cave Elementary School PTO Secretary







Petition to Keep Rock Cave Elementary School Open

To: Upshur County Board of Education

From: Citizens of Rock Cave and Surrounding Communities.

We, the undersigned, respectfully urge the Upshur County Board of Education to reconsider any plans to close Rock Cave Elementary School. This school is not just a building, it is the heart of our community, a place where generations have learned, grown, and built lifelong connections.

Reasons for Keeping Rock Cave Elementary Open:

-  **Community Anchor:** The school serves as a vital hub for families in Rock Cave and nearby areas. Its closure would disrupt the fabric of our community and diminish local engagement.
-  **Student Well-being:** Transferring students to distant schools would increase travel times, reduce access to extracurricular activities, and strain young learners emotionally and academically.
-  **Family Impact:** Many families chose to live in Rock Cave because of the school's reputation for personalized attention, small class sizes, and dedicated staff. Closing it would negatively affect property values and community stability.
-  **Educational Excellence:** Rock Cave Elementary consistently provides quality education with strong teacher-student relationships. Its closure risks overcrowding other schools and diluting the quality of education.
-  **Property Management:** The school board currently owns over 50 different properties, many of which are not actively used for educational purposes. Instead of closing a school that fills young minds with knowledge and hearts with lifelong memories, we urge the board to consolidate or repurpose underutilized properties. Strategic asset management should prioritize preserving institutions that directly serve students and families.
-  **Economic Considerations:** While budget concerns are real, we believe there are alternative solutions that do not involve shuttering a beloved institution. Community partnerships, grants, and fundraising efforts could help bridge financial gaps.

We ask the Board to engage with parents, teachers, and local leaders to explore all possible options before making a decision that would deeply affect our children and our town.

We stand united in support of Rock Cave Elementary. Please keep our school open.

Print Name	Phone Number	Signature

Impact potential of Rock Cave Elementary school closure and merger with French Creek Elementary as it relates to students, families and staff.

Ideally but least likely

- No impact. Students and staff coexist in perfect harmony with no loss of familial support.

Second “best” scenario

- No impact to French Creek students and families, or staff. Rock Cave children have distress from being uprooted from their home school, increased bus times, and loss of familial support due to logistical and financial strain.

More likely occurrences

- Class size increases cause multiple issues, including a decline in educational quality (at no fault of the teacher), children with deficiencies either at school or home being overlooked, increased behavioral issues, additional strain to teachers and support staff due to those issues, stress on students’ mental health, and/or pushing French Creek “district” students from THEIR home school when a “baby boom” cycles back around causing classroom sizes to be too large.
 - Already congested drop off/ pick up lines become even more strained and dangerous.
- Due to lack of parking, family involvement opportunities become limited and ALL students lose familial support. Perhaps, due to lack of parking, families would have to attend multiple days for parties/concerts to support each student in the family.
- French Creek PTO has increased demand for funding WITHOUT adequate support due to logistical and/or financial inability of former Rock Cave families and/or currently involved Rock Cave families choosing alternative schooling methods, causing a decrease in ability to provide extracurricular activities for ALL students.
- Children are required to attend lunch either excessively early (will they actually eat?) or excessively late (so hungry!) due to cafeteria capacity restrictions.
- Medical emergencies not being noticed in a timely manner due to large classroom size and overcrowded common areas and/or those that result from increased bus rides. This could lead to devastating results.

Impact potential of Rock Cave Elementary school closure and merger with French Creek Elementary as it relates to the Rock Cave community.

Negative effects on local businesses and their employees

- Loss of revenue due to lack of foot traffic; the shifted school traffic WILL take consumers with it.
- Difficulty retaining employees due to decreasing available hours as an effort to remain open and/or the inability of local workers to balance work and childcare
 - Loss of local jobs due to businesses closing.

Negative effects on local property owners

- Studies indicate that a community without schools is less desirable for families and businesses, causing a trickledown effect of lower property values. Since Rock Cave would be LOSING a school, current property values could DROP.
- Closure of Rock Cave Elementary is likely to indirectly cause increased rates of homeowners insurance due to economic decline and increased community risks, including the school itself being a large vacant building.

Negative effects on the Rock Cave community

- Rock Cave Elementary is currently a voting precinct, closure of the school could lead to reduced civic involvement.
- Rock Cave Elementary hosts fundraising events, serves as a staging area for the SUBA Christmas parade and hosts other community events, closure would reduce the opportunities for the community to unite.

Negative effects on Upshur County

- Decreases in property values would lead to decreases in county revenue, this would decrease available monies for SCHOOLS and possibly even local fire departments.

The Impact of Closing Rock Cave Elementary School

Date: November 12, 2025

To: West Virginia Board of Education and Upshur County Board of Education

From: Gary Bonnett II

Subject: Why Closing Rock Cave Elementary Will Hurt Upshur County's Future

My name is Gary Bonnett II, and I am proud to be an alumnus of Rock Cave Elementary School. Though my career has taken me far from Upshur County, the foundation for everything I've achieved began in those classrooms. The dedicated teachers at Rock Cave gave me more than an education—they gave me confidence, curiosity, and the belief that I could succeed. Without that solid start, I would not be where I am today.

That is why the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary deeply concerns me—not only for the children who call this community home, but for the long-term vitality of Upshur County.

Here are the facts:

- Rock Cave Elementary currently serves approximately 74 students, including six kindergarteners, and has historically enrolled around 147 students in grades PK-5.
- If closed, these students will be transferred to French Creek Elementary, which is almost 5 miles away from Rock Cave. For a 5-year-old, that means a 10-20 minute bus ride each way, adding nearly an hour extra to their commute daily where certain routes will be over an hour each way.
- Upshur County already faces an average commute time of 24.7 minutes for workers, higher than most neighboring counties. Adding long school commutes for young children will make this end of the county far less attractive to families considering relocation.
- Research shows that rural school closures often lead to declining property values, reduced business activity, and loss of social capital, weakening the very communities they aim to serve.

The economic impact cannot be ignored. Upshur County is actively working to attract new businesses and expand economic opportunities through initiatives like the Upshur County Development Authority's site selection program and Opportunity Zone investments. But businesses don't just look at infrastructure—they look at quality of life. Families relocating for jobs want strong, accessible schools. Closing Rock Cave Elementary sends the wrong message and creates a barrier to growth in southern Upshur County.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than a school—it is a cornerstone of this community and a selling point for future development. Closing it would not only disrupt the lives of current students but also hinder our ability to attract talent and investment.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of this decision. Let's work together to find solutions that preserve educational access, strengthen our communities, and support the economic future of Upshur County.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to our children and our county.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Bonnett II". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a prominent horizontal stroke at the end.

Sincerely,
Gary Bonnett II
Global EHS Director, Chemelex
Rock Cave Elementary - '90
Marshall University - '06
Texas A&M '21

Hi, I am Pam Hissam, First grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary School. I have been employed by the Upshur County Board of Education for 35 years. But most of you know those things about me. Some of you may have heard me talk about my childhood at last week's board of education meeting. For those of you that did not, I will be repeating that speech this evening.

First, I would like to explain why I feel that keeping small community schools like Rock Cave Elementary open is important. One of the first grade West Virginia Social Studies content standards is: Collaborating to identify a community's need, propose a variety of solutions and investigate how individuals could participate to solve the problem. The Rock Cave community comes here tonight to practice this first-grade learning standard. Sadly, in the last month the citizens of southern Upshur County have learned that the Upshur County Superintendent of schools plans to recommend to the West Virginia Board of Education the consolidation of Rock Cave Elementary with French Creek Elementary. We, the citizens, former students, and business owners of southern Upshur County have come to this meeting to offer our various solutions and ideas to not only be fiscally responsible but also continue to offer our Southern Upshur County students an education at their own community school. My speech offers you my personal testimonial of the difference made in my life by attending Rock Cave Elementary School, and in turn the difference that it has made to many students that have attended school in Upshur County.

And now I would like to tell you about my childhood. My mom was 17 years old when I was born. She and my dad were married. We lived in Gaines. My dad worked at Moore Business Forms, and my mom stayed home with me. My mom was the youngest of 12 children. Her family did not value education. Therefore, she quit high school. But my mom wanted my life to be different, and she realized that education was key. So, when I was 5 years old Rock Cave School was offering their first half day kindergarten program. My parents enrolled me. Then my dad bought a used car and helped my mom to

get her driver's license. They did all of that so that I could attend Kindergarten and my mom could pick me up every day.

From the moment I walked into Rock Cave Elementary, I loved school. I received an amazing education there. I had very good teachers each year. I was a very quiet, soft spoken, shy little girl. Mrs. Burger-Westfall was our music teacher. She made sure that I received a leading role in a school play one year to help me become more comfortable speaking in front of people. All my teachers at Rock Cave Elementary were amazing! The teacher who changed the course of my life was my fourth-grade teacher. At the end of that school year, he asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. Up to that point in my life, I assumed I would grow up, get married, and have children. I never really thought about a career. I remember looking at that teacher and thinking "What do you mean? What do I want to be when I grow up." Then he said "Pam, you are a smart person, you can be anything that you want when you grow up, a doctor, lawyer, teacher, anything that you want". That started my thinking about growing up, pursuing higher education, and eventually a career.

From that time on, I worked really hard to achieve my goals. I graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School. During high school, I investigated several career paths. I had taught children's classes in church and at vacation bible school. As I pondered the decision of a lifelong career, I realized that I enjoyed working with and teaching children. Therefore; I decided to become a teacher. My greatest accomplishment professionally, I feel, is to know that for 35 years I have taught the children of Upshur County lifelong learning skills. At this point in my career, I have taught many children of former students, and last year I even taught the grandchild of one of my former students. It is such a pleasure to see former students and the amazing lives that they are living.

I agree that public education today is different than it was in 1990 when I began my teaching career. But answers and solutions need to be made with the best interests of our nation, states, and community's children at the forefront. These children of today will be the community of adult leaders in

just a few short years. Therefore; we need to consider the huge impact our small community schools have on the future lives of these children. Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Sara Collins, and many others from Rock Cave Elementary, and the Rock Cave community have raised many questions and concerns about the closure of our amazing school. Please consider all of this and please consider what is best for the children in southern Upshur County, as this very important decision is made.

Good evening,

I am Shanah Carpenter, second grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary School.

I come to you this evening with concerns about the plans that are being made for Upshur County Schools.

At Rock Cave we have been trying to find solutions to our county's ongoing problems that focus on what is best for students and our county's future.

We are teachers, we know collaboration and research are required to find the best solutions,

However, this is very difficult when we don't know the plans being considered or put into action until they come out on social media and the news.

When we look at the county, the middle school has been a concern for years.

One suggestion was to put the middle school at BAES and then redistrict.

However, with the lack of acreage and ball fields at the facility that might not work.

Another suggestion, I am pretty sure there are very few supporters of putting the middle school at the high school. Work would need to be done on the high school to make this idea possible and this will decrease our enrollment because parents don't want middle school age children in the same school as high school.

We have been sharing ideas, thinking outside the box, asking for information and input from other schools and county stakeholders.

Decisions like these, or plans being put into action, should not be made by only a few, especially when the few have no long-term commitment to our school system, county, or students.

We are here for our students and the long term of our county.

The basis of all decisions MUST be what is best for the future of Upshur County Public

Education and its students.

Yes, we must always consider the finances wisely, but don't make decisions without input from stakeholders, like those of us in the trenches, parents, and taxpayers, and without transparent, long-term planning. Communication, upfront, from the beginning, and throughout this process will help us all, teachers and staff, parents, students, and taxpayers.

If you are going to put a Q & A on the county website, it would be nice to actually have a Q & A

In the SBA application, Mrs. Miller states she has the vision of smaller class sizes, what does that mean? I know you put the law in your Q & A, however that does not answer all the question.

In the renovations it states that there will be 16 classrooms added, how many total will there be at the end of the project?

What does Mrs. Miller's statement mean, "...designed for a new alternative learning school aimed at supporting students who require different educational approaches?"

What are these classrooms going to look like?

What does "different educational approach" mean?

Where do the savings of \$865,982.81 for the closing of Rock Cave come from? I know personnel salaries, utilities, maintenance, transportation, and other costs as you stated but with the transparency needed to understand I would like the specifics.

Don't forget that our county must continue to maintain the sewage treatment plant even if our school closes.

Does this mean that throughout the county in the RIFs that would be required with the merger of Rock Cave you would lose the equivalent of the staff at Rock Cave?

How could transportation costs be saved? The same students will still need picked up and taken to French Creek as most of them drive past Rock Cave.

Where do the lower savings of \$419,850.86 from the closing of Tennerton come from?

Are we not saving as much on the closing of Tennerton because you are not figuring in the savings of utilities since you plan to move the Board of Ed office to that facility?

Is the entire SBA application available for viewing?

In your Q & A you only copy paste code instead of answering a question, then we continue to wonder where will teachers of the merged schools go?

Your answer seemed to imply all Tennerton teachers will have a job at Buckhannon Academy, is this what you meant when you said "combined staff"?

What about teachers at Rock Cave, will there be any new jobs at French Creek needed by this merge?

Have you considered the numbers of Special Education students that these mergers will involve?

I understand that difficult decisions must be made. I am asking for open communication so we can understand why and how decisions are made. I'd also like for that communication to include open discussions before decisions are made.

I am writing to ask that you stop the proposed closing of Rock Cave Elementary School in Upshur County until the county and state, together, can make a supported (supported by the stakeholders and community) plan on what to do about our middle school. Part of the building that is currently used as our middle school was the high school for the grandparents and great grandparents of the students that are there now. Mrs. Miller is proposing closing Rock Cave Elementary to save money to then put the middle school students at the high school. Yes, our enrollment is down but putting 11 year olds with 18 year olds is not an option that should EVER be considered. I hope that she has them segregated in her plans, however we know kids and young adults, and if they are in proximity to one another they will intermingle. I am asking that you, as the WV BOE, in control of Upshur County, allow our elected BOE member to work with Mr. Watring, your next appointed superintendent, and county stakeholders to develop a reasonable, sustainable plan for Upshur County. We need change, students have changed, education must adjust and change to meet student needs. Student needs are much greater than they were when class sizes were set at 25 and 28. Students come to school with very little common background, unlike the past, even in a small school in a small

community like Rock Cave. Knowledge and experiences are enormously different because of all the options that technology presents. We need to make education meaningful to bring back those that are choosing virtual. We need to make it valued by society again. This change must be in considering that the future might have more students and therefore the ability to house them. We may have less students and be able to adjust to those needs. We are lacking in teachers, bus drivers, etc., we must consider those aspects of this plan. In closing Rock Cave the county, from Mrs. Miller's numbers will not save the personnel costs because the personnel will move to open positions in the county, there are enough. Therefore, the only true savings from the Impact Statement are utilities \$26,229, maintenance \$21,324, other \$68,339, and transportation \$873, totaling \$116,764. This is not enough savings to close a school, uproot 70 students and families, max out classes in one school in our county, causing a few overage students there to be transferred to Tennerton (while across the county there are other elementary schools with low enrollment as well) all in the plan of making money to move middle school students to the high school. The idea of just closing a school and merging a middle school into a high school to save money is not a solution to the true

problems that we face in Upshur County or in education across the state and country. Let the plans for change be made by stakeholders looking at all of the county needs and problems and finding real solutions for the long term.

Shanah Carpenter

I am Shanah Carpenter, second grade teacher at Rock Cave, concerned Upshur County BOE employee and citizen. Mr. Parker, thank you for questioning Upshur County finances, please continue to do so. My perspective without any paperwork to help understand....why would only \$60,000 be budgeted for service employee substitutes when we have long term subs in some positions? That would roughly be salaries of 3 long term subs for a year. I am assuming that number covers all sub bus drivers, custodians, cooks, aides (which are in all K, 1, 2, and 3 classrooms, special ed. aides). Who is making our budget? We have no say on spending money on Jimmy Casa group, they definitely haven't had any positive impact on Rock Cave, and an enormous amount of money has gone there. Who is making that decision? If the state has been in control of our budget for almost 4 years, why is it still unclear and why do the state dept. people that help Ms. Wills not come to our meetings to help answer questions? If the state is going to give back some control to our local BOE then our local BOE needs to be in the process. I don't teach subtraction without scaffolds.

Also, please look at the Impact Statement that Mrs. Miller made for the closure of Rock Cave/merger with French Creek. Even if you have no say you need to question the things in that document. Yes, our county MUST make some adjustments or changes, but closing one school at just over \$110,000 savings to overcrowd another DOES NOT MAKE

SENSE. We need to stop this and make a plan for the sustainability of Upshur County.

Do you realize that we have a retired, contracted (paid) teacher and BOE employee coming to "train" us on writing. I do not understand that expense when we have that perfectly qualified employee. Why are we have 2 people doing the job of one? Why are we paying someone retired to come back and do what the current employee can do?

Do you realize that we do not have a long term sub for PE? We just got a long term sub for Music. We do not get subs very often. I know there are not many subs. But, we think that our absences are not being sent out to be filled by subs.

Also, what happened to the days when all directors attended BOE meetings to update on what they are doing? I question the amount of employees in our BOE office and the amounts of money that they are making. We seem, from the trenches, to have an awful lot of people doing jobs that we don't even know what they are or how they impact our system.

Thank you, Shanah Carpenter

Austin Carpenter
6301 Lakes Rock Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina
11/09/2025

Subject: Saving Rock Cave School

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a former student of Rock Cave Elementary School. Where I have spent a lot of my life not only as a child but also as an adult. I have since moved to a different state, but the school remains a staple of my upbringing. From learning basic arithmetic, and how to read it gave me the foundations and inspiration to find a career path as a Civil Engineer today. It also provided all three of my brothers with the foundational springboard to attend college and get well respected degrees themselves.

For years, Rock Cave Elementary has provided a safe, high-quality, and understanding environment for children to learn. Whether it was my class with roughly 20-24 students (Class of 2017 BUHS) or my brother's class that had 9-11 students (Class of 2020 BUHS). Every child was given the opportunity to grow and was treated like a family. Increasingly Rock Cave Elementary students home lives often vary. A large portion of the student demographics benefit from the smaller classroom sizes. Teachers at Rock Cave can go that extra mile and ensure that all the children are receiving a great education. With the closure of Rock Cave these students that need that extra explanation or that repeated step might get lost in the larger classroom sizes. I can't think of a bigger injustice to these students or the faculty that love to teach these children.

I am aware that challenges such as budget limitations and enrollment numbers must be considered. I simply ask that you look beyond those numbers and look at the greater impact it would have. Not only on the school but the community. Closing the school will have an impact on the local businesses in the area. It will require longer busing of the elementary school students. This could have an additional effect on them in the classroom and an increased cost that would be incurred by the Board of Education. Property values will decrease, the existing school which already has a lot of investment would sit dormant. I urge you to look at the true impacts.

I beg you to not let future generations lose the same opportunities that shaped so many of us. I can remember countless fond memories in the halls of Rock Cave Elementary. I hope there will be many more for future children to experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Austin Carpenter
Former Student, Class of 2017 BUHS

Good evening, I am Shanah Carpenter, second grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary School. I am still waiting on answers from my questions 2 weeks ago. We have received our Impact Statement, and I have several questions and a few discrepancies that I would like to point out about the information in it.

p. 4 – “Rock Cave Elementary has decreased by 77 students over the past ten years...”. “Enrollment has trended up and down...”. In 2014-15 school year enrollment was 143, in 2023-24 enrollment was 148 (an increase by 5), in 2024-25 enrollment was 111, this year enrollment is currently 71. This is because we have not had consistent administration or teachers due to the lack of support from the county administration and state administration. Many parents chose to move their students.

p. 5 – “The closure of Rock Cave Elementary to merge with French Creek Elementary will provide the opportunity for all students to experience the benefits of improved educational opportunities and programming.” This statement leads the reader to believe that students at Rock Cave do not receive as good of an education as students at French Creek. This is not true. And throughout Upshur County, we follow the same programming for instruction. At Rock Cave we have all highly qualified staff except of 1. We do not have a counselor, we are still looking for one, while we wait for the right person, we are partnered with Community Care and have a counselor one day a week, as well as a county counselor working with one of our classes with the highest needs. We, like other schools in the county, are looking for a music teacher. Until then we are improvising and educating students to the best of our abilities, even with your lack of support.

p. 5 – “The superintendent is proposing to consolidate services in Upshur County to provide high quality education to all students in the county. The closure of Rock Cave and merger to French Creek will save the board \$865,982.81 annually, including savings on maintenance and operating expenses for aging facilities.” A very misleading statement when on p. 14 you state that utilities are \$31,000 and maintenance is \$33,000.

I need clarification on the of numbers of staff losing jobs. There are discrepancies in the Impact Statement. P. 5 says 8 professional and 6.5 service. P. 16 says 7 professional personnel and 6.5 service, P. 17 says 7.5 professionals, 7 service

p. 5 “Upshur County will continue to follow the WVDE recommended guidelines on the number of professional employees per grade level...and maintain the number of staff required to deliver the education program to all students.” I really wish that you would consider what you are doing to teachers and students. At the merged French Creek there will be 24 students in both 2nd grade classes, 26 in both 3rd grade classes, 28 and 29 in 4th grade, where will the overage students have to go? Buckhannon Academy, that is a consideration you may not have made.

One of my favorite statements, p. 5, "Upshur County Schools have been on a path of improvement since the state took over, and areas were identified based on accountability.... We are dedicated to preparing students for a changing workplace, higher education, and military participation." If this was the case someone would look into why we have had a mass exodus of highly qualified teachers over the last several years. Why so many students are choosing the virtual option. Why under state control we have a school identified CSI (Comprehensive School Improvement) and 3 schools identified as ATS (Additional Targeted Support).

p. 10 - I think that your information for the outside buildings is inaccurate. One is older than 1995, which explains its poorer condition. We do still use both buildings. The older one not daily, but the newer one on a daily basis.

p. 10 – Our bus loading and unloading is sufficient; the only negative is that we assemble in the gym before and after loading so we walk from the gym to the loading zone. We do have a nice overhang and sidewalk to stay under when needed.

p. 10 – Our access road on and off the parking lot is sufficient as well. We have a long stretch for all buses to pull in. Several years ago we had buses and traffic backing up on Rt 20, but the drivers started staggering pulling in and fixed the problem.

p. 10 - Our parking lot does not need milled and repaved. That information came from the 2019 SBA Collection Form. Our parking lot was repaved in recent years and it is in very good condition.

The only problem with our parking lot is that it is too small for large activities. We have started opening the gate to the access road for the treatment plant to add additional parking area.

P. 12 – Rock Cave has a very secure entrance, just completed this year.

p. 12 – Rock Cave would have a Pre-K class if the county had not made all Pre-K age students attend French Creek. There are several students attending French Creek Pre-K that live in the Rock Cave School district.

State law is a 30 minute bus ride for elementary age students – on p. 5 you stated that, "the routes may exceed the recommended time 30-minute guidelines...It is projected it would not exceed by more than 10 to 15 minutes...". On page 19 the projected times are 50, 51, 64, and 56 minutes. 4 buses over well over the 30 minutes, adding 6 to 12 minutes to current travel times.

You did not mention our very nice walking trail that is used daily.

p. 25 "Many educators and support staff already know one another through district wide initiatives...Consolidation allows these relationships to flourish in a shared environment..." There will be no collaboration because Rock Cave teachers will not be at French Creek so this statement does not make sense.

Upshur County has had a drop in enrollment of over 1200 students. Shouldn't the administration look into what is causing the drop? Shouldn't we care about children getting a good education and being ready for the world ahead?

On page 47 you label a photo stating, "Greenhouse (no longer used)" This is not true, we have used marigolds from the garden to decorate our entrance, we have eaten tomatoes from that garden this year.

Why is SBA Collection Form from October 2019?

I need clarification on the timeline of this process. On November 20, 2025 there is a meeting at B-UHS, called Final Action. What exactly is decided at that meeting? Mr. Kelley led me to understand that at that meeting Mrs. Miller says she is proceeding with merger and takes plan to state superintendent who then takes plan to be voted on by State Board. Is this correct?

I know things need to change, students change and we adjust, the world changes and we must adjust. We need a change to make our county work and make it strong again. I request that this merger be put on hold until we, as a group of stakeholders, look into solutions for the county as a whole. We need a change but it must be a well thought out, planned process with stakeholders, including tax payers that help pay for our schools and voters that elect our board. The future of children MUST be the priority when planning the best education for them.

Delora Brown
247 Jack Acres Road
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304-439-4045

To: Upshur County Interim School Board

I would like to take a minute to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this counsel and voice my opinion. I no longer have any students in Rock Cave Elementary School, however I have cousins, friends, and family members whose children do attend.

Rock Cave Elementary School has been a staple in our community. It provides an exemplary quality education. I am sure you are aware that Rock Cave Elementary School has the highest student attendance in Upshur County. With that being said, a good quality education exists when you have parental involvement and dedicated teachers.

Rock Cave Elementary School has been providing exemplary education for decades. I attended Rock Cave Elementary School. That foundation, allowed me to graduate high school as a Junior-Graduate with a 3.5 grade point average from Seymour-High School in Indiana. When I relocated, I could have chosen any place in Upshur County. I chose Rock Cave. I wanted my son to benefit from the same quality education that was afforded to me.

Mrs. "Dottie" Bosley was my son's 5th grade teacher. I have absolutely no doubt that her guidance and unyielding commitment to education, is what prepared him for the transition to Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School. The students from her class had no issues adjusting to the faster pace, the block format, or the curriculum.

Having my son receive that quality of education laid the foundation for him to build upon. It allowed him to flourish at Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School. He excelled in the AP classes and graduated Buckhannon-Upshur High School with a 3.5 grade point average. This enabled him to attend a private college in North Carolina.

You cannot achieve this aforementioned quality of education without teacher commitment, parental involvement, and small enough class rooms that allow the teachers to work one-on-one with students. Your proposal will increase class room size, students will have longer bus rides, and they will not receive the individual attention that children need.

Making a decision to close Rock Cave Elementary School, will have a detrimental effects on the students, on the community and to Upshur County as a whole. While considering closing, consider what you are doing to the current students. You are doing them a huge disservice. You will be neglecting to provide them with a proven, quality education, that has been previously provided to children in the past. That education, has allowed previous students to thrive and grow into outstanding adults. Those adults continue to support the community. It would be a travesty and a disgrace to dishonor the decades of commitment and dedication given by the teachers, the students, and the parents by closing Rock Cave Elementary School.

I would hope, that the school board and the state, would want to be commemorated for continuing a legacy that has taken decades to build, as opposed to being remembered for demolishing one.

Sincerely,



Delora L. Brown-Previous student and mother of a student/Upshur County tax payer

Speech Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Delivered by a Concerned Community Member and Taxpayer

Good evening, everyone. My name is Delora Brown, and I stand before you tonight not only as a lifelong resident of this community, but also as a dedicated taxpayer and a voter who cares deeply about our children, our future, and the values that bind us together.

I am here to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. Like many of you, I am concerned that our local tax dollars, and the votes we cast to support our schools, are not being respected or considered in this decision. Since our local board of education is currently under state takeover, it feels as though our voices have been silenced at a critical time for our community.

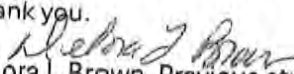
This situation raises serious ethical questions. Is it right for the state to make decisions with such lasting consequences for our families, our children, and our local economy—decisions that will impact us for decades to come—without truly listening to those who live and work here? What message does it send when local input is dismissed, even though it is our tax money funding these schools?

We must also ask: How will closing Rock Cave Elementary actually benefit our community? Will our children have better access to education? Or will they face longer bus rides, decreased parental involvement, and the loss of a safe and nurturing environment? Will property values and community spirit improve, or will they decline?

The research on rural school closures is clear: the disadvantages far outweigh any potential savings or perceived benefits. Studies show that closing rural schools often leads to declining academic achievement, lower graduation rates, and reduced community engagement. Our school is more than just a building—it is the heart of Rock Cave, providing stability, support, and opportunity for our children. When a rural school closes, the community suffers, and what we lose cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

I urge those in power to reconsider this decision. Let us restore local control and listen to the people who know this community best. Our children, our families, and our future deserve nothing less. Please, stand with us and keep Rock Cave Elementary School open.

Thank you.


Delora L. Brown, Previous student of RCES, Community Member, Tax Payer

My name is Kelly Bowyer, a resident of Upshur County.

I'm writing to concerning the possible closing of Rock Cave Elementary School.

Rock Cave has consistently had high attendance and high scores in reading and math.

To close the school and force young students to be bused further from home in to already larger populated classrooms, would certainly be a deterrent to the above-mentioned achievements, as well as, negatively impact southern Upshur County families and their children.

Please re-examine this possible decision to give children the best chance of success as they eventually enter the onerous world of middle school.

Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Bowyer".

Kelly Bowyer

161 Greathouse Road

Buckhannon, WV

To: Upshur County Board of Education

November 13, 2025

I am unable to attend the hearings this evening regarding the proposed closing of Rock Cave Elementary School, and am submitting some written comments instead.

My husband and I have been residents of Upshur County, WV since the fall of 1979, and active within the community. It has been my pleasure to be a volunteer reader in RCES' first grade class since the fall of 2010, this being my 16th consecutive year. Why choose Rock Cave instead of a school closer to our home? My feeling at the time I began to read aloud was that often the outlying schools are overlooked in favor of schools closer to one's home. Additionally, the atmosphere at RCES feels like family, and I have come to feel a part of that family.

Yes, Rock Cave Elementary has experienced a decline in enrollment, resulting in smaller classrooms. This is not necessarily a negative factor. Through the years I have observed the closeness of all staff with the students. All teachers and classroom aides, indeed all staff at RCES, know each of the students, and are dedicated to ensuring a positive learning environment. Smaller classrooms allow for more individualized teaching according to the student's learning style and needs.

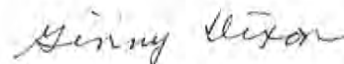
My comments are based not on statistics but on my observations. I fear that if the students from Rock Cave Elementary were to be incorporated into French Creek Elementary the result could be overcrowded classrooms as well as a potential traffic jam during daily openings and closings. And what will become of the physical structure of Rock Cave Elementary if it were to close? The school in Rock Cave has been a hub of that community, with various events taking place there, much of it being organized by the school's active PTO.

My weekly visits to Rock Cave Elementary have become a highlight of my week. I am paid in smiles, hugs ("air hugs" since the pandemic), and excitement at my arrival, with questions such as 'What books (or how many books) did you bring to read today?' I hope to continue to motivate children to want to read for fun, the mission of Read Aloud West Virginia, for as long as I am able.

I urge the Upshur County Board of Education to reconsider closing Rock Cave Elementary School. May I suggest that perhaps thought could be given to how to encourage families who have opted to home school or to virtual school their children to send them back to school instead?

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,



Virginia (Ginny) Dixon

Property Search

Search Options: Hide Basic Appraisal/Sales Advanced Prior Ownership (Hover over input fields to view help)

County: All District: All Full Parcel ID:
 Owner Name: Upshur County Board of Ed Map Number: Property Class: All
 Street Name: Parcel: Tax Class: All
 Sub-Parcel: Land Use: All

Lines per page: 50 Display legal description Display GIS parcel ID

Total matching records: 49

Page 1 of 1 Unsorted

Query URL: [https://www.mapwv.gov/assessment/Assessment?OwnerName=Upshur County Board of Ed](https://www.mapwv.gov/assessment/Assessment?OwnerName=Upshur%20County%20Board%20of%20Ed)

View in Property Viewer: [https://mapwv.gov/parcel/?OwnerName=Upshur County Board of Ed](https://mapwv.gov/parcel/?OwnerName=Upshur%20County%20Board%20of%20Ed)

CSV Results: [Click here](#)

Root Parcel ID -	Current Owner -	Property Address -	County -	District -	Map -	Parcel -	Map
49030001001400000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	MORTON AVE BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	1	14.0	GIS
49030007032400000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	SMITHFIELD ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	7	324.0	GIS
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49030100104000000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	5 RICHIE ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	10	106.0	GIS
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UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Buckhannon-Upshur High School
Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. MISSION STATEMENT - Upshur County Schools is committed to creating a united community for educational excellence.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND/OR AGENDA ADDENDUM

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the agenda as presented.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

VI. INFORMATION

DELEGATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES

VII. MINUTES – POLICIES – CONTRACTS – AGREEMENTS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting June 10, 2025.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

POLICIES - Second Reading

0100 Revised Bylaw – Special Update

2264 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities (Rescind)

2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities (Revised)

2340 Field (co-Curricular) and Other (Extra-Curricular) County-Sponsored Trips (Revised)

2413 AID Education Program (Revised)

3160.01 Tuberculosis Examination (Revised)

4160.01 Tuberculosis Examination (Revised)

5112 Entrance Requirements (Revised)

5310 Health Services (Revised)

5320 Immunization (Revised)

5321 Tuberculin Skin Test (Revised)

5460 Graduation Requirements (Revised)

5505 Academic Honesty (New)

5511 Dress and Appearance (Revised)

5600 Student Discipline (Revised)

6151 Bad Checks (Revised)

6320 Purchases (Technical Correction)

7440.05 Smart Monitoring Equipment (New)
7455 Accounting System for Capital Assets (Revised)
7540.03 Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)
7540.04 Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)
8330 Student Records (Revised)
8390 Animals on School Property (Revised)
8450 Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases (Revised)
8453 Control of Noncasual-Contact Communicable Diseases (Revised)
8640 Transportation for Curricular/Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular County-Sponsored Trips (Rescinded)
5136 Personal Electronic Devices Replacement Policy

AGREEMENTS -

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and **K12 Management Inc. Online Educational Products and Services** for the period of July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026. Funding Source: General Funds - See Agreement for appropriate costs.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and **Creative Beginnings Child Development Center, Mountain CAP, Inc.** for Pre-K Services for up to 20 Children for the period of August, 2025 - June, 2026. Funding Source: General Funds \$148,448.00

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and the **Child Development Center of West Virginia, Inc.** for Pre-K Services for up to 20 Children, August, 2025 - June, 2026. Funding Source: General Funds \$131,286.78.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and **Instructure, Inc.** for the Learning Management System for school year 2025-2026. Funding Source: Title I and Title II - \$75,272.00.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and the **KEV Group, Inc.** for acceptance of online payments. This is a continuation of a previous agreement. Funding Source: General Funds \$4,500.00.

REQUEST FOR BIDS – Petroleum Products

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the bid received from **Woodford Oil Company** for diesel and other products used by transportation for FY26. Please see bid specifications and total for prices to be paid during the bid period. Funding Source: General Funds – See bid documents for price related to fuels used by transportation including other fluids required for diesel bus operation.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

PURCHASE ORDERS -

AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation, Inc., in the amount of \$46,925.00 for the purchase of the new Pre-K Curriculum. Funding Source: General Funds.

Encova Insurance, in the amount of \$104,474.00 for renewal of Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance Policy. Funding Source: General Funds.

IX. FINANCIAL -

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

Budget Journal Entries – May 1-29, 2025
June 1-7, 2025

Check Registers
Monthly Financials – May 2025

X. STUDENT MATTERS/PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

(See attached)

XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

July 22, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
August 12, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
August 26, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
September 9, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: _____ 2nd: _____ to adjourn the meeting, all members concurring therein, the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

Assessment Achievement

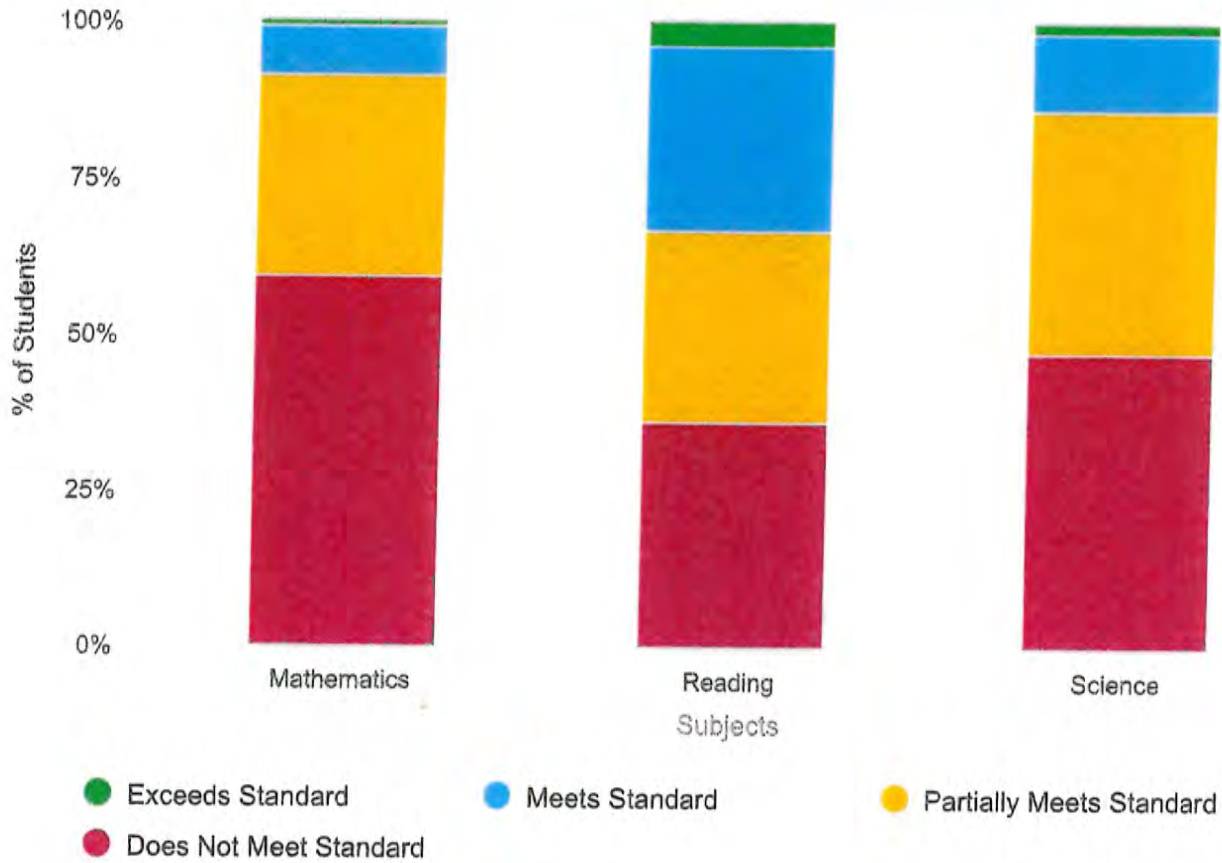
Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2021-2022

District/County (087) - Upshur

School (501) - Buckhannon Upshur High School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	57.02%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	.80%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	7.58%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	30.70%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	34.69%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	3.59%
Reading	Meets Standard	28.31%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	29.51%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	45.45%
Science	Exceeds Standard	1.59%

Science	Meets Standard	11.56%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	37.48%

2013-2014

2014-2015

2015-2016

2016-2017

2017-2018

2018-2019

2019-2020

2020-2021

2021-2022

2022-2023

Assessment Achievement

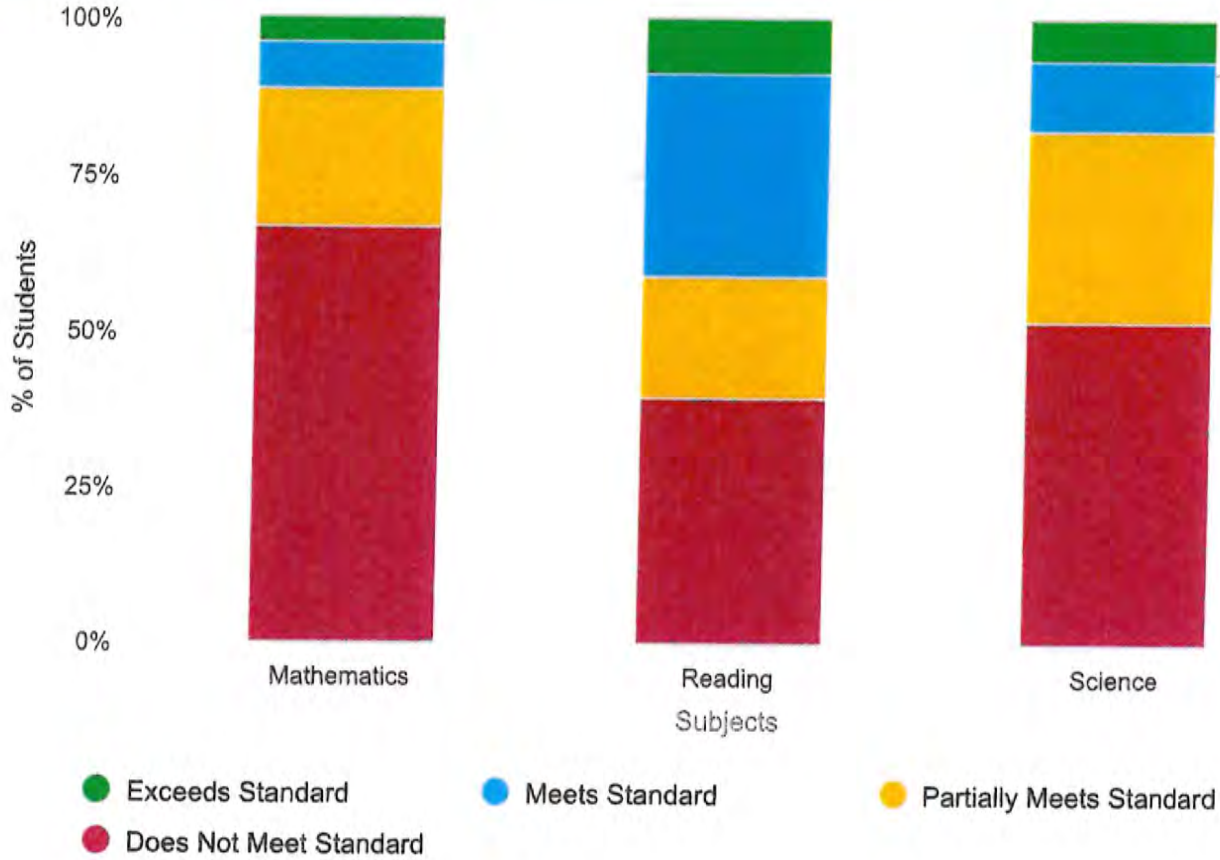
Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2024-2025

District/County (087) - Upshur

School (501) - Buckhannon Upshur High School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	66.67%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	3.60%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	7.66%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	22.07%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	39.64%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	8.56%
Reading	Meets Standard	32.43%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	19.37%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	51.80%
Science	Exceeds Standard	6.31%

Assessment Achievement

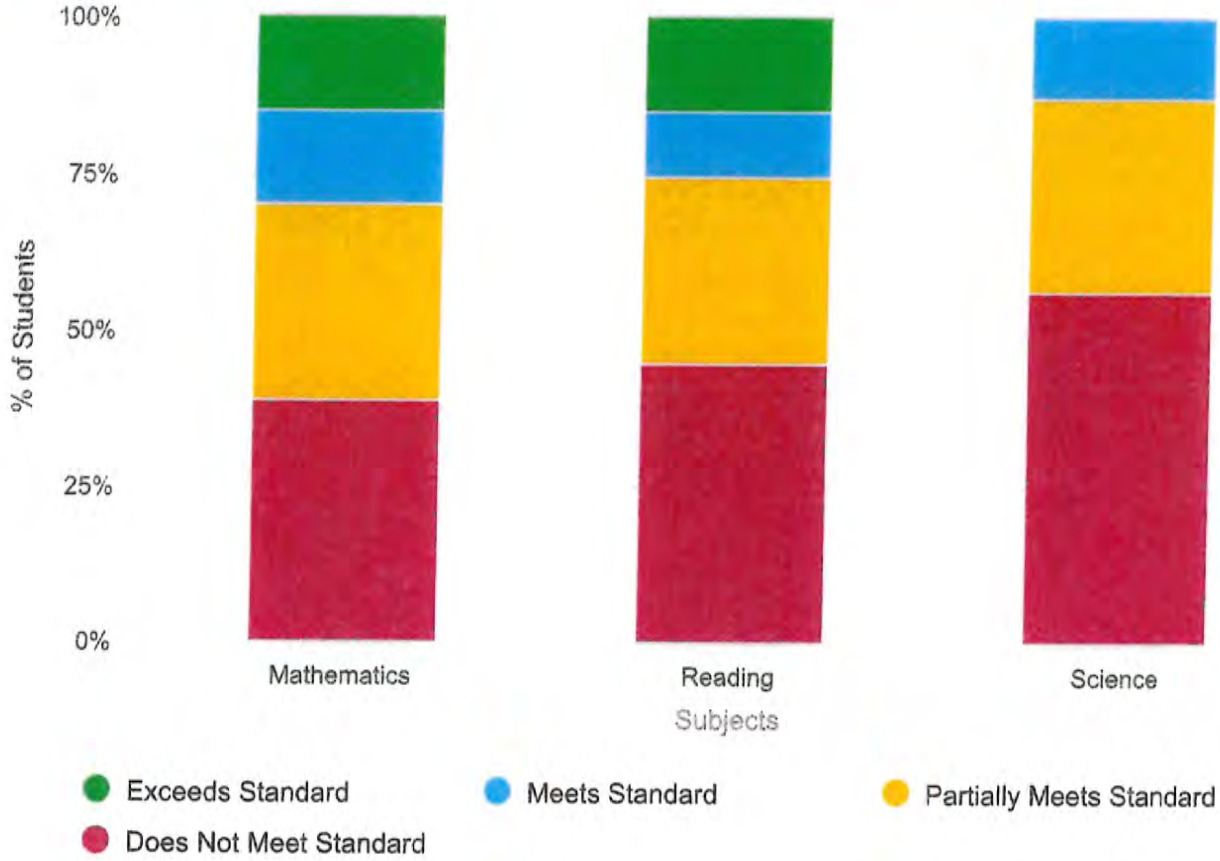
Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2021-2022

District/County (087) - Upshur

School (206) - Hodgesville Elementary



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	38.81%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	14.93%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	14.93%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	31.34%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	44.78%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	14.93%
Reading	Meets Standard	10.45%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	29.85%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	56.25%
Science	Exceeds Standard	.00%

Science	Meets Standard	12.50%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	31.25%



Source: [illegible]

Assessment Achievement

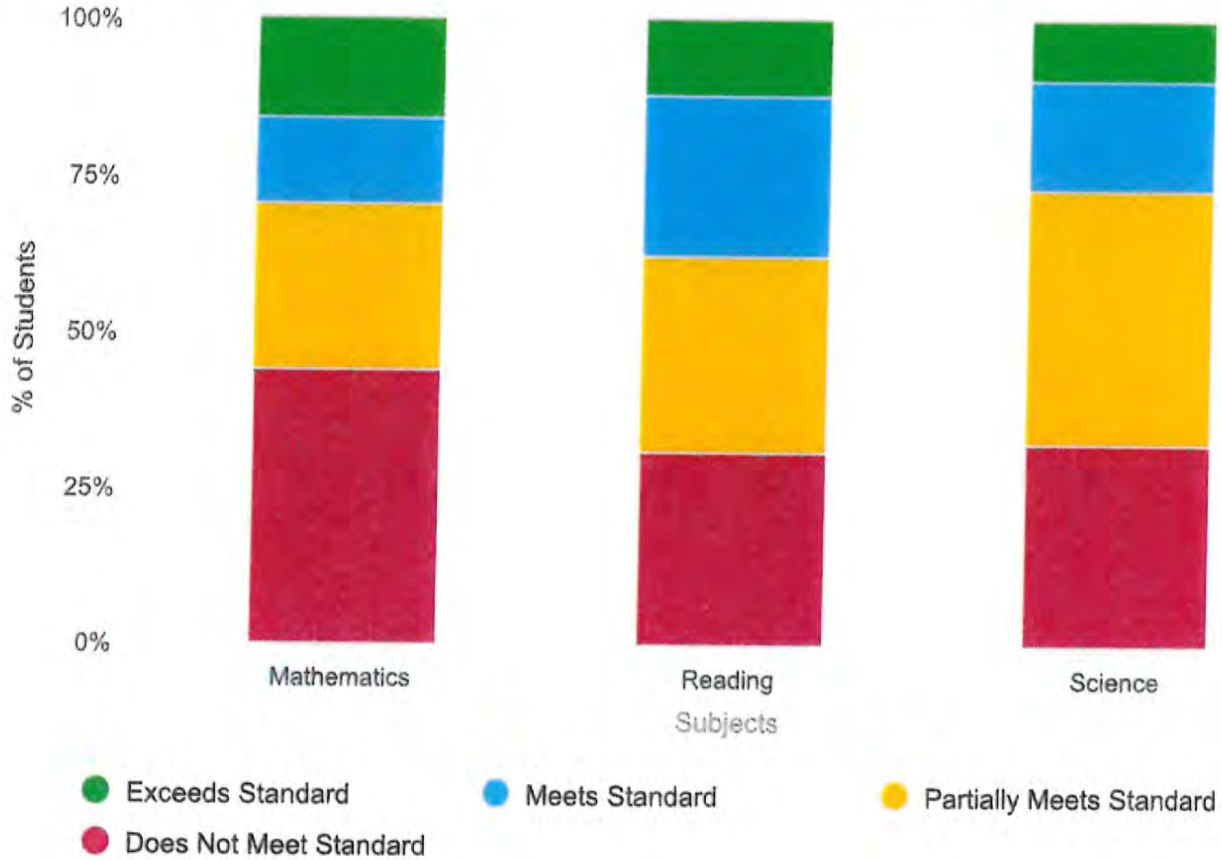
Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2024-2025

District/County (087) - Upshur

School (301) - B-U Middle School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	43.94%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	15.77%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	13.87%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	26.42%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	31.14%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	11.99%
Reading	Meets Standard	25.73%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	31.14%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	32.52%
Science	Exceeds Standard	9.22%

Science	Meets Standard	17.48%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	40.78%



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Assessment Achievement

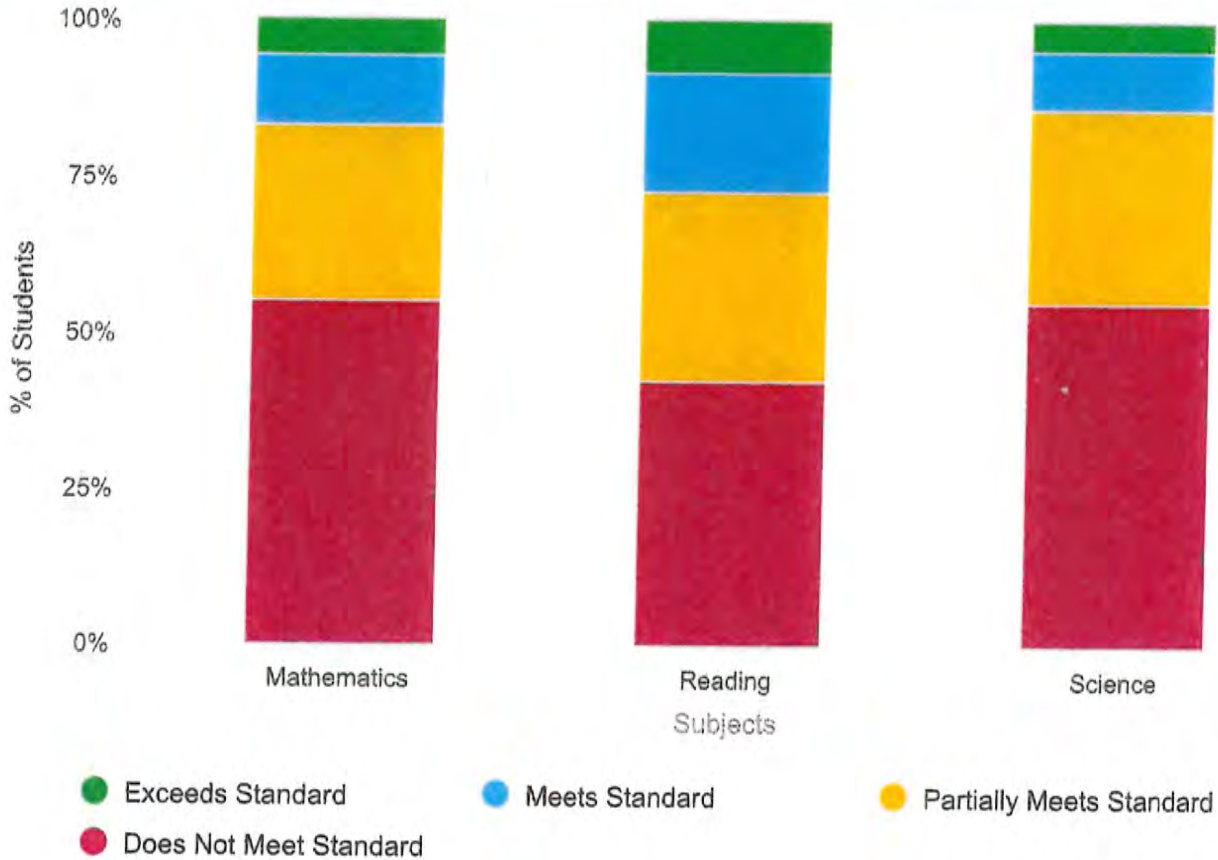
Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2021-2022

District/County (087) - Upshur

School (301) - B-U Middle School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	55.23%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	5.43%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	11.52%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	27.81%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	42.54%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	8.32%
Reading	Meets Standard	18.76%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	30.38%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	53.87%
Science	Exceeds Standard	4.52%

Science	Meets Standard	9.05%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	30.43%



2023-2024

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

UPSHUR COUNTY, to wit:

In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12 as amended, the Upshur County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the 2026 fiscal year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources:	
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	\$ 6,926,174
Other local sources	<u>670,000</u>
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	<u>20,927,201</u>
Other unrestricted	<u>9,774,016</u>
Federal sources:	
Unrestricted	<u>350,000</u>
Miscellaneous sources	
	<u>15,000</u>
Total estimated revenues	<u>38,662,391</u>
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	<u>27,303</u>
Estimated beginning balance	<u>2,100,000</u>
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	<u>\$ 40,789,694</u>

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	\$ <u>24,050,378</u>
Supporting services:	
Students	<u>2,588,220</u>
Instructional staff	<u>609,453</u>
Central administration	<u>901,706</u>
School administration	<u>2,425,539</u>
Central services	<u>924,183</u>
Operation and maintenance of facilities	<u>3,763,620</u>
Student transportation	<u>3,985,957</u>
Food services	<u>181,462</u>
Community services	<u>119,300</u>
Capital outlay	<u>250,000</u>
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	<u>494,999</u>
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>-</u>
Total estimated expenditures	<u>40,294,817</u>
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	<u>367,877</u>
Estimated budgetary reserves	<u>127,000</u>
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	<u>\$ 40,789,694</u>

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources		\$ <u>12,098</u>
State Sources:		
State aid to schools		<u>-</u>
Other		<u>1,195,014</u>
Federal sources		<u>5,521,541</u>
Miscellaneous sources		<u>-</u>
 Total estimated revenues		 <u>6,728,652</u>
 Estimated transfers in and other financing sources		 <u>367,877</u>
 Estimated beginning balance		 <u>-</u>
 Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance		 <u>\$ 7,096,529</u>

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction		\$ <u>2,425,507</u>
Supporting services:		
Students		<u>544,540</u>
Instructional staff		<u>1,034,892</u>
Central administration		<u>-</u>
School administration		<u>-</u>
Central Services		<u>5,734</u>
Operation and maintenance of facilities		<u>77,763</u>
Student transportation		<u>-</u>
Food services		<u>2,980,791</u>
Community services		<u>-</u>
Capital outlay		<u>-</u>
Debt service:		
Principal retirement		<u>-</u>
Interest and fiscal charges		<u>-</u>
 Total estimated expenditures		 <u>7,069,226</u>
 Total estimated transfers and other financing uses		 <u>27,303</u>
 Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses		 <u>\$ 7,096,529</u>

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

Upshur County, to wit:

I, Christine Miller, Secretary of the Upshur County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget being considered for adoption by the board of education on the 27th day of May, 2025.

Christine Miller
Secretary of the Board of Education

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the Upshur County Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the FY 25-26 budget at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at B-U High School, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201. Given under my hand this 25th day of April, 2025. Jan Craig, President Upshur County Board of Education Christine Miller, Secretary

Jan Craig
President of the Board of Education

Christine Miller
Secretary of the Board of Education

District - Upshur - School Year 2024 - 2025

Elementary Schools 7
Enrollment 1,592

Middle Schools 1
Enrollment 718

High Schools 1
Enrollment 0

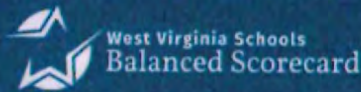
Total Schools 9
Enrollment 3,376

State Overview

Choose School Year

State / District Summary

Choose District



Personnel Report

Per Pupil by School

Per Pupil Data

On-Site Reports

Identified Schools

ESSA Plan

FAQs

Fact Sheet

Cannot Be Reported | Does Not Meet Standard | Partially Meets Standard | Meets Standard | Exceeds Standard

✓ = Meets Annual Target | [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle Schools	Academic Achievement		Academic Progress		English Learners	Student Success	
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	✓	✓					
French Creek Elementary		✓					
Hodgesville Elementary							
Rock Cave Elementary	✓	✓					
Tennerton Elementary	✓	✓					
Union Elementary School	✓	✓					
Washington District Elementary							
B-U Middle School	✓	✓					

High Schools	Academic Achievement		Graduation Rate/Cohort		English Learners	Student Success		
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	4 Year	5 Year	English Learner Progress	Attendance	On-Track to Graduation	Post-Secondary Achievement
Buckhannon Upshur High School								

State / District
Schools / Rock Cave
Elementary

School Information

Upshur



	Total Enrollment (October FY25)	111
	Total Enrollment - Full Academic Year (FY25)	99
	Attendance Rate (FY25)	93.2 %
	Title I Status	Yes
	Per Pupil School - Federal \$	\$1,432.62
	Per Pupil School - State/Local \$	\$8,800.51
	Per Pupil District - Federal \$	\$994.66
	Per Pupil District - State/Local \$	\$3,891.11
	Per Pupil Grand Total - Federal and State/Local \$	\$15,118.90
	Per Pupil Expenditures reflect unaudited FY2024 financial data	

State Overview

Choose School Year

Choose District

Personnel Report

Per Pupil Data

On-Site Reports

Identified Schools

ESSA Plan

FAQs

Fact Sheet

Methodology

West Virginia Schools
Balanced Scorecard

Upshur - Rock Cave Elementary

Cannot Be Reported

Does Not Meet Standard

Partially Meets Standard

Meets Standard

Exceeds Standard

✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#)

Sub Groups	Academic Achievement		Academic Progress		English Learners	Student Success	
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
American Indian or Alaska Native							
Asian							
Black or African American							
Hispanic or Latino							
Multi-Racial							
Pacific Islander							
White	✓	✓					

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Buckhannon Upshur High School
Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. MISSION STATEMENT
- V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND/OR AGENDA ADJUSTMENT

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the agenda as presented.

Recommendation: _____ *2nd:* _____ *Yeas* ___ *Nays* ___

VI. INFORMATION

DELEGATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE
BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES

VII. MINUTES – POLICIES – CONTRACTS – AGREEMENTS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting July 23, 2024, and the Special Meeting August 6, 2024.

Recommendation: _____ *2nd:* _____ *Yeas* ___ *Nays* ___

AGREEMENTS –

Pre-K Meal Contracts – Mountain Cap of West Virginia, Upshur Human Resources, and Child Development Center of Central West Virginia

Marshall University Counseling - For Completion of Practicum

MOUs –

WWEIS Technical Support Services – for various WWEIS functions
Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program

BIDS - HVAC SERVICES/PARTS

Leggett Refrigeration for the 2024/2025 School Year

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

BOARD GOALS -

Goal 1:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools by prioritizing academic achievement including areas such as, but not limited to, benchmark assessments, instructional leadership, multi-tiered systems of support and the Science of Reading.

Goal 2:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools in improving Special Education services to all students which promote positive academic outcomes and compliance with federal and state code and policy.

Goal 3:

Identify and participate in training opportunities provided by the West Virginia School Board Association which further enhance understanding of county board members' roles and responsibilities.

Goal 4:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools in improving upon deficiencies within the areas of operations including:

- Items identified within reports from the West Virginia Department of Education.
- Additional areas identified through internal control processes since intervention and those discovered moving forward.

BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS -

Upshur County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.
Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

4-H Foundation Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.
Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

Extension Services Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ____ Nays ____

PURCHASE ORDERS -

Matheny Motor Truck Company – Purchase of School Buses, \$457,557.00
K12 Management, Inc. – Purchase of Upshur County Virtual School, \$900,000.00
McGraw Hill, LLC – Purchase of Textbooks for New Math Curriculum, \$99,253.00
OperationShero, Inc. – Purchase of Maintenance Inventory System, \$11,074.72
Signglasses, LLC – Purchase of Sign support, \$10,000.00
Stanton Lawn Service – Purchase of Mowing Services, \$18,990.00
Kristen Thompson – Purchase of Psychological Evaluation/Reports Services, \$15,000.00
Alpha Technologies, Inc. – Purchase of Voice Mail System for Upshur County Schools, \$13,642.24
Napa Auto & Truck Parts – Purchase of Transportation Parts, \$25,000.00
Benefit Assistance Company, LLC – Purchase of Dental/Vision Insurance for Upshur County Employees, \$23,000.00
Encova Insurance, - Purchase of Worker's Compensation Policy Renewal, \$115,132.00
Casaslwp, LLC – Purchase of Rock Cave Professional Leadership Coaching, \$61,100.00
Casaslwp, LLC – Purchase of Professional Leadership Coaching for all schools, except Rock Cave, and all Directors at the Central Office, \$164,900.00
CDW, LLC – Purchase of Google Workspace for Education Plus (students), \$10,500.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of I-Ready Curriculum, New Math Adoption, \$111,664.20
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Toolbox to support Teacher Resources for the Implementation of I-Ready Diagnostics, \$19,805.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Benchmark Diagnostics, \$20,877.04
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Professional Learning, \$52,800.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Support for Personalized Learning Paths, \$91,637.22
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Math and Reading Assessments for Students, \$17,914.00
Imagine Learning, LLC – Purchase of Odysseyware for Credit Recovery, \$34,040.00
Hand2Mind, Inc. – Purchase of Math Manipulatives to supplement newly adopted Math Curriculum for Grades K – 8, \$29,485.66

REQUEST TO USE FACILITIES -

WV Lady Pioneers Softball – BUMS
Buckhannon-Upshur Archery and Air Rifle Teams – BUMS

X. FINANCIAL -

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED CHECKS – July, 2024

X. STUDENT MATTERS/PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

STUDENT MATTERS –

Out of County Requests -

Stephanie Ibarra requests that her daughter in 6th grade currently attending Randolph County Schools attend BUMS for the 2024/2025 school year.

PERSONNEL -

(See attached)

XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

September 10, 2024	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
October 8, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Rock Cave Elementary
November 12, 2024	6:00 p.m.	BUHS

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: _____ 2nd: _____ to adjourn the meeting, all members concurring therein, the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 302-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur School: Rock Cave Elementary Current Enrollment: 71

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
Kindergarten	1	x	23	=	23
First Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Second Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Third Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Fourth Grade	1	x	28	=	28
Fifth Grade	1	x	28	=	28
TOTALS:	6	x	154	=	154

Program Utilization (71 divided by 154) times 100 = 46.10 %
Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 46.10 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur

School: French Creek

Current Enrollment: 221

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PK	1	x	20	=	20
Kindergarten	2	x	23	=	46
First Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Second Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Third Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Fourth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
Fifth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
TOTALS:	13	x	174	=	328

Program Utilization (221 divided by 328) times 100 = 67.37 %
Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 67.37 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT



County: Upshur School: Marion French Creek Elementary Current Enrollment: 292

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PK	1	x	20	=	20
Kindergarten	2	x	23	=	46
First Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Second Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Third Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Fourth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
Fifth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
TOTALS:	13	x	174	=	328

Program Utilization (292 divided by 328) times 100 = 89.02 %
Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 89.02 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%



 **Rock Cave Elementary School PTO, Inc** · 4d · 

🌟 🚀 Rock Cave History 🚀 🌟

How did the large metal rocket in front of our school come into being? In 2007, Jason Williams, a parent of one of our students, designed and planned the rocket, with the help of CB Phillips, who welded it together, and Melissa Williams, who gave it its original paint job. The rocket was installed at its current location approximately 18 years ago around Thanksgiving Break and has been a prominent feature ever since. However, few people know that it holds a secret: a Time Capsule. Each student at the school at the time contributed an item to the Time Capsule. If you were a student then, what did you put in?

We would like to thank the Williams family for allowing us to share this story, providing photographs that showcase the history of Rock Cave Elementary (taken by Mellissa Williams), and leaving a lasting legacy at our school.







BUS: 33 AM
 DRIVER: Lee Pappas
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

BUS: # 33 PM
 DRIVER: Lee Pappas
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

STOP **STOP LOCATION/DESC.**

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Storage - Residence	5:45	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	27 Goshen/Frazier Rd-T/A	6:30	1	Middle School	3:21
2	4352 Canaan Rd	6:43	2	High School	3:24
3	3759 Canaan Rd.	6:44	3	French Creek School	3:34
4	1414 Canaan Rd.	6:44	4	Rock Cave School	3:42
5	1370 Canaan Rd	6:45	5	12372 Rte 20 S/Fish Hawk	3:43
6	1011 Canaan Rd	6:52	6	Centerville Rd/Browning Rd-T/	3:45
7	703 Canaan Rd	6:53	7	Rte 20 Diner	3:49
8	568 Canaan Rd	6:54	8	13217 Rte 20 S	3:51
9	2328 Gaines Rd	6:54	9	13595 Rte 20 S	3:52
10	703 Cannann Rd	6:56	10	14299 Rte 20 S	3:54
11	568 Canaan Rd	6:57	11	Canaan Rd/Gougerville	3:56
12	2328 Gaines Rd	7:00	12	225 Gaines Rd	3:57
13	2423 Gaines Rd- T/A	7:01	13	510 Gaines Rd	3:58
14	978 Gaines Rd	7:05	14	528 Gaines Rd	3:59
15	530 Gaines Rd	7:07	15	530 Gaines Rd	3:59
16	528 Gaines Rd	7:07	16	978 Gaines Rd	4:00
17	510 Gaines Rd	7:07	17	2423 Gaines Rd- T/A	4:05
18	225 Gaines Rd	7:09	18	2328 Gaines Rd	4:06
19	Canaan Rd/Gougerville	7:10	19	568 Canaan Rd	4:09
20	14299 Rt. 20 S	7:11	20	703 Cannann Rd	4:10
21	13595 Route 20	7:12	21	1011 Canaan Rd	4:11
22	13217 Route 20 S	7:12	22	1370 Canaan Rd	4:13
23	Rte 20 Diner	7:12	23	1414 Canaan Rd	4:13
24	12372 Route 20/Fish Hawk	7:19	24	3759 Canaan Rd	4:21
25	Rock Cave School	7:20	25	4352 Canaan Rd	4:23
26	High School	7:40	26	27 Goshen/Frazier Rd-T/A	4:29
27	Middle School	7:45	27	Storage - Residence	5:18
28	Bus Garage	7:47	27		

BUS: #93 AM
 DRIVER: Steve Mcle
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

BUS: #93 PM
 DRIVER: Steve Mcle
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Bus Storage - Bethlehem Rd	6:20	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	4500 Alexander Rd - T/A	6:35	1	Middle School	3:22
2	13743 Alexander Rd.	6:37	2	High School	3:28
3	31717 Alexander Rd.	6:38	3	Sis's Diner / Rte 20 S	3:45
4	Reger Run/Alexander Rd. Inter	6:45	4	Rock Cave School	3:48
5	Alexander / French Reeder - Inter	6:46	5	Mt View Rental- Rte 20 S	3:51
6	9447 Alexander Rd	6:47	6	1000 Alexander Rd	3:55
7	Ellis Creek rd/Alexander Rd.	6:50	7	1405 Alexander Rd	3:56
8	6584 Alexander Rd	6:54	8	1452 Alexander Rd	3:57
9	Holly Grove Rd/Alexander Rd.	6:57	9	Kanawha Run/Alexander Rd.	3:58
10	4829 Alexander Rd	6:59	10	1599 Alexander Rd	3:59
11	66 Lucky Thirteen Dr	7:00	11	1818 Alexander Rd	4:00
12	Carter Rd/Alexander Rd.	7:05	12	1888 Alexander Rd	4:01
13	Carter Hill Dr / Alexander Rd	7:07	13	1713 Alexander Rd	4:02
14	2298 Alexander Rd	7:09	14	2034 Alexander Rd	4:03
15	2103 Alexander Rd	7:09	15	2103 Alexander Rd	4:03
16	2034 Alexander Rd.	7:10	16	2298 Alexander Rd	4:04
17	810 Harvey Gold Rd	7:10	17	Alexander Rd / Carter Hill Dr.	4:05
18	1713 Alexander Rd	7:11	18	Carter Rd/Alexander Rd.	4:07
19	1888 Alexander Rd	7:12	19	Lucky thirteen Dr	4:10
20	1818 Alexander Rd	7:12	20	4829 Alexander Rd	4:11
21	1599 Alexander Rd	7:13	21	Holly Grove Rd/.Alexander Rd.	4:12
22	Kanawha Run Rd/Alexander Rd.	7:13	22	6584 Alexander Rd	4:15
23	1452 Alexander Rd	7:14	23	Ellis Creek Rd/Alexander Rd.	4:18
24	1405 Alexander Rd	7:15	24	9447 Alexander Rd	4:21
25	1000 Alexander Rd	7:16	25	French Reeder Rd-Intersection	4:21
26	Mt View App-Rt 20	7:20	26	Reger Run/Alexander Rd. Inter	4:24
27	Sis's Diner Rte 20	7:21	28	13717 Alexander Rd	4:30
28	Rock Cave School	7:25	29	13743 Alexander Rd.	4:32
29	BUHS	7:40	30	14500 Alexander Brooks Hill -T/A	4:35
30	BUHS	7:45	31	Bus Storage - Bethlehem Rd	4:50
31	Bus Garage	7:58			

updated 6-19-25

Steve Mcle confirmed on 11/13/25 that he begins route at 6:35am.

BUS: #23 AM
 DRIVER: Tommie Loudin
 2024-2025

77
 #REF!

BUS:
 DRIVER

#23 PM
 Tommie Loudin
 2024-2025

77
 #REF!

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Storage - Garage	6:02	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	9114 Rte 20 S	6:15	1	BUMS	3:21
2	9832 Rte 20 S	6:17	2	BUHS	3:24
3	Davidson Sawmill	6:33	3	FRENCH CREEK ELEMENTARY	3:34
4	22038 Rt. 20 S. Rd. Kanawha Head	6:37	4	ROCK CAVE ELEMANTARY	3:42
5	Warden Lane / Rte 20 S	6:41	5	876 Hunter Ridge Rd	3:48
6	24172 Rte 20 S Kanawha Head	6:44	6	Cow Run - T/A	3:50
7	Webster Co Line- T/A	6:44	7	1855 Cow Run Rd	3:53
8	Rte 20 S / Eden Lane	6:52	8	1022 Cow Run Rd	3:56
9	Walton Rd & Rte 20 S	6:54	9	513 Cow Run Rd	3:59
10	18647 Rt.20 S. Rd	6:57	10	15801 Rt. 20 S./Arlingt. Com BLDG	4:02
11	17823 Route 20	6:57	11	17823 Route 20 S.	4:06
12	15801 Rte20/ArlingtonCom Bldg	7:01	12	18647 Route 20 S.	4:09
13	513 Cow Run Rd	7:05	13	23500 Route 20-Walton Lane	4:10
14	1022 Cow Run Rd	7:07	14	Eden Lane Rd. Kanawha Head	4:19
15	1855 Cow Run Rd	7:10	15	Webster Co. Line- T/A	4:20
16	Cow Run - T/A	7:14	16	24172 Rt. 20 S. Kanawha Head	4:26
17	876 HunterRidge Rd	7:22	17	Warden Lane Kanawha head	4:29
18	ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY	7:28	18	22038 Rt. 20 S. Rd.	4:46
19	FRENCH CREEK ELEMENT	7:36	19	Davidson Sawmill	4:48
20	BUHS	7:46	20	9832 Rte 20 S Rd	5:02
21	BUMS	7:50	21	9114 Rte 20 S Rd	
22	BUS GARAGE	7:55	22	Bus Garage	

BUS: #94 AM
 DRIVER: Steven Page
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

BUS: #94 PM
 DRIVER: Steven Page
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Storage - Residence	6:20	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	Rt. 44 Newlonton Rd-TurnAround	6:35	1	BUMS	3:22
2	3948 Selbyville Rd	6:40	2	BUMS	3:28
3	3286 Selbyville Rd	6:42	3	French Creek School	3:34
4	Pleasant Dale Church	6:43	4	Rock Cave School	3:42
5	Selbyville Rd/Holly Grove Rd	6:47	5	9114 Rte 20 S Rd	3:48
6	1160 Selbyville Rd	6:48	6	9832 Rte 20 S Rd	3:52
7	450 Selbyville Rd	6:50	7	Question Mark Bar/ Rte 20 S Rd	3:53
8	230 Selbyville Rd	6:51	8	133 Kanawha Run Rd	3:56
9	9046 Alexander Rd	6:52	9	623 Kanawha Run Rd	3:58
10	7653 Alexander Rd	6:55	10	Kanawha Run Rd--turn around	3:59
11	7077 Alexander Rd	6:57	11	1066 Kanawha Run Rd	4:00
12	2887 Pleasant Ridge Rd	7:04	12	Kanawha Run Church	4:03
13	2808 Pleasant Ridge Rd	7:05	13	Jasmine Dr/Pleasant Ridge Rd	4:03
14	Jasmine Dr/Pleasant Ridge Rd	7:13	14	2808 Pleasant Ridge Rd	4:11
15	Kanawha Run Church	7:13	15	2887 Pleasant Ridge Rd	4:11
16	1066 Kanawha Run Rd	7:16	16	7077 Alexander Rd	4:18
17	Kanawha Run Rd-turn around	7:17	17	7653 Alexander Rd	4:20
18	623 Kanawha Run Rd	7:18	18	9046 Alexander Rd	4:24
19	133 Kanawha Run Rd	7:20	19	230 Selbyville Rd	4:25
20	Rock Cave School	7:23	20	450 Selbyville Rd	4:26
21	Question Mark Bar/Rte 20 S	7:27	21	1160 Selbyville Rd	4:28
22	9832 Rte 20 S	7:27	22	Selbyville Rd/ Holly Grove Rd	4:29
23	9114 Rte 20 S	7:28	23	Pleasant Dale Church	4:33
24	French Creek Elementary	7:31	24	3286 Selbyville Rd	4:34
25	BUMS	7:43	25	3948 Selbyville Rd	4:36
26	BUMS	7:47	26	Newlonton Rd-Turn around	4:39
27	Bus Garage	7:52	27	Storage - Residence	5:28

Updated 8/5/25

BUS: #88 Travis Mallett 2025-2026 #77 #REF!

DRIVER: Travis Mallett 2025-2026 #88 Travis Mallett 2025-2026 #77 #REF!

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Bus Garage	5:50	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	4092s Salem Rdg Rd-Church	6:26	1	BUMS	3:22
2	Salem Ridge Rd/ KD Dr	6:26	2	BUHS	3:28
3	2149 Salem Ridge Rd	6:32	3	Rock Cave School	3:41
4	1665 SalemRidge Rd	6:33	4	1398 Rock Cave Rd	3:44
5	1573 Salem ridge	6:34	5	Rock Cave Rd/Beverage Knob Rd	3:46
6	950 Salem Ridge Rd	6:36	6	2209 Rock Cave Rd	3:46
7	5848 Heaston Ridge Rd	6:46	7	Rte 4 /Straight Fork- T/A	3:49
8	4919 Heaston Ridge Rd	6:49	8	2903 Rock Cave Rd	3:51
9	Heaston Church/Panther Fork	6:53	9	Heaston Rdg/Loudin Rd	3:56
10	1257 Cherry Fork Rd	7:02	10	Cherry Fork - T/A	4:06
11	Cherry Fork- T/A	7:03	11	1257 Cherry Fork Rd	4:07
12	Heaston Rdg Rd/ Loudin Rd	7:12	12	Heaston Church/Panther Fork	4:15
13	2903 Rock Cave Rd	7:18	13	4918 Heaston Ridge Rd	4:20
14	Rte 4/Straight Fork Rd-T/A	7:20	14	5848 Heston Ridge Rd	4:23
15	2209 Rock Cave Rd	7:23	15	950 Salem Ridge Rd	4:33
16	Rock Cave Rd/Beverage Knob Rd	7:23	16	1573 Salem Ridge Rd	4:35
17	1398 Rock Cave Rd	7:25	17	1665 SalemRidge Rd	4:36
18	Rock Cave School	7:28	18	2149 Salem Ridge Rd	4:37
19	BUHS	7:45	19	K-D Drive Salem Ridge	4:43
20	BUMS	7:50	20	4092 Salem Ridge Rd-Church	4:43
21	Bus Garage	7:51	21	Bus Garage	5:16

TOTAL MILES

• Route actually starts at 659 Larry Anderson Rd @ 6:18am.

Final Speech Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Delivered by a Concerned Parent, Citizen, and Taxpayer

Addressing the State Takeover Board

Good evening, everyone. I stand before you today not just as a parent whose children depend on Rock Cave Elementary, but also as a deeply invested citizen, business owner, and taxpayer of the community.

A Decision Steeped in Negligence

To even consider closing Rock Cave Elementary School is, in my view, an act of pure negligence. The very board entrusted by the state to protect and represent the interests of our children and community is now poised to betray those responsibilities. This is not just a financial or administrative decision, it is a profound moral failing, one that will have lasting and irreversible consequences for the very people you were appointed to serve.

Major Safety Concerns

Let us look at the immediate and practical dangers this closure will inflict on our children. If Rock Cave Elementary shuts its doors, many young students—some as young as five—will be forced to endure daily transportation over long, winding, and potentially treacherous rural roads. Longer commutes mean tired children. It means young kids waiting in the dark at bus stops, exposed to weather, and the danger of speeding traffic. The risk of accidents and injuries will increase, and we all know that emergencies in rural areas are not quickly or easily addressed. How would you feel if your 5-year-old had to be on a bus for almost an hour each way? No access to a restroom, having to wake up earlier, and go to bed earlier after getting home later, all while being expected to academically perform at their best daily and punished if they don't. As working adults, you all aren't even held to these standards so why are you making our kids be? They are already being exposed to a 9hr "workday" while most adults only endure 8 and this is somehow acceptable to add even more time away from home onto their day! As mentioned, time and time again the parking lot at FCES is not capable of holding the capacity needed to safely drop off, pick up, and attend school activities. You claimed that it would be addressed before the merger. How many millions of dollars is that going to cost? There is only a little over 40 spaces now for over 200 students and not even counting staff. Where do you plan to put all of these spaces? The way the

property lines fall this isn't going to be possible and also extremely costly. How are you going to afford the renovations when you claim you don't have enough funding as it is? Have you already received estimates for this project? If so, how much was it quoted for? The next major safety concern is that you are wanting to take kids out of RCES which already has a safe entry installed and move them into FCES which does not have one costing even more money that you claim not to have. But we've clearly seen your all's true colors firsthand on how seriously you take safety as we are all here pleading different cases from different parts of the county and none of what we are saying is being put into action. When are our children going to be put first?

Lack of Supervision and Overcrowding

The closure will also mean that our children will enter already crowded schools that are not prepared to absorb the influx. Overcrowded classrooms and hallways lead to less individual attention, more disciplinary issues, and greater risk of bullying and neglect. Teachers, stretched beyond their limits, will struggle to maintain order and safety. The very foundation of what makes our community and our school special—a close-knit, caring environment—will be lost. Children already struggling are going to fall through the cracks and lose the individualized help that they need. Our gifted children will be overlooked and not challenged to continue expanding their education. These rash decisions from the state do have immediate consequences and also long-term ones for our future. Luckily for everyone appointed by the state you get to just make decisions and then when all of the damage is done you get to walk away and go back home to your own communities unaffected as you have no ties here, maybe if your own children attended these schools you'd have different opinions especially when the cons far outweigh the pros.

Increased Illness and Health Risks

And let's not forget the health risks. Overcrowding exacerbates the spread of illnesses—from seasonal flu to more serious outbreaks. Are we prepared to deal with more children getting sick, more absences, and the additional strain on already limited healthcare resources? Closing Rock Cave Elementary is not just inconvenient, it is hazardous. How are you going to ensure that our children with health problems and disabilities aren't overlooked? We've clearly given you examples of many of the children's medical needs can you sit here with confidence and tell us that they are not going to get overlooked when they are having a seizure that doesn't come with the typical movements only a deep stare all while trying to watch 25 plus other kids and administer the lifesaving meds required? How are you going to manage 33 kids in one school all with IEPs? Each requiring different techniques and levels of care? I could ask a million questions over and over as there is so

much that should be considered over budgets and the welfare of our children being the priority.

A Call for Responsibility

As citizens and taxpayers, we demand accountability. Our tax dollars have supported this school for generations. We have invested in its programs, its teachers, and its future because we know how vital it is to the growth and safety of our children. To close it now is to waste that investment, to devalue our voices, and to dismiss the real dangers and hardships that will follow.

I urge the board to recognize the magnitude of the decision before you. If you move forward with the closure of Rock Cave Elementary, you are not just shutting down a building, you are abandoning your duty, risking our children's safety, health, and future. Let this school remain open. Let it continue to be a beacon of hope, learning, and security for our community. Do not let negligence replace responsibility. Stop making our children pay for the actions of the previous administration and stop putting their safety and wellbeing on the backburner. Our schools, communities, and most importantly children deserve better.

Do better,

Sincerely,

Cheyenne Troxell

11/18/25

Good evening, my name is Abigail Jeffries and I am continuing my comments and concerns from the Rock Cave Elementary School closure hearing that was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Regarding my concerns of legalities, I missed commenting that the most blatant misrepresentation in the impact statement is who proposed the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and who will be voting on the school closure. All wording in the impact statements references the county BOE as initiator and final decision makers, when the closure was proposed solely by the state appointed superintendent, with the state BOE voting. This is a gross misrepresentation in the disclosure of public information to the people of Upshur County.

Mr. Cummings' explanation of the past deficit and the WV Department of Education's expectations regarding unrestricted funds was helpful. During his comments he also pointed out the fact that the levy did not pass. I believe everyone in this room knows all too well, just why the levy did not pass. I am confident that time will heal those wounds and a levy will pass again in the future. I do not believe that would be the case, if schools are closed, particularly if they are closed in a forceful manner by the state BOE with no input from our county board representatives.

I have questions regarding current fiscal responsibility of the state appointed superintendent. Reflected in BOE minutes for August 12, 2025, item 6 under next steps; hire an architect for planning and services for construction for Buckhannon Academy. Was money spent to hire said architect? If so, how much?

Superintendent Miller responded to questions of options other than the closure of Rock Cave Elementary being explored by stating the closure of other schools (Hodgesville, Washington District, Tennerton) had been explored. I would like the record to reflect that we do not find the closure of any school to be an acceptable option.

Superintendent Miller also mentioned that the sale of property the county owns would "just" be a one-time influx of revenue. We realize that, but that revenue would allow more time and opportunity to find budgetary solutions other than closure. It was announced earlier this month that FirstEnergy plans to build a natural gas plant in Harrison County, with plans to be filed to the WV Public Service Commission in early 2026. Over 3,260 construction jobs are expected to be created. It is also estimated to support 2,000 plus jobs when in operation, at the plant and in WV's natural gas industry. These jobs will likely create population growth in Upshur County, as we offer an affordable cost of living. There is also an article written by Lori Kersey from October 1, 2025 where WV BOE president Paul Hardesty is quoted to say "...on public education, I think they played a little heavy handed,

and they've got some unintended consequences from their actions." The they he is referring to is the WV Legislature. In that same article Del. Joe Ellington who is chairman of the House Education committee, said through a House spokeswoman that "it's too early to say" if lawmakers will address the school funding formula during the next legislative session. "But we have spent a good deal of time looking at the formula, and it's possible the Public Education Subcommittee may have some discussions about it before the regular legislative session," Ellington said. I am submitting both articles with my comments. The closure of Rock Cave Elementary is proposed for future budgetary concerns due to trends and hypotheticals, why don't we allow time for the possibility that there will be positive improvements and upward trends? A school can be closed at a later time, but it is most likely to never reopen once closed. Closing Rock Cave Elementary and merging with French Creek Elementary would definitely cause detriment to students at both schools, and to the entire Rock Cave Community, let's err on the side of positive caution and KEEP Rock Cave Elementary open!

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

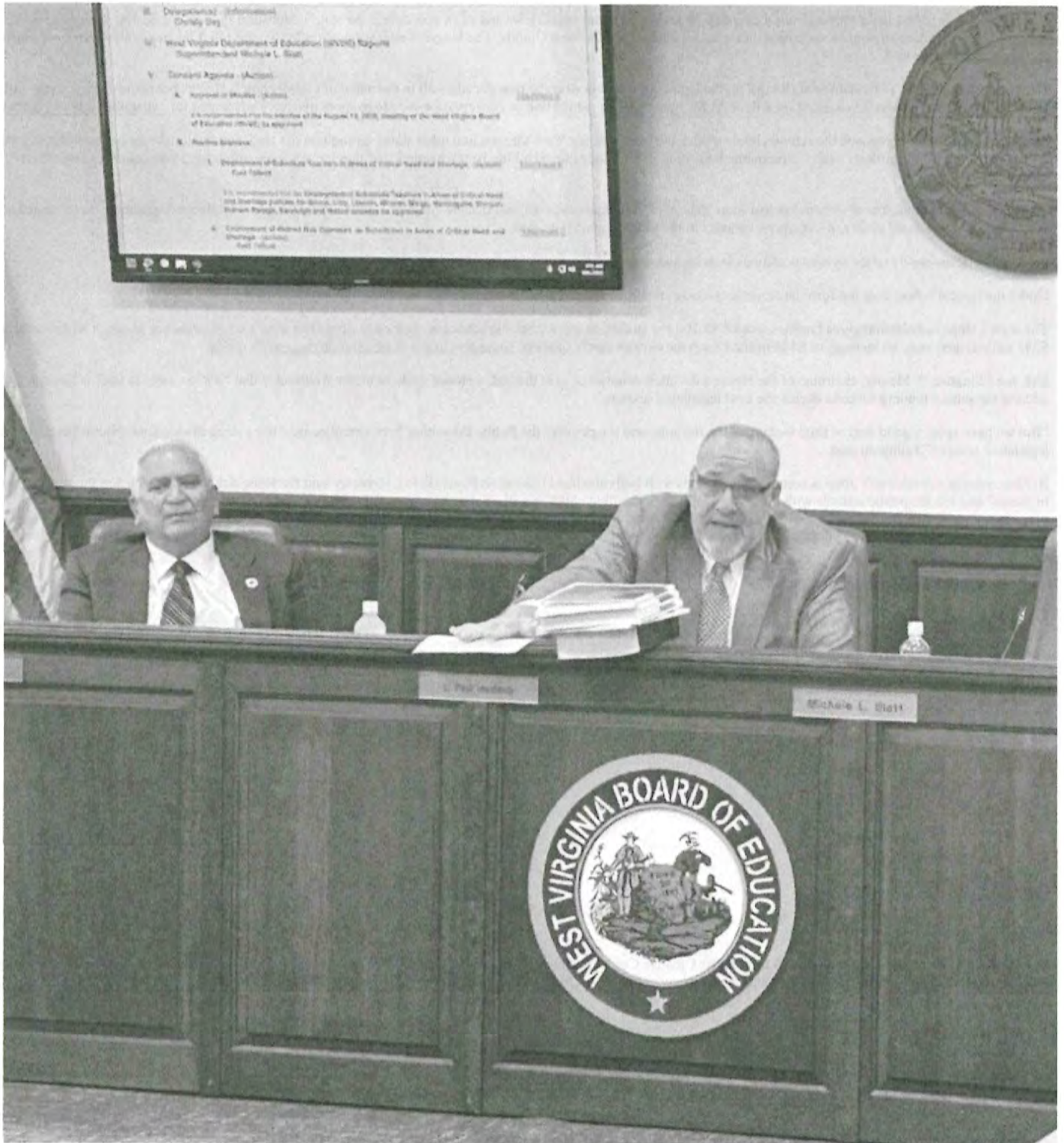
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abigail Jeffries". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Abigail Jeffries

Education

WV school board president calls on legislators to address school closures, consolidation

By: [Lori Kersey](#) - October 1, 2025 4:13 pm



Paul Hardesty, president of the West Virginia Board of Education, addresses the board and reporters Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, during a regular meeting. He said school choice has led to closures and consolidations of public schools. (Photo by Lori Kersey/West Virginia Watch)

West Virginia School Board President Paul Hardesty said Wednesday that lawmakers — not education officials — are responsible for addressing the school closures and consolidations that are increasing across the state. School choice, he said, has led to tens of thousands of students leaving public schools over the past decade.

"Where does that relief need to and have to come from? Right across the way," Hardesty said. "There's 134 members of the Legislature. They have the oversight. They have the ability to change the school aid formula, to recognize these rurally challenged, geographically challenged areas that we speak of. They have that ability. I and this board and this department do not."

Hardesty's comments came during the regular board of education meeting Wednesday morning.

School closures have become more common as the state's population declines and more students leave public schools for private and home schools.

According to the state Department of Education, 16 public schools closed in 2024, up from 9 in 2023 and five in 2022. The 2025 numbers have not been finalized, but five public schools have closed so far, said Christy Day, director of the West Virginia Department of Education Office of Communication.

Hardesty said the public has a "severe" misconception about who sets the state's laws and rules concerning the state's education system. He said he decided to make the comments after reading an opinion column about a school closure in Randolph County. The board of education can offer limited relief when it comes to school closures and consolidation, he said.

Hardesty said he's seen a "fundamental change" in the legislative process over the past decade – all in the name of school choice. He attributed the change to the influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, a nonprofit organization of conservative state legislators that have advocated for expanding school choice.

"They are the ones that proposed the school choice model and playbook for West Virginia and other states throughout the land, and they make no bones about what they're trying to accomplish," Hardesty said. "... on public education. I think they played a little heavy handed, and they've got some unintended consequences from their actions."

Hardesty said the public school system has lost more than 35,000 students over the past decade "in the name of school choice." While the Legislature has changed school law to incorporate school choice, it's made no changes to the funding model, he said.

"The financial instability of the system continues to grow and continues to grow and gets worse and worse," Hardesty said.

Under the current school funding formula, counties receive state funding based on the number of students.

The state's Hope Scholarship gives families around \$5,200 per student to use for private school or homeschooling. The state's school voucher program will need around \$245 million next year, an increase of \$144 million from the current year's funding, [according to the West Virginia treasurer's office](#).

Del. Joe Ellington, R-Mercer, chairman of the House Education committee, said through a House spokeswoman Wednesday that "it's too early to say" if lawmakers will address the school funding formula during the next legislative session.

"But we have spent a good deal of time looking at the formula, and it's possible the Public Education Subcommittee may have some discussions about it before the regular legislative session," Ellington said.

Because private schools can't often accommodate students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Hardesty said the Hope Scholarship has taken the state's "best and brightest" and left the public schools with the responsibility of educating children with social, developmental and economic challenges.

"It's left us the toughest to try to educate," Hardesty said. "And we'll take that challenge head on, but it's hard. It's very expensive to provide the services for those children."

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New Generation Facilities Proposed by FirstEnergy to Spark Job Growth and Economic Opportunity in West Virginia

1,200-megawatt natural gas power plant and utility-scale solar planned to help ensure reliable power, generation jobs and support growth



SHINNSTON, W.Va., Nov. 6, 2025 – The construction phase of a 1,200-megawatt combined-cycle natural gas plant proposed by FirstEnergy in West Virginia is expected to generate over 3,260 jobs and \$68 million in state and local tax revenue, according to FirstEnergy Board Chair, President and Chief Executive Officer Brian X. Tierney.

At a November 6 event at Harrison Power Station attended by West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey and more than 50 elected officials, business representatives and employees, Tierney said the company's plans to bring the new gas plant and 70 megawatts of utility-scale solar to West Virginia represent a commitment to its customers and the communities it serves.

"This planned generation is a promise – a promise to keep energy costs manageable, to ensure reliability during peak demand and to support local investment and job creation," he said. "It's a promise to West Virginia families, workers and industries that FirstEnergy is here for the long haul."

Creating jobs for West Virginians

FirstEnergy subsidiaries Mon Power and Potomac Edison will file plans with the West Virginia Public Service Commission in early 2026 to pursue one of two options for the new gas generation: partnering with another company to build and transfer the plant to the companies, or building it independently with construction and design experts. A site for the new plant has not yet been determined.

If approved, each path provides a catalyst for new jobs and tax revenues.

In addition to the construction jobs, a study by West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research reports the gas plant's ongoing operations are estimated to support nearly 2,200 direct and indirect jobs and \$85.9 million in annual state and local tax revenue. This includes three dozen permanent, technically advanced positions at the plant and hundreds of jobs in West Virginia's natural gas industry.

Supporting reliability and economic growth

With Harrison Power Station behind him, Tierney said the new generation would work alongside the company's existing plants to deliver consistent, reliable power for customers, supporting a strong energy future for West Virginia.

"It will be designed to work in concert with our existing energy infrastructure, including the Harrison Power Station and Ft. Martin Power Station, supporting a balanced and reliable energy mix that leverages all of West Virginia's abundant resources to power all of the state's generation," he said.

The plan for new generation supports the recruitment of energy-intensive industries to West Virginia.

"We want developers and decision-makers to see that West Virginia isn't just adjacent to opportunity, it is the opportunity," Tierney added. "With this investment, we're laying the groundwork for data centers, advanced manufacturers and other innovative businesses to choose West Virginia as the place to grow, invest and thrive."

Strengthening the state's power network

In addition to new generation capacity, FirstEnergy is upgrading transmission lines, strengthening local poles and wires and implementing advanced grid technologies to build a hardy, resilient electric system across West Virginia. By modernizing the grid and reinforcing the backbone of the state's electric network, FirstEnergy is ensuring West Virginia is prepared for future growth and the evolving needs of its customers.

"Our commitment to West Virginia's future is expansive," Tierney said. "Between 2025 and 2029, we plan to invest \$5.2 billion in West Virginia in infrastructure enhancements, people, processes and facilities. Pending regulatory approval of this generation, we anticipate investing an additional \$2.5 billion – further accelerating economic growth and opportunity throughout the region."

Complementing West Virginia's energy plan

The proposed new generation supports Governor Morrissey's "50 by 50" initiative, which aims to boost West Virginia's energy capacity to 50 gigawatts by 2050 – positioning the state as a leader in energy innovation and infrastructure.

"Governor Morrissey's leadership in setting a bold course for energy growth is exactly what this moment demands. We share your belief that West Virginia must remain a national leader in energy production," said Tierney.

About Mon Power and Potomac Edison

Mon Power serves about 395,000 customers in 34 West Virginia counties. Follow Mon Power at mon-power.com, on X [@MonPowerWV](https://twitter.com/MonPowerWV), and on Facebook at facebook.com/MonPowerWV.

Potomac Edison serves about 285,000 customers in seven counties in Maryland and 155,000 customers in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Follow Potomac Edison at potomacedison.com, on X [@PotomacEdison](https://twitter.com/PotomacEdison), and on Facebook at facebook.com/PotomacEdison.

FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE) is dedicated to integrity, safety, reliability and operational excellence. Its electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving more than six million customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland and New York. The company's transmission subsidiaries operate approximately 24,000 miles of transmission lines that connect the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. Follow FirstEnergy online at firstenergycorp.com and on X [@FirstEnergyCorp](https://twitter.com/FirstEnergyCorp).

CONTACT: News Media Contact: Will Boye, (301) 790-6420; Investor Contact: Karen Sagot, (330) 761-4286

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Good evening, I am Shanah Carpenter, second grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary School. I am still waiting on answers from my questions 2 weeks ago. We have received our Impact Statement, and I have several questions and a few discrepancies that I would like to point out about the information in it.

p. 4 – “Rock Cave Elementary has decreased by 77 students over the past ten years...”. “Enrollment has trended up and down...”. In 2014-15 school year enrollment was 143, in 2023-24 enrollment was 148 (an increase by 5), in 2024-25 enrollment was 111, this year enrollment is currently 71. This is because we have not had consistent administration or teachers due to the lack of support from the county administration and state administration.

Many parents chose to move their students.

p. 5 – “The closure of Rock Cave Elementary to merge with French Creek Elementary will provide the opportunity for all students to experience the benefits of improved educational opportunities and programming.” This statement leads the reader to believe that students at Rock Cave do not receive as good of an education as students at French Creek. This is not true. And throughout Upshur County, we follow the same programming for instruction. At Rock Cave we have all highly qualified staff except of 1. We do not have a counselor, we are still looking for one, while we wait for the right person, we are partnered with Community Care and have a counselor one day a week, as well as a county counselor working with one of our classes with the highest needs. We, like other schools in the county, are looking for a music teacher. Until then we are improvising and educating students to the best of our abilities, even with your lack of support.

p. 5 – “The superintendent is proposing to consolidate services in Upshur County to provide high quality education to all students in the county. The closure of Rock Cave and merger to French Creek will save the board \$865,982.81 annually, including savings on maintenance and operating expenses for aging facilities.” A very misleading statement when on p. 14 you state that utilities are \$31,000 and maintenance is \$33,000.

I need clarification on the of numbers of staff losing jobs. There are discrepancies in the Impact Statement. P. 5 says 8 professional and 6.5 service. P. 16 says 7 professional personnel and 6.5 service, P. 17 says 7.5 professionals, 7 service

p. 5 “Upshur County will continue to follow the WVDE recommended guidelines on the number of professional employees per grade level...and maintain the number of staff required to deliver the education program to all students.” I really wish that you would consider what you are doing to teachers and students. At the merged French Creek there will be 24 students in both 2nd grade classes, 26 in both 3rd grade classes, 28 and 29 in 4th grade, where will the overage students have to go? Buckhannon Academy, that is a consideration you may not have made.

One of my favorite statements, p. 5, "Upshur County Schools have been on a path of improvement since the state took over, and areas were identified based on accountability.... We are dedicated to preparing students for a changing workplace, higher education, and military participation." If this was the case someone would look into why we have had a mass exodus of highly qualified teachers over the last several years. Why so many students are choosing the virtual option. Why under state control we have a school identified CSI (Comprehensive School Improvement) and 3 schools identified as ATS (Additional Targeted Support).

p. 10 - I think that your information for the outside buildings is inaccurate. One is older than 1995, which explains its poorer condition. We do still use both buildings. The older one not daily, but the newer one on a daily basis.

p. 10 – Our bus loading and unloading is sufficient; the only negative is that we assemble in the gym before and after loading so we walk from the gym to the loading zone. We do have a nice overhang and sidewalk to stay under when needed.

p. 10 – Our access road on and off the parking lot is sufficient as well. We have a long stretch for all buses to pull in. Several years ago we had buses and traffic backing up on Rt 20, but the drivers started staggering pulling in and fixed the problem.

p. 10 - Our parking lot does not need milled and repaved. That information came from the 2019 SBA Collection Form. Our parking lot was repaved in recent years and it is in very good condition.

The only problem with our parking lot is that it is too small for large activities. We have started opening the gate to the access road for the treatment plant to add additional parking area.

P. 12 – Rock Cave has a very secure entrance, just completed this year.

p. 12 – Rock Cave would have a Pre-K class if the county had not made all Pre-K age students attend French Creek. There are several students attending French Creek Pre-K that live in the Rock Cave School district.

State law is a 30 minute bus ride for elementary age students – on p. 5 you stated that, "the routes may exceed the recommended time 30-minute guidelines...It is projected it would not exceed by more than 10 to 15 minutes...". On page 19 the projected times are 50, 51, 64, and 56 minutes. 4 buses over well over the 30 minutes, adding 6 to 12 minutes to current travel times.

You did not mention our very nice walking trail that is used daily.

p. 25 "Many educators and support staff already know one another through district wide initiatives...Consolidation allows these relationships to flourish in a shared environment..." There will be no collaboration because Rock Cave teachers will not be at French Creek so this statement does not make sense.

Upshur County has had a drop in enrollment of over 1200 students. Shouldn't the administration look into what is causing the drop? Shouldn't we care about children getting a good education and being ready for the world ahead?

~~Where do your GSA data on page 23 from? Because on Zoom the numbers are~~

On page 47 you label a photo stating, "Greenhouse (no longer used)" This is not true, we have used marigolds from the garden to decorate our entrance, we have eaten tomatoes from that garden this year.

Why is SBA Collection Form from October 2019?

I need clarification on the timeline of this process. On November 20, 2025 there is a meeting at B-UHS, called Final Action. What exactly is decided at that meeting? Mr. Kelley led me to understand that at that meeting Mrs. Miller says she is proceeding with merger and takes plan to state superintendent who then takes plan to be voted on by State Board. Is this correct?

I know things need to change, students change and we adjust, the world changes and we must adjust. We need a change to make our county work and make it strong again. I request that this merger be put on hold until we, as a group of stakeholders, look into solutions for the county as a whole. We need a change but it must be a well thought out, planned process with stakeholders, including tax payers that help pay for our schools and voters that elect our board. The future of children **MUST** be the priority when planning the best education for them.

Thank you all for being here today and allowing me to share my son Scott's deeply personal journey.

Scott was diagnosed with ~~deafness~~ **bilateral sensorineural hearing loss**, which means he experiences permanent hearing reduction in both ears because of issues with his inner ear or auditory nerve. Put simply, the signals between his ears and brain don't travel as efficiently as they do for most people.

His hearing is unique—one ear picks up **high-pitched sounds**, while the other detects **low-pitched sounds**. As a result, the assistance from his **hearing aids** and the **classroom amplification system** is absolutely vital. Without these supports, even the clearest speech and instructions can be hard for him to follow.

When we first learned about Scott's diagnosis, we were anxious, filled with questions every parent would have: What does this mean for his future? Will he be able to learn, communicate, and experience life like other children?

Over time, we've come to see that hearing loss is just one part of Scott's story—a piece that has inspired us to grow in compassion, patience, and love.

Due to the extent of his hearing loss, Scott wears **hearing aids in both ears**. These small devices are truly incredible; they capture sounds from his surroundings, process them, and deliver them to his ears in ways he understands. Each morning when he puts them on, I'm reminded of both his resilience and the amazing technology that supports him.

We now refer to his hearing aids as his **superpower**—because that's exactly what they have become. They help him tap into a world full of sound, connection, and learning, making him unique, strong, and capable. Just as a superhero's gadgets help them accomplish incredible feats, Scott's hearing aids empower him to experience the world in his own remarkable way.

Yet, not every day is easy. There was a time when he told me, *"I don't want to wear my hearing aids to school. I just want to be normal like everyone else."* Hearing this broke my heart, as I understood his desire to belong—every child wants to fit in.

From **Pre-K onward**, Scott's teachers have played a crucial role in his development. Their dedication to his **speech and language growth** has helped him discover his voice, bit by bit. We couldn't have done it without their kindness and commitment—they're more than educators to us; they're family. They have cheered on Scott's successes and shown us that education is rooted in caring as much as in learning.

To ensure Scott hears his teachers clearly, they use a **classroom amplification system** that transmits their voices directly to his hearing aids, helping him fully participate in lessons. Without this technology, even great teaching could be inaccessible for him.

2nd grade
7 yrs old

Boards
Sherry
Jan
Cary

Mrs. Carpenter
Mrs. Anderson
Mrs. Snide / Gann
Mrs. Hissam
Mrs. Stimpel
Mrs. Collins

0

Scott faces real challenges. Sometimes the world seems too quiet, or background noise makes concentration difficult. Technology isn't foolproof—batteries die, connections falter. And though his hearing aids make a huge difference, Scott may one day face complete hearing loss.

With **Rock Cave School closing**, I worry that having larger classes could make it even harder for Scott to hear his teachers. Every day, Scott works tirelessly to listen, focus, and process information, and changes such as bigger classrooms and unfamiliar spaces add to those difficulties.

Currently, there are **33 students with IEPs at Rock Cave and French Creek Schools combined**. Scott's Individualized Education Program (IEP) ensures he gets the support he needs, but many parents—and myself—worry that in bigger schools, students with IEPs could be overlooked. Every child deserves attention, understanding, and support—especially those dealing with challenges that aren't always visible.

Through Scott's experience, we've learned hearing loss isn't a barrier—it's an invitation to see the world differently, to connect thoughtfully, and to listen with our hearts. This opportunity depends on all of us—parents, educators, administrators, and communities—working together so children like Scott receive what they need to flourish.

And to Scott—you inspire us every day. You've proved that being different should be celebrated, not hidden. Your hearing aids are far more than devices—they are your true **superpower**.

We love you, Scott.

Thank you.

Keep

— Scott will not be able to hear a teacher when classroom is loud. More students will make it harder. Eventually Scott will need hearing aids due to his hearing.

— Amplification has not been ordered - I meeting was in October.
— Scott may need to learn sign language students will need to learn in order to understand Scott.
— Need teacher that knows sign language
→ all teachers needs to wear during gym







Petition to Keep Rock Cave Elementary School Open

To: Upshur County Board of Education

From: Citizens of Rock Cave and Surrounding Communities.

We, the undersigned, respectfully urge the Upshur County Board of Education to reconsider any plans to close Rock Cave Elementary School. This school is not just a building, it is the heart of our community, a place where generations have learned, grown, and built lifelong connections.

Reasons for Keeping Rock Cave Elementary Open:

-  **Community Anchor:** The school serves as a vital hub for families in Rock Cave and nearby areas. Its closure would disrupt the fabric of our community and diminish local engagement.
-  **Student Well-being:** Transferring students to distant schools would increase travel times, reduce access to extracurricular activities, and strain young learners emotionally and academically.
-  **Family Impact:** Many families chose to live in Rock Cave because of the school's reputation for personalized attention, small class sizes, and dedicated staff. Closing it would negatively affect property values and community stability.
-  **Educational Excellence:** Rock Cave Elementary consistently provides quality education with strong teacher-student relationships. Its closure risks overcrowding other schools and diluting the quality of education.
-  **Property Management:** The school board currently owns over 50 different properties, many of which are not actively used for educational purposes. Instead of closing a school that fills young minds with knowledge and hearts with lifelong memories, we urge the board to consolidate or repurpose underutilized properties. Strategic asset management should prioritize preserving institutions that directly serve students and families.
-  **Economic Considerations:** While budget concerns are real, we believe there are alternative solutions that do not involve shuttering a beloved institution. Community partnerships, grants, and fundraising efforts could help bridge financial gaps.

We ask the Board to engage with parents, teachers, and local leaders to explore all possible options before making a decision that would deeply affect our children and our town.

We stand united in support of Rock Cave Elementary. Please keep our school open.

Print Name	Phone Number	Signature
Ronnie Tolson	304 732 6806	Ronnie Tolson
Julie Carr	304 247 2928	Julie Carr
Dora Daniels	304-924-6281	Dora Daniels
Alie Powers	304 924 5651	Alie Powers
Crystal Williams	304 642 9213	Crystal Williams

Ben meek	304 704 9194	Ben Meek
Jeff Franzen	304 924 5746	Jeff Franzen
Rebecca Jones	304-644-1399	Rebecca Jones
Shawn Gregory	881-837-2383	Shawn
Michelle Green	304-644-5145	Michelle Green
Arnette Hye	304-642-0099	Arnette K Hye
Jason M Hye	304-642-0099	Jason Hye
Luke Hye	304-642-1325	Luke Hye
JOHN GREGORY STORDAN	(443) 388-1228	John Gregory
Sheila Cunningham	304-406-4036	Sheila Cunningham
Michael Cunningham	304-406-4036	Michael Cunningham
Joseph Carpenter	681-837-9818	Joseph Carpenter
Renee Little	681-367-1967	Renee Little
Timothy Ferris	304 380 6688	Timothy Ferris
Mark R. Stille	304-613-9256	Mark R. Stille
Zach McCortney	681-495-4465	Zach McCortney
Linda Fisher	304-642-3988	Linda Fisher
Tristan Fulton	304-704-9708	Tristan Fulton
Phillip McCourt	304-644-0370	Phillip McCourt
Ronda Perrine	304-997-9830	Ronda Perrine
Jack Hayes	304-315-2380	Jack Hayes
Chris Pullen	304 924 9152	Chris Pullen
Linda Hitt	304-406-6297	Linda Hitt
Russell Hitt	304-406-6297	Russell Hitt
Chris Green	304-406-4940	Chris Green
Anthony Dreyer	304-406-2110	Anthony Dreyer
Lucky Bender	304-924-9055	Lucky Bender
Yeanna Casto	681-495-2590	Yeanna Casto
Rebecca Layman	304-421-2066	Rebecca Layman
Edith Bickel	304-516-6359	Edith Bickel
Anne Riffe	304-613-6915	Anne Riffe
Teddy Riffe	304 476-7446	Teddy Riffe
Jan Melanty	304-923-6004	Jan Melanty
Patricia Murphy	304-940-0768	Patricia Murphy
Brenda Phillips	304-924-9121	Brenda Phillips
Hardy Bachman	304-924-5203	Hardy Bachman
Cody Bender	304-406-4232	Cody Bender
Meredith Rice	681 837 7892	Meredith Rice
Doug Wiant	304-924-9352	Doug Wiant
Courtney Cunningham	304-613-1976	Courtney Cunningham
	681-495-4212	

Trucky Bender

talk about being a single dad and how you rely heavily on family to help you get Lily to and from school.. how family has lived and went to school here thier whole life

May save the county money but its going to cost the kids the parents teachers staff more they're the ones who's really going to have to pay for it.

Some kids already have an hour long bus ride to Rock cave School now then you're going to add another several miles and time to that in the morning and the evening

Didn't they just put a lot of money into the school like the roof and some of the units on top of the school just a few short years ago

Lilly has so much pride in her school she bleeds Rock cave rocket white and blue. the teachers the staff the atmosphere of the school itself has helped her be so confident, helped shaped her to be the person she is.

you know our children are in school more than they are at home.

teachers and staff have a major influence on them

thats why its so important to have teacher staff and a school that parents trust and believe in, moving our kids to another school is going to create alot of unrest and uneasy feeling among the parents kids and teachers. it will be like starting all over again there are teachers here that were here when ever i attended elemantary school and that is a rare experiance that you will only find in small amazing schools like rock cave

I can attribute a lot of my daughters confidence intelligence and pride to Rock cave school and not only will it break her heart it'll be a major shift for her and not just her lost doing some short I've lost her friends that I know first hand and lots of others that I'm sure nobody will ever get to know or think about but nonetheless

Superintendent have you ever been to the school have you felt the atmosphere the energy there's an embodiment of postive energy within rock cave school and I just can't for the life of me other than money figure out why you all would want to take that away and if money is all that matters to you people you know that shows it all right there it tells where your hearts are im not trying to personally attack anybody only trying to get a different point of view for you to see we are a tight knit community and we are proud of our school our students our teachers and citizens.. people have paid taxes here thier whole life we pay for the right for our kids to go to school in the same district that we live in..

ya know it seems modern schools and way of thinking just wants to pack students in like sardines wants to just see the numbers instead of thinking about each kid as a student of education, it makes it harder on the kids the teachers the staff and parents at home . why

would you want to pack elementary students into one school like sardines,? this already happens when our kids get to middle and high school.. every middle and high school aged student in the county goes to the same school. why would we not grant k-5 aged students the privilege to have the small group community feeling thru elementary school they are going to have to deal with that enough as they go thru life the smelting pot of moving thru middle and high school i feel its essential that children k-5 do not be packed in like sardines i feel its essential that our students especially when they are young feel like they know their teacher on a personal loving and trusting level. i feel its essential they experience that small group community tight knit classroom and school feel before they get shoved out into the big bad middle school where they are in classrooms packed the max why would you want to pack small children in like sardines. true fosters of education should want to give our students the best chance at development while they are in the vulnerable ages and groups of k-5

what happens if there is a baby boom in our district in the future i know you look at enrollment number but should you not realize it could potentially change from year to year what if more people move to rock cave in the future and french creek elementary cannot support them what if population grows then upshur board what will do then i just hope you are asking the right questions and answering them honestly please think about the students the staff the family and the community as whole and what kind of negative impacts you will cause if you shut down rock cave school !!

Questions for closure hearings

- Reflected in the minutes for Aug. 12, 2025, next steps, item 6; hire an architect for planning and services for construction for Buckhannon Academy, was money spent on this? If so how much?
- MonPower announced this month that they were building a natural gas plant in Harrison County, with plans set to be filed with the PSC in early 2026. It is supposed to create 3,000plus jobs. This will likely result in a population increase for Upshur County due to the affordability here. The chance of reopening a closed school is next to zero. What does the Board plan to do should there be a spike of enrollment due to this, a baby boom, and/or oil and gas reigniting if closure proceeds?
- Pg 5 of the Impact Statement , 2nd paragraph states. ' The closure of Rock Cave Elementary to merge with French Creek Elementary will provide the opportunity for all students to experience the benefits of improved educational opportunities and programming.' Is the BOE currently withholding opportunities from the students at Rock Cave? What exactly is the improved programming?
- School closures should be the last resort when balancing the budget. We heard at the end of last school year that Hodgesville and Washington District Elementaries were on the chopping block. That idea quickly went by the wayside. The day before the official start of this school year we learn that Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementaries are in danger of closure. The application submitted to the SBA for work that needed to be completed for Buckhannon Academy to absorb Tennerton Elementary was dated for September 11, 2025. This application shows local funds commitment to be \$1,898,913. It is stated in the document ' September questions and answers for closure' posted to the BOE website, in answer to the question, Do we currently have the funds to support this project? , "Yes, in carryover from prior years and once the financial statements are finalized we will have knowledge of estimated funding support in the for of carryover from fiscal year 2025." Fast forward to October 21, 2025. It is reported that the closure of Tennerton and merger with Buckhannon Academy is "no longer recommended" because the county can not secure funding even if SBA funding would go through. These plans have all been touted without forethought. This begs the question, is there a well laid out plan in place for the if/when of merger? If so, why would this information not be shared with the public to help ease concerns? Have any other options been considered, much less explored?

My name is Jeremiah Jeffries. I am a Buckhannon-Upshur High School senior who attended Rock Cave Elementary kindergarten through fifth grade. The education I received at Rock Cave was a good foundation. The teachers and students were close knit like a family, all the teachers knew each kid there. I am still close friends with kids that I met in kindergarten. I feel that I had an advantage being taught at a smaller school. The teachers were able to help us individually in the ways that we learned best. We were held individually accountable, as well.


I have interned the past two summers at Community Care in Rock Cave, and plan to again this summer. I will be going to WVU in the fall of 2026 to pursue a degree in accounting. Ideally, I will be employed with Community Care after graduation. I have also received an informal offer from a local fire department for accounting services once I graduate.

I am concerned that if Rock Cave Elementary closes, the community will suffer, and my local work opportunities will be limited. I would like to live, work, and raise my family in the same place I was raised. Before I had interned at Community Care, I was planning on moving out of state. If young West Virginians are to stay in West Virginia, there has to be something here for us. I think that closing Rock Cave Elementary would definitely be a move in the wrong direction. The Rock Cave community is currently a stable little community. If you take away Rock Cave Elementary, you take away the basis of opportunity and will probably cause a lot of harm to the community as a whole. Rock Cave Elementary School is important, please keep it open.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Jeffries

Tristan Fulton Comments on RCES

To:  mrsabigailjeffries@gmail.com

Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Good evening. My name is Tristan Fulton. I attended Rock Cave school from pre-k through 5th grade. I am in the process of buying the Arlington Mini Mart in the community. The close community and smaller class size at Rock Cave helped individualize my learning and helped me to be successful today. I did not like learning, but was able to thrive because my teachers could make learning fun on the topics I enjoyed and shared my local beliefs. If the school closes, I worry about the children handling identity change and bigger class sizes. But I have bigger worries for my community.

I worry about how the closure and empty school will be a symbol of loss and decline for our small community impacting families and business.

So my question for the board of education is

What will happen to the building ?

Will the board of education still have to pay for up-keeping such as heat, electric, and lawn care, or will it waste away and leave a giant eye sore in the community causing new families to choose to live elsewhere?

If paying for up keeping, what will that cost be versus keeping the school up and running ?

The school grounds serve as a safe place for our community and families to be healthy and outdoors. Would the community be able to utilize the playground and walking trail still?

Would the building be sold?

1. Will the price be reasonable for someone to purchase?
2. Where would the funds from selling the building go to?
3. Would the Board of Ed pay for the up-keeping such as lawn care and heating for plumbing until it is sold? How much will that cost?
4. Where would voters in that precinct vote?

Thank you for your time,

Tristan Fulton

If this school closes, it's not just about longer bus rides or different teachers. It's about *taking away their home base*. For many small-town families like ours, this school is the heartbeat of the community — the place that brings us together for Halloween parties , Christmas programs, and community outreaches. Without it, a piece of our town's soul goes missing.

I know numbers and budgets matter. But I also know that *hearts* matter too — and the hearts of our children should never be the price we pay to balance a spreadsheet.

Please, before you make this decision, think about the faces of the little ones walking those hallways — the ones proudly showing their artwork on the bulletin board, or the ones who still wave to their teacher long after the bell rings. Think about what this school means to them.

As a mom, I'm asking — not in anger, but from the deepest place of love — please don't take this away from them. Let's fight for our kids, for their future, and for the community that is some children's village.

Sent from my iPhone

Outlook

(No subject)

From Alyssa Hope <ahope0930@gmail.com>
Date Thu 11/13/2025 9:00 PM
To Amber Lunceford <alunceford@k12.wv.us>

You don't often get email from ahope0930@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'll be honest — when I first wrote what I wanted to say, it came out pretty intense. That's what happens when you're a mom fighting for your children. But I've taken time to breathe, to process, and to make sure my words reflect both my passion *and* my love for this school.

Good evening everyone,
My name is Alyssa Hope, and I'm here tonight not just as a community member, but as a mom — a mom who has watched her child grow, learn, and find belonging inside these school walls we're here to talk about.

When I heard the word *closure*, my heart sank. Because to me — and to so many of us — this isn't just a building. It's where our kids take their first steps toward independence, where they learn to read their first words, and where they start to believe in themselves. It's the place where teachers know our children by name, where the cafeteria lady asks about their weekend, and where the principal greets them with a smile every single morning and we are so thankful for Amber. That's not something you can recreate somewhere else.

My son, Lucas, started here scared and unsure. I still remember those mornings — watching him cry as he walked into the school, nervous and overwhelmed. And I remember the teachers and staff who met him right at the door, who knelt down to reassure him, who took his hand when he needed it. This school didn't just teach him. It *held him up*.

Over time, because of the people inside this building, I watched that same little boy walk himself into school — confidently, proudly, and without tears. That kind of growth doesn't happen everywhere. That happens in a place where kids feel safe, supported, and truly seen. This school gave him that gift.

As a mom, I see what this school gives our kids every day — safety, stability, and love. For some children, this is the *only* safe place they have. This is where they get encouragement when home life is hard. This is where they feel seen.

Rock Cave Elementary School is very close to my heart. My mother came to this school soon after it opened and I went to school here all my grade school years. My two oldest daughters have attended since PreK and graduated 5th grade at RCES. Now, my two youngest are in 1st and 2nd grades. I would love for them to be able to graduate 5th grade as a Rock Cave Rocket too.

I have been an active school volunteer/PTO member since 2015. By volunteering with our school library, holiday parties, special events, field trips and our new school store I see firsthand what a difference our small school makes to these children. Each student has a personal connection with a staff member, and it makes a huge impact on their lives. Small classes are a good thing. They provide more tailored time to those who need extra help. Our students feel at home here because it is their home. RCES is a safe, nurturing place for the children of Rock Cave and the surrounding areas. We have some students from Lewis County and Randolph counties who attend, and I believe some from Webster have in the past.

We would have more enrollment if our PreK program had not been taken away at the last minute, last school year. Several of our families went to another school so their children wouldn't have to be in separate schools.

Our playground is not only used during school hours. Our community uses it as a park, birthday party venue and get their steps in with our walking trail. Local groups host large Easter Egg Hunts for the community and Rock Cave Elementary School is used as the staging area for the SUBA Christmas Parade. On Election Days we are also a polling place. Our PTO recently installed a Little Free Pantry and we have a Little Free Library for all members of our community as well.

Our school is small but it is important. The idea of losing it forever is heartbreaking to all of us.

French Creek Elementary is a great school too. I have no negative things to say about the school, staff or families. They would welcome us with open arms, I'm sure. If they were on the chopping block, I would be standing with them and fighting for their school as well.

But, it's not our school. This school has been a big part of the Rock Cave community since the 1970's. It's a large employer for the area and a big resource for local families--just like Hodgesville Elementary is important to the northern part of Upshur County and Union Elementary to the eastern part of the county. Local schools matter to their communities.

I urge State Superintendent Blatt to consider all the angles, not just the money one. Let's get creative and find a way to save our schools, not close them.

Sincerely,

Natasha Davis

Rock Cave Elementary School PTO Secretary

Good Evening, My name is Natasha Davis. I'm a parent of 4 Upshur County Students. Two ~~of which~~ attend Rock Cave currently in the 1st and 2nd grades. My other two have both graduated from RCEs as Rock Cave Rockets.

This school is very near to my heart. I've been an active volunteer for over a decade now. All the students here have a special place in my heart too.

Over the past few weeks, I've written many emails, made phone calls and worked along side my fellow parents, volunteers and staff to rally the troops to help fight for our school.

So, tonight I'll just recap some of my main talking points and will provide you with those hard copies.

- The proposed Savings are questionable, at least. Losing the school forever for a few hundred thousand dollars isn't worth it.
- The community of Rock Cave will suffer for years because of this.
- Instead of closing schools; Counties should be looking into ways to bring in more students. The way we educate needs to change. Be/Get Creative.

- ~~B~~ If, after exploring all options, you still think closing RCES is the best option I have to ask for a proper traffic study to be completed first and ask for additional parking to be installed before you add 70+ students and their families to French Creek School.

French Creek at Party times / pick ups is the Southern Upshur's version of Buckhamon Academy. We need more space.

- French Creek is a great school too. But I feel like additional parking is the least you can do ~~save~~ if closing Rock Cave. The students will lose their school identity, teachers, staff and playground. You can at least give their families a safe place to park.
- Delaying the merger will allow proper infrastructure to be installed before gaining a whole entire school.

~~* Would also like~~

- * Possible suggestion: could you not sell Rock Cave and make this building the new board office location — its handicap accessible and would still allow the community access to the playground + walking trail.

I want to throw an out-of-the-box idea out to you all in hopes of saving our elementary schools.

We all know the middle school is our county's (physically/building), "problem-child". It's old and needs some major improvements. We've tried the past few years to pass levies with no success. So, what if there was a way we could eliminate that building and save our beloved Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools? I would like to challenge this board to look at all options and even try some more creative approaches.

Have you heard of multi-age classrooms? Multi-age classrooms are also known as composite classes, multi-grade or mixed-age classrooms. Students can span multiple grade levels, often ranging from one to three years apart in age. One of the closest, multi-age classroom-based schools to us is in Frederick, Maryland. The Carrol Creek Montessori Public Charter School had 315 students enrolled for the 23/24 school year with over 2,000 applicants applying to join. Their classrooms are broken down into a Primary (prek and kindergarten), Lower Elementary (1,2, 3), Upper Elementary (4, 5, 6) and Middle School (7 and 8). Carrol Creek Montessori Public Charter School, Frederick, MD.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gj6EMjIQNN2sauLcqwRnPljPhc51a1Zf/view?pli=1>

This could be a great model for Upshur County to study and from which to make our own.

Multi-age classrooms offer benefits like: deeper teacher-student relationships and a stronger sense of community, promoting peer learning and leadership, enabling individualized instruction and flexible pacing, and encouraging cooperation over competition. These types of classrooms offer flexible grouping based on ability, reduce grade-level labels, and can lead to higher student confidence, leadership skills, and positive social/emotional development. Often found in [Montessori](#) and other nontraditional schools, multiage classrooms typically span two or three grade levels. In a Montessori lower elementary classroom, for instance, students from ages 6 to 9 may be in a single class together, but break up into different small groups by ability in different subjects.

"The curriculum in a multiage classroom is flexible to the needs of each child", says Sandra Stone, professor emeritus at [Northern Arizona University](#) and founder of the university's National Multiage Institute. For example, she says, "in one multiage classroom she observed, 9- to 11-year-old children who were excelling in math were given the opportunity to advance to algebra, a subject typically not taught until eighth grade, when students are 12 or 13. " "In the multiage classroom, every child moves forward and is not limited by a grade-level curriculum," Stone says.

According to <https://montessoricensus.org/> there are zero public multi-age, Montessori-based public schools in West Virginia. In a time where more and more parents are looking for different schooling options, let's try something different.

Multi-age classrooms could be a great way to attract more students into Upshur county by offering something no other county has. This could be the way we make our schools better for our students and more attractive for our parents. If we wanted to, surely, we could make this work. Many states have schools similar to this and they are in higher demand than the traditional public school. This could save schools, jobs and elevate our students' education to a higher level.

Please give this consideration.

Sincerely,
Rock Cave Elementary Parent

Jennifer Burns.44

On the last day of school last year I went to pick my kids up and my oldest had a melt down. She was done with 5th grade so done with Rock Cave school. She was so upset because she absolutely loved it there. My youngest is currently in 1st grade here and she is thriving carrying a 4.0 GPA. If I gave my kids the option of staying home or going to school they would choose school. Clearly Rock Cave school is doing something right. I have a huge safety concern with French Creek's parking lot. I fear that if my kid has to go to French Creek I will have to miss out on a lot of school parties and activities all because there is no where to park.

PRESERVING ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY

The Heart of Our Community and Catalyst for Student Success

Why We Need to Save Rock Cave Elementary

Rock Cave Elementary is more than just a place of learning; it is a nurturing community dedicated to fostering the success and well-being of every student. Here are several compelling reasons why it is essential to preserve this invaluable institution:

Personalized Attention

At Rock Cave Elementary, we believe in the power of personalized education. Our dedicated teachers take the time to get to know each student by name and personality. This individualized approach ensures that every child feels valued and understood, which is crucial for their self-esteem and academic success. By focusing on each student's unique needs, we are able to tailor our teaching methods to help them thrive.

Smaller Class Sizes

One of the significant advantages of our school is the smaller class sizes. This environment allows teachers to provide focused attention and adapt lessons to suit individual learning styles, ensuring no student gets left behind. Unlike larger schools, where students can sometimes feel like just another number, Rock Cave Elementary offers a supportive atmosphere where everyone receives the guidance they deserve.

Community and School-Wide Activities

Being a smaller school enables us to organize and enjoy more school-wide activities and educational opportunities. These events foster a sense of community and belonging among students, parents, and staff. They provide invaluable experiences that help students develop social skills, teamwork, and leadership qualities. Larger schools may struggle to manage such activities due to the sheer number of students, but at Rock Cave, we make it happen seamlessly.

A Foundation for Future Success

Our commitment to creating a nurturing and supportive environment ensures that students at Rock Cave Elementary have every chance to succeed in the future. We strive to equip them with the skills and confidence needed to face future challenges head-on. Our holistic approach to education prepares students not just academically, but also socially and emotionally, setting them on a path to lifelong success.

In conclusion, Rock Cave Elementary is a beacon of personalized education, community spirit, and student success. It is crucial to preserve this remarkable institution so that future generations can also benefit from the exceptional opportunities it provides. Let us come together to ensure that Rock Cave continues to shine brightly for years to come.

Thanks for you time and support,

Ms.Lana 3rd grade RCES and Kindergarten parent

The Quote

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.
—Martin Niemöller

First they came for Randolph county schools, and I did not speak out—because I did not go to a Randolph county school.

Then they came for Barbour county schools, and I did not speak out—because I did not go to a Barbour county school.

Then they came for Rock Cave Elementary School— and there was no one left to speak for me.

Help us speak.

Help us save our schools.

We're losing schools all over the state and country. We have to speak up now before we lose them all.

After reading the Impact/Closure Statement, we have some questions that we would like answered before the special meeting if possible. It is important to get all the facts and those facts must be accurate before such an important vote takes place.

- What is the issue with the parking lot? It seems fine to us.
- Why is it stated that our Green house is not used? It is. Have you been inside it? Our classes have been raising seedlings since the beginning of the school year and we used it last year.
- We had a PreK up until this school year. You took that away from our school. In fact, in May during class time our PreK teacher was called and informed that there would be no PreK the 25/26 school year. Even tho some families had already signed up for Rock Cave PreK and those students were automatically put onto the French Creek list, without families knowing until last minute.
- Why is it stated we do not use our library? We do. We have a great school library and have used it every year. It is delayed this year due to volunteer background checks, but to say it is not used is not factual. Our music class/instruments are also in that building. We didn't have music class until recently because there was no teacher hired. Thankfully, our wonderful 5th grade teacher has agreed to teach some music classes so our school can have a Christmas concert this year.
- We also had a counselor and CSI up until this school year. Again, those were taken away.

We can't help but assume that this was all by design. The very issues you cite for closure are by the county/state's doing.

- Also, we would like to ask for an itemized breakdown of personnel costs. Several of us have listed all the current Rock Cave staff and used the WVDE certified list for salaries and our numbers are far below the numbers in the impact statement. Like over \$600,000 below. How did you get that number? W
- Another question we have is what good did it do to have RCES as a CSI school and pay the mentor, Jim Wicham, if you were just going to shut us down right after we completed that process and increased our scores and attendance? That seems like a waste of time, resources and money. Hodegesville, you better watch out. we feel like that was the first step in this closure process for Rock Cave.
- We would also like to ask how much it costs our county BOE for the virtual option. I know it's free for students. I want to know the expenses you pay out for it. I can't help but wonder if the end goal is to get more of our students on the virtual program, since you still will receive the funding per pupil but with less overhead expenses from the brick and mortar schools.

Thank you. Please email answers to rockgavepto@gmail.com

RCES Staff 2025/26

Principal	\$77,026.07
K	\$57,987.00
Teacher 1st	\$69,923.00
Teacher 2nd	\$65,810.00
Teacher 3rd	\$54,462.00
Teacher 4th	\$47,262.00
Teacher 5th	\$41,455.00 *estimate
SPED	\$61,687.00
speech	\$29,741.00
2nd aide	\$26,170.00
3rd aide	\$26,620.00
ind aide	\$26,930.00
1st aide	\$30,870.00
K aide	\$26,160.00
Secretary	\$26,720.00
Cafe Manager	\$28,650.00
Custodian	\$30,565.50
PE	\$27,255.50
Art	\$20,728.00 *estimate
Total cost =	\$764,362.07

\$1,003,446.54 even with these it doesn't equal what the impact says

Impact statement says: ~~\$1,456,145.37~~ difference of \$603,261.25

still a difference of \$452,699.28

Principal	\$78,803.32
counselor	\$51,698.00
pk	\$56,893.00
pk aide	\$32,420.00
K	\$50,200.00
K aide	\$30,670.00
K	\$46,997.00
K aide	\$33,410.00
1st	\$62,873.00
1st aide	\$28,500.00
1st	\$46,997.00
1st aide	\$35,810.00
2nd	\$52,286.00
2nd aide	\$28,180.00
2nd	\$84,780.00
2nd aide	\$29,270.00
3rd	\$57,264.00
3rd aide	\$30,140.00
3rd	\$43,815.00
3rd aide	\$28,820.00
4th	\$47,564.00
4th	\$57,130.00
5th	\$47,584.00
5th	\$52,873.00
sped	\$44,402.00
sp aide	\$27,010.00
PE	\$49,222.00
art	\$21,607.50
sped	\$59,026.00
custodian	\$37,548.00
custodian	\$31,584.00
secretary	\$33,070.00
cafe manager	\$28,650.00
cook	\$30,740.00
LPN	\$29,810.00
nurse	\$63,439.00 *
gifted	\$7,952.00
music	*
OT/PT	*
Total:	\$1,581,359.62

Impact says: \$2,138,069.62 difference of \$576,709.80

You continuously cite “declining enrollment which means less funding” as your reasoning for wanting to close Rock Cave Elementary School, but Upshur County is receiving MORE state aide this year than last, per the WV Dept. of Education website.

For the 2025/26 schools year, Upshur County is receiving \$6,548.93 per pupil in Basic State Aid. Since we have 71 enrolled students this school year, just the Basic State Aide is enough to fund half of our estimated operating budget. (\$6,548.93 x 71 = \$464,974.03)

Now, let’s add in our estimated Federal Aid of about \$3,000 per pupil: that another \$213,000. (3000 x 71 = \$213,000)

That’s a combined total of \$677,974.03.

So, our county BOE/State Dept can’t afford the remaining \$1,168,186.7 a year to fund our school? Are our students in the southern part of the county not worth that investment?

RCES Staff 2025/26	
Principal	\$77,026.07
K	\$57,987.00
Teacher 1st	\$69,923.00
Teacher 2nd	\$65,810.00
Teacher 3rd	\$54,462.00
Teacher 4th	\$47,262.00
Teacher 5th	\$41,455.00 *estimate
SPED	\$61,687.00
speech	\$29,741.00
2nd aide	\$28,170.00
3rd aide	\$28,820.00
ind.aide	\$26,930.00
1st aide	\$30,870.00
K aide	\$28,180.00
Secretary	\$28,720.00
Cafe Manager	\$28,650.00
Custodian	\$30,565.50
PE	\$27,255.50
Art	\$20,728.00 *estimate
Total cost =	\$784,242.07
music	\$20,728.00 *none yet
counselor	*none yet
gifted	\$7,500.00 *estimate
nurse	*only 2 days a week
OT/PT	*not sure

Impact statement says: **\$1,456,145.82** difference of \$603,961.25

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 8:09:12	skyyyye24@icloud.com	Timberlee Perry	135, popular drive hacker valley
10/25/2025 8:42:05	jbickel23@yahoo.com	Jennifer Bickel	1665 Salem ridge road rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 9:22:49	shannaw7827@yahoo.c	Shanna collins	
10/25/2025 9:30:03	bnlee2100@yahoo.com	Bethany Hunt	1218 Abbott rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 9:42:45	bowhunter6163@yahoo	Mitchell Collins	
10/25/2025 9:44:22	lmcrites76@gmail.com	Louella Crites	199 Chicken Crossing Road Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 10:26:54	shanahcarpenter@yaho	Shanah Carpenter	4198 Alexander Rd, French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 10:45:27	harlowautumn@yahoo.c	Autumn Loudin	573 Cow Run Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 11:07:52	bonniecarpenter922@ye	Bonnie carpenter	737 Grassy run rd Buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 11:13:34	cogarsara@gmail.com	Sara Collins	31 Collins Haller Dr Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 11:31:59	abcarp1999@gmail.com	Austin Carpenter	4198 Alexander Road
10/25/2025 11:32:35	dawsoncarpenter6@gm	Dawson carpenter	46 Main Street Lumberport
10/25/2025 11:49:18	chevellegirl90@gmail.cc	Cheyenne troxell	795 carter rd French Creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 11:50:07	ravencontractingllc19@v	Timothy troxell	795 carter rd French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 12:01:50	burnsidejennifer28@gm	Rock cave school is ess	941 Alexander Rd. French Creek WV 28218
10/25/2025 12:04:24	shellie.humphrey@yaho	Shellie Humphrey	French Creek, WV
10/25/2025 12:06:42	kathy.stalnaker60@gma	Kathy Stalnaker	1420 Canaan Rd, Rock Cave WV, 26234
10/25/2025 12:11:43	vickilynnervin@gmail.co	Vicki Ervin	61 Fortune Drive French Creek Wv 26218
10/25/2025 12:11:55	ashcraftsr@gmail.com	Stacey Ashcraft	59 Grand Camp RD French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:12:19	vmccartney33@gmail.ct	Virginia Ables	1554 cow run road crawford WV 26343
10/25/2025 12:24:04	smcdaniels1972@gmail	Sheila McDaniels	376 Brooks Hill Rd Selbyville WV 26236

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 12:24:38	lanam32@gmail.com	Alana Swindler	Rock cave wv
10/25/2025 12:25:19	swindlerron1985@gmail	Ron Swindler	Rock cave wv
10/25/2025 12:25:40	haileybender2014@gma	Hailey Bender	941 Alexander rd
10/25/2025 12:25:55	lowlowmclain@gmail.cc	Logan McLain	Rock cave wv
10/25/2025 12:27:10	nicole26tenney@yahoo.	Nicole Tenney	764 Louis RD French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:34:00	christinatchc@yahoo.co	Christina Riley	2834 heaston ridge rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 12:35:32	mciepenn2boys@gmail.	Ashley Pennington	134 Adena dr selbyville wv 26236
10/25/2025 12:36:33	burnsidejennifer28@gm	Jennifer Burnside	941 Alexander Rd. French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:36:47	vonniepeck46@gmail.cc	Veronica Anderson	37 Birdie Dr rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 12:38:07	khkhanline@gmail.com	Kim Hanline	156 Independent Drive French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:38:09	huntwv22@gmail.com	Keith Wilt	941 Alexander Rd.
10/25/2025 12:38:39	robin.lifeisgood.1@gma	Robin Stump	160 Ballah Street buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 12:40:46	nicholef80@yahoo.com	Nichole Freeman	22038 Route 20 South Road. Kanawha Head, WV 26228
10/25/2025 12:41:51	lcflagmomma@aol.com	Donna Snyder	
10/25/2025 12:42:36	posey_am2001@yahoo.	Amber Anderson	573 Larry anderson Road Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 12:46:27	brittanygriffith295@gme	Brittany Burnside	2091 Salem ridge rd rock cave
10/25/2025 12:53:11	saltisdrew@icloud.com	Drew Saltis	911 upper pecks run road buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 12:56:06	jsimmons1991@yahoo.r	Jamie Poling	305 Jr Burnside Rd rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 12:58:50	alyenae266@gmail.com	Ciearra Mcl	9779 Alexander Rd
10/25/2025 13:05:20	autumnrenee2004@gm:	Autumn Carpenter	312 Ray Young Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 13:09:06	chumphreybu@yahoo.c	Chelsea Humphrey	

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 13:16:34	lj37blue@gmail.com	Laurinda Poore	906 Lick Run Rd Buckhannon
10/25/2025 13:19:09	nanaanderson787@gmail.com	Jenny Anderson	Keep it open
10/25/2025 13:22:12	twayts@yahoo.com	Tonja Cutright	1804 Rock Cave Rd Crawford Wv 26343
10/25/2025 13:23:51	mdawv@yahoo.com	Misty Alderman	7077 Alexander Rd, French Creek WV
10/25/2025 13:25:00	Sherylbrown1953@gmail.com	Sheryl Brown	2796 Salem Ridge Road, Rick Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 13:25:06	kelsey luterek@gmail.com	Kelsey Luterek	862 Glassworks Rd, Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 13:31:39	alaynawright6@yahoo.com	Alayna Anderson	74 Old Mill Road French Creek WV
10/25/2025 13:56:33	mirsabigailjeffries@gmail.com	Abigail Jeffries	132 Holly Grove Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 13:57:30	joni.robby@yahoo.com	Joni	312 Rohr ave Buckhannon wv
10/25/2025 13:57:52	dijeffries72@gmail.com	David Jeffries	132 Holly Grove Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 14:23:53	bendermiranda@yahoo.com	Miranda Parsons	French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 14:30:46	adsmith11288@gmail.com	Ashley Riffle	123 Loudin rd Crawford, wv 26343
10/25/2025 14:32:51	brittany_holdren@hotmail.com	Brittany Shaw	
10/25/2025 14:57:47	charlmc75@yahoo.com	Charlotte McCann	1514 Normal Road, French Creek, WV26218
10/25/2025 15:01:49	laurencelender@gmail.com	Lauren Celender	
10/25/2025 15:03:17	adwv19@yahoo.com	Alicia Sandy	4 Hawthorne Dr Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:08:53	klwachob@gmail.com	Kimbra Wachob	13 Hoovertown Rd French Creek
10/25/2025 15:11:33	smurfinfrog@live.com	Shantelle Scott	145 Riley Heights Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:11:48	teacherMcCann@gmail.com	Terri McCann	905 Frenchton road French creek wv
10/25/2025 15:14:45	vcscott2011@gmail.com	Vincent Scott	145 Riley Heights Buckhannon, WV
10/25/2025 15:23:19	casey.hamner@yahoo.com	Casey Hamner	1184 Bush Run Rd French Creek WV 26218

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 15:29:49	claire.simmons@k12.wv	Claire Wood	957 Lick Run Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:30:33	jerod.wood@icloud.com	Jerod Wood	957 Lick Run Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:34:59	blee40589@gmail.com	Brenda lee	Po box 251 French Creek Wva 26218
10/25/2025 15:48:17	rangermuddinredneck@	Lisa Lee	
10/25/2025 15:48:35	beckywright781@gmail.	Becky Norris	155 Ivanhoe road buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 15:48:45	leelogging2016@yahoo.	Keith Lee	
10/25/2025 15:51:16	ronda_p49@yahoo.com	Ronda Perrine	2165 Gaines Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 15:59:43	landisshai@gmail.com	Shai Watson	3063 Glady Creek Rd Ireland, WV 26376
10/25/2025 16:00:09	normahovis511@gmail.	Norma Hovis	4 Snowed in Lane rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 16:05:03	sfhcc71@gmail.com	Sheila cunningham	14369 rt.20 south rd Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 16:06:58	cunninghamm44@gmail	Michael Cunningham	14369 rt.20 south rd. Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 16:07:31	cutrighttoni7@gmail.com	Toni cutright	1556 cow run road Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 16:20:13	jessdavid2007@gmail.c	Jessica Phillips	2808 pleasant ridge road French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 16:20:15	ramona.poling@yahoo.c	Ramona Poling	953 Hardman Rd Ellamore WV 26267
10/25/2025 16:22:13	shelly.light@aol.com	Sheila Light	164 kesling mill road Buckhannon, wv 26201
10/25/2025 16:44:54	heater.betty@ymail.com	Betty Heater	225 Real Leaf Dr. Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 16:45:45	cljones2115@gmail.com	Christina Jones	2026 Rockcave Road Crawford Wv 26343
10/25/2025 16:55:17	amarie3@live.com	Autumn Bookheimer	Rock Cave
10/25/2025 16:59:58	melton.ciara@yahoo.com	ciara jarrett	
10/25/2025 17:00:54	melissawalton06@aol.c	Melissa Walton	14382 Route 20 South Rd Rock Cave WV 26234

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 17:02:24	bubblesw12@aol.com	Rhanda Donaldson	14340 Route 20 South Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:02:36	samantharibeiromatos@	Samantha Ribeiro Mato	297 JSK Drive Weston, WV 26452
10/25/2025 17:03:14	wlw1970@aol.com	Willard Walton	14382 Route 20 South Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:06:14	brittanycrites14@yahoo	Brittany Riffle	
10/25/2025 17:07:31	barrelracergirl97@gmail	Heidi Linger	2098 Alton road French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 17:09:08	n.riley2020@aol.com	Nicolette Riley	
10/25/2025 17:10:15	michelled2174@yahoo.c	Michelle DaSilva	773 Pringle Mill Road Adrian WV 26210
10/25/2025 17:10:51	stargaze662002@yahoc	Karen D Collins	2899 Selbyville Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:11:10	joejr90@hotmail.com	Joseph carpenter jr.	14369 Rt.20 south rd Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 17:13:21	branhoffman100@yahoo	Brandon Hoffman	225 Real Leaf Dr. Rock Cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 17:13:56	Rneel.little20@gmail.co	Renee little	14369 rt.20 south rd Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 17:15:57	mamea19811@gmai	BJ Jackson	15 factory st
10/25/2025 17:19:45	bobbie_riffle@yahoo.co	Bobbie Riffle	1880 Beechtown Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 17:21:12	felixcoleman44@yahoo.	Debra Woody	810 Mountain Ridge Road Buckhannon WV
10/25/2025 17:21:14	lauter89@gmail.com	Jared Lauter	682 sauls run rd weston wv 26452
10/25/2025 17:30:17	tss12664@yahoo.com	Tammy Shingleton	321 Rilling Hills Vlg., Morgantown, WV. 26508
10/25/2025 17:30:43	suderapril@gmail.com	April	134 memorial park Road
10/25/2025 17:31:39	cwsmall1988@gmail.co	Chris	134 memorial park road
10/25/2025 17:31:59	sonyafisher.buhs@yaho	Sonya Henderson	51 Meade Street Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 17:33:53	cajwv@yahoo.com	Connie Johnston	230 Sapp Run Rd, Walkersville WV. 26447
10/25/2025 17:35:20	lntbryant96@yahoo.com	Lora Bryant	713 Natural Bridge Rd, French Creek Wv 26218

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 17:36:43	benjaminardenwalton@i	Ben Walton	1587 cow run road Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 17:40:36	sarahlee0109@gmail.co	Sarah Cunningham	440 Skelton Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 17:41:14	kshif945@gmail.com	Kaitlyn Stull	1578 Alexander Rd french creek wv
10/25/2025 17:41:27	hsmccord@gmail.com	Don't close rock cave	673 crawfordrd
10/25/2025 17:42:00	tdepechemode88@aol.c	Tiffany Dean	
10/25/2025 17:42:10	rampersad1@outlook.c	Randi Rampersad	23 Quail Acres Dr, Buckhannon, Wv 26201
10/25/2025 17:42:15	vaughn25801@gmail.co	Katrina Vaughn	4918 heaston ridge road Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 17:42:24	leealexis0824@gmail.c	Alexis Lee	203 Mulberry Ridge Road
10/25/2025 17:43:32	teresasmith1965@gmai	Teresa Smith	595 Wolfgang Road, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:43:45	echayes91@gmail.com	Elana Hayes	714 Valley Green Drive
10/25/2025 17:44:26	akcw13@yahoo.com	Ann Wilson	2253 Canaan Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:46:08	apriltenney09@yahoo.c	April Tenney	
10/25/2025 17:47:38	bradyfarm97@yahoo.co	Dawna Brady	2191 Salem ridge road rock cave wv
10/25/2025 17:49:54	candicecole1@yahoo.c	Candice Cole	3948 Selbyville Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:51:10	amcrowell353@gmail.c	Alexis	1039 spruce fork rd buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 17:51:39	jcutright55@gmail.com	Jeannie Cutright	178 Camden Avenue Buckhannon
10/25/2025 17:56:17	c3gaudet@gmail.com	Christina Gaudet	22 Walnut Dr, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 17:56:17	coleejones18@gmail.co	Nicole Jones	
10/25/2025 17:56:59	rebelpick1@hotmail.co	Rebecca Pickens	175 Real Leaf Drive
10/25/2025 17:58:16	martana06@icloud.com	Martana McCartney	1554 cow run rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 17:59:13	lorihammer@gmail.com	Lori Hamner	287childers run Buckhannon wv 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 17:59:30	mccartney05@icloud.cc	Anthony McCartney	1554 cow run rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 18:01:14	rbelled17@gmail.com	Rebecca Demastes	568 Canaan Road Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 18:01:20	janbeth49@yahoo.com	Jan crites	1391 Gould rd French creek we 26218
10/25/2025 18:13:52	lriegel2654@gmail.com	Linda Riegel	
10/25/2025 18:15:58	sennatrusler1972@gma	Mary	79 Ware Rd
10/25/2025 18:16:36	bugcar36@gmail.com	Ruth Ryan	2855 Phillips Ridge Rd French Creek Wv 26218
10/25/2025 18:20:21	jarnold.buckhannon@gr	Jerry Arnold	66 Shakota Ln. French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 18:20:25	jacobdawson33@icloud	Jacob Dawson	48 Meade Street Buckhannon WV
10/25/2025 18:20:41	deiuni@yahoo.com	Deidra	Buckhannon, WV
10/25/2025 18:21:32	us3wwns@yahoo.com	Trish Lewis	3300 Waterloo Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 18:23:11	megan.mccourt@yahoo	Megan Landers	381 Rohr Ave Buckhannon WV
10/25/2025 18:34:01	journeypringle72@gmail	Journey Smith	960 upper pecks run rd buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 18:34:05	phoover97@yahoo.com	Pamela Hoover	Keep the school open!!
10/25/2025 18:43:11	ahope0930@gmail.com	Alyssa Hope	726 Gaines rd rock cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 18:43:39	harlowsuder69@gmail.c	Rhonda Harlow Suder	221 Camden Ave , Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 18:43:41	dilton.aloramom@yahoc	Lisa Elmore	16 Walker Smith Lane Crawford WV 26343
10/25/2025 18:46:28	wolfganger9101@gmail	William Stone	1549 brushy fork road
10/25/2025 18:49:27	lchsg12009@hotmail.cc	Brittany Blake	643 Court Ave Weston, WV 26452
10/25/2025 18:51:28	courtneyshantel1999@ç	Courtney Simpson	4191 Selbyville rd Rock Cave Wv 26234
10/25/2025 19:02:08	savannahtuttle1996@ya	Savannah Petrulak	
10/25/2025 19:02:30	betsylewiscole@gmail.c	betsy cole	672 Turkey Run Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 19:03:08	betsylewiscole@gmail.c	JD lewis	672 Turkey Run Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 19:03:18	erobinson0330@yahoo.i	Elizabeth Robinson	25 Ollie St Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 19:06:20	nateloudin@yahoo.com	Nathaniel Loudin	573 Cow Run Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 19:06:31	johnelle.goss@icloud.cc	Johnelle Wagoner	4343 Tallmansville Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 19:07:38	kadenwagoner900@gm	Kaden Wagoner	4343 Tallmansville Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 19:08:36	daredevildixie@gmail.cc	Kayla	PO box 96 French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 19:11:00	slefler87@gmail.com	SarahJean McGee	
10/25/2025 19:12:40	daynette8503@gmail.cc	Daynette Perez	2500 Lockington CT, Orlando, FL 32828
10/25/2025 19:13:30	jerdia1@aol.com	Diana Hefner	
10/25/2025 19:13:55	jerdia101@gmail.com	Diana	
10/25/2025 19:14:02	courtneystotler0@gmail	Courtney Stotler	2958 Beechtown Rd Frenchcreek Wv 26218
10/25/2025 19:15:09	ilandis34@gmail.com	Ivy Phillips	837 Childers Run Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201-9658, USA
10/25/2025 19:16:34	memaw.2-3@hotmail.cc	Bonnie Crouse	1944 Brooks Hill Rd. French Creek WV
10/25/2025 19:16:54	rachelee134640@yahoo	Rachel Lee	I think it's important to keep it open for kids that live so far
10/25/2025 19:20:06	bubblesw12@aol.com	Rhanda Donaldson	14340 Route 20 South Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 19:26:43	a_anderson2013@yahoo	Aaron	74 old mill rd French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 19:42:41	perry_lynne@yahoo.com	Lynne	
10/25/2025 19:44:03	cgwilliams9198@gmail.	Crystal Williams	
10/25/2025 19:46:12	vdemastes@gmail.com	Victoria Demastes	4956 Shinnston Pike Clarksburg WV 26301
10/25/2025 19:49:36	aldermanrosetta9110@i	Rosetta Alderman	
10/25/2025 19:51:54	amy11609@gmail.com	Amy Wilson Detamore	481 Alexander road French Creek Wv 26234

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 19:55:38	aisjariebel@yahoo.com	Aisja Riebel	215 Leighton drive big lake mn 55309
10/25/2025 19:58:02	yessieperalta@gmail.co	Yessenia Peralta	3080 UTAH DRIVE
10/25/2025 19:58:26	helena.mitchell72@yahc	Helen Mitchell	265 Sand Fork Rd
10/25/2025 20:04:37	brown.sunshine1960@gg	Sheila Minix	PO Box 133 Adrian WV 26210
10/25/2025 20:09:33	kendrarileyxx@yahoo.cc	Kendra Bender	464 mccartney road buckhannon ww 26201
10/25/2025 20:12:16	ravensmommy073@gm	Hope Crane	
10/25/2025 20:12:19	Timothy.bryant@weyerh	Timothy Bryant	713 natural Bridge rd French creek ww
10/25/2025 20:13:51	babybentley2011@iclou	Shelli	7655rt 20 s road
10/25/2025 20:17:11	ansleybarger@icloud.co	Ansley	
10/25/2025 20:20:53	skshannon129@yahoo.c	Sheila Reynolds	
10/25/2025 20:21:03	autumn.jean1226@gma	autumn detamore	
10/25/2025 20:39:50	haileyagagan_1@icloud.c	Hailey	
10/25/2025 20:43:21	leeryan0928@gmail.com	Ryan Lee	203 mulberry ridge road
10/25/2025 20:46:11	deecutright@hotmail.co	Linda Cutright	
10/25/2025 20:50:03	tara.cogar@gmail.com	Tara Cogar	108 Parkview Drive Apt 203 Bridgeport, WV 26330
10/25/2025 20:50:42	tristanarogers@aol.com	Lori Andrews	11746 Route 20 South Rd, Rock Cave, WV
10/25/2025 20:53:43	benemeeks1982@aol.c	Rebecca Meeks	286 Toot Lane Tallmansville WV. 26237
10/25/2025 20:57:39	kakeplinger@mix.wvu.e	Kendall K.	108 Parkview Drive Apt. 203 Bridgeport WV 26330
10/25/2025 21:04:32	smcdaniels1972@gmail	Sheila McDaniels	376 Brooks Hill Rd Selbyville WV
10/25/2025 21:13:26	s.crites75@gmail.com	Scott Crites	199 Chicken Cross Rd Buckhannon Wv 26201
10/25/2025 21:16:04	tanyapharis@gmail.com	Tanya Pharis	364 Big Bend Rd. French Creek, WV 26218

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 21:19:24	kazbennett92@gmail.com	Kazelyn Bennett	2712 Morgantown pike
10/25/2025 21:21:37	ericamartin9203@gmail.com	Erica Martin	18 mulberry ridge rd French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 21:22:56	zacherybender97@gmail.com	Zachery bender	6421 Route 20 South Rd
10/25/2025 21:23:58	vanessa.blagg@yahoo.com	Vanessa Blagg	1790 Canaan Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 21:26:58	jmer9203@gmail.com	Josh Martin	1879 Frenchton Road French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 21:28:12	luzadergirl@gmail.com	Crystal Cook	1879 Frenchton Road, French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 21:29:50	trucker26624@gmail.com	Patrick Cook	18 Mulberry Ridge Rd, French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 21:29:50	dustyogden4@gmail.com	Dustin Ogden	724 Natural Bridge Road French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 21:42:16	baileywv3@yahoo.com	Tina Bailey	863 Vicksburg Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 21:43:47	azellis@yahoo.com	Andrea Ellis	123 loudin rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 21:48:41	rsriffle75@hotmail.com	Russell Riffle	258 greenbrier dr
10/25/2025 21:59:26	destinijackson905@gmail.com	Destini	5463 Old Elkins Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 22:35:47	sarahjordan.ej@gmail.com	Sarah Jordan	111 Getout Run Road, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 22:40:00	sherbearwoody@yahoo.com	Sherry Woody	Rock Cave, WV
10/25/2025 22:45:08	missyw3@hotmail.com	Melissa Williams	
10/25/2025 23:10:45	mccannrobyn318@hotmail.com	Robyn McCann	
10/25/2025 23:19:51	livetoride120@aim.com	Natasha Davis	1011 Canaan Rd, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 23:30:22	angelariffle04@gmail.com	Angie Riffle	703 Canaan Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 23:31:51	murphyfam4@yahoo.com	Tracy Murphy	157 Lodge Creek Lane French Creek, WV
10/25/2025 23:34:06	wchristmastrees@gmail.com	Matilda Fowler	French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 23:58:13	mdok72@gmail.com	Missy OKeefe	9 Franklin St, Buckhannon, WV 26201-2225, USA

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 0:11:13	phillipsaiden44@gmail.c	Aiden Phillips	2808 pleasant ridge road
10/26/2025 0:18:04	kierashively@yahoo.com	Kiera Shively	18 Paul Lane Buckhannon wv, 26201
10/26/2025 0:30:40	shayla.gowers@gmail.c	Shayla Gowers	31 Shakota Ln, French Creek, WV 26218
10/26/2025 1:56:19	kyriaaax3@aol.com	Kyria Hosey	
10/26/2025 1:56:30	tiarawoodson96@icloud	Tiara	
10/26/2025 2:08:25	gartonclarissa@gmail.c	Clarissa Garton	169 Virginia St Apt 307 Jane Lew WV 26378
10/26/2025 2:57:06	kiananrobinson@gmail.c	Kiana Robinson	87 Sweet Pea Lane, Rock Cave,WV
10/26/2025 3:36:25	joeyjohnston54@yahoo.c	Joey	2797 Frenchton rd
10/26/2025 7:28:15	ggkutandkurl@hotmail.c	Patricia Gregory	496Frenchton Rd French Creek wv 26218
10/26/2025 7:29:30	ggkutandkurl@hotmail.c	Delmis Hamner	796 Centerville Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/26/2025 7:34:05	harpe1@mail.com	Jo Harpe	McChord Run Rd Walkersville, WV
10/26/2025 8:10:04	dellisandwich97@gmail.	Adele Summers	112 Wanless St Buckhannon WV 26201
10/26/2025 8:22:41	my.3.babies1517@iclou	Lynette (Unger) Moore	
10/26/2025 8:28:31	dcwayts@yahoo.com	Debby Wayts	5497 Eden rd Rock Cave Wv
10/26/2025 8:31:25	jennamichellecutright@i	Jenna Walton	1587 Cow Run Rd Crawford WV 26343
10/26/2025 8:32:03	bjack6908@yahoo.com	Betsy Jackson	67 Freemans Rd French Creek WV 26216
10/26/2025 8:32:48	rileysmith50@gmail.coi	Rachelle Rileysmith	7102 WV-20, French Creek, WV 26218-2014, USA
10/26/2025 8:39:26	savannah725@yahoo.c	Savannah Servetas	
10/26/2025 8:50:22	tifarrar@yahoo.com	Tasha Moore	935 Childers run rd Buckhannon
10/26/2025 8:57:51	casey.h790@gmail.com	Casey Hicks	Buckhannon wv
10/26/2025 9:03:15	stepheric@frontier.com	Stephanie Gillum	

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 9:17:55	rdwilson9260@yahoo.cc	Robin Wilson	
10/26/2025 9:25:58	abby.1103@icloud.com	Abigail Parsons	743 Old Mill Road
10/26/2025 9:37:32	leahm316@icloud.com	Leah Collins	241 skeeter hill rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/26/2025 9:45:40	jackieunderhill@hotmail	Jackie Haymond	336 N Custer St Wichita KS 67203
10/26/2025 9:46:37	z.haymond@yahoo.com	Zach Haymond	336 N Custer St Wichita KS 67203
10/26/2025 9:59:58	wsias@aol.com	Wendy Sias	626 Sauls Run Rd Weston WV
10/26/2025 10:08:47	aleahjacks1981@gmail.	Amy Chidester	3919 Beechtown Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/26/2025 10:12:48	floydbaker546@yahoo.c	Dustin Jackson	130 tamarack drive Buckhannon WV
10/26/2025 10:17:07	julieeagle88@yahoo.cor	Julie Fisher	450 Selbyville Rd
10/26/2025 10:24:27	dpmack22@gmail.com	David Post	241 crystal springs rd
10/26/2025 10:31:06	msandreth23@gmail.co	Miranda Sandreth	
10/26/2025 10:32:41	ericadavis0931@gmail.c	Erica Lauter	682 Sauls run rd Weston Wv 26452
10/26/2025 10:55:18	donnatch@yahoo.com	Donna Anderson	262 Robey Ridge Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/26/2025 11:35:00	kissmykazoo@mail.com	Connie Rogers	160 Logans Lane Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/26/2025 11:37:41	kissmyaster@mail.com	Randall Rogers	160 Logans Lane Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/26/2025 11:53:00	psandy3457@gmail.com	Pete Sandy	4 Hawthorne Dr Buckhannon WV 26201
10/26/2025 12:03:55	sdcarpen@k12.wv.us	Shanah	Carpenter
10/26/2025 12:04:54	dannycarp1974@gmail.i	Danny	Carpenter
10/26/2025 13:08:41	stalnakermegan04@gm	Megan stalnaker	59 rohr avenu Buckhannon ww 26201
10/26/2025 13:49:25	reneeharper1980@aol.c	Tina Harper	7496 Clarksburg Road Volga, WV 26238
10/26/2025 13:51:48	claralouise801@gmail.c	Clara Scott	431 Glen Falls Rd

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 14:01:25	currence101@aol.com	Cindi Currence	220 Jack Acres Road
10/26/2025 14:19:13	eajacksonolliver2009@	Elizabeth Tolliver	296 Browning Road Rock Cave WV 26233
10/26/2025 14:26:44	avalon90116@aol.com	Tristan Rogers	2291 Sun Valley Rd Clarksburg WV, 26301
10/26/2025 14:44:49	wva_rayn@yahoo.com	Cathy Chidester-Blair	8004 Orcutt Ave, Newport News, VA 23605-1609, USA
10/26/2025 15:04:47	wvbigtruck@yahoo.com	Matt kittle	71 old chimney road buckhannon ww 26201
10/26/2025 15:32:31	knkplusthree@aol.com	Kelly Shiflett	18 Summer Place Drive, Buckhannon WV 26201
10/26/2025 16:26:15	hawk1218@yahoo.com	Brenda Hawkins	929 Ashton Pl Morgantown WV 26508
10/26/2025 16:55:56	dalia97@yahoo.com	Alicia Duran	
10/26/2025 17:29:34	lowthercourtney3@gma	Courtney Lowther	1950 beaver run road French creek ww 26218
10/26/2025 17:31:07	clarawimmer@hotmail.c	Clara Wimmer	
10/26/2025 17:32:37	joleelynn2713@gmail.cc	Stephanie Roth	1066 Kanawha Run Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/26/2025 17:35:07	huntarae@gmail.com	Amanda Rocha	123 S Alexander Ave Clarksburg ww 26301
10/26/2025 17:56:05	lowlowmclain@gmail.cc	Logan	184valwood In
10/26/2025 18:41:56	emmas9442@icloud.coi	Emma Smith	1304 Right Freemans Creek Road Weston WV 26452
10/26/2025 18:49:44	noraleegriffith30@gmail	Nora Griffith	1060 hildreth rd buckhannon ww
10/26/2025 18:50:51	Noraleegriffith30@gmai	Alan Griffith	Buckhannon WV
10/26/2025 19:13:39	camdinbcarpenter@gmi	Camdin Carpenter	4198 Alexander Rd
10/26/2025 19:14:29	Carpenter.CamdinB@gs	Camdin Carpenter	4198 Alexander rd
10/26/2025 19:19:11	heater_jessica@yahoo.c	Jessica Bennington	42 Heater Dr
10/26/2025 19:38:43	tffanyhewlett8@gmail.c	Tiffany	Forest circle, winter springs 32708
10/26/2025 19:45:08	courtneyhall843@gmail	Courtney Hall	24 Tree Stump Drive Buckhannon WV 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 19:49:58	arnold.dawn@gmail.com	Dawn Arnold	French Creek, WV 26218
10/26/2025 20:28:35	burnsidepat1@gmail.co	Pat burnside	121 Jr burnside rd rock cave
10/26/2025 20:39:27	iserinabck@gmail.com	Serina Pritt Bennett	1080 Gormley Road Ellamore WV 26267
10/26/2025 20:48:29	kjfnw@yahoo.com	Linda K Moore	55 Wilson Siding Rd Horner WV 26372
10/26/2025 20:50:18	kjfnw@yahoo.com	Linda K Moore	55 Wilson Siding Rd Horner WV 26372
10/26/2025 20:58:10	kernsw53@gmail.com	William Kerns	5 Maple Street Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/26/2025 21:08:38	chevellegirl90@gmail.cc	Judy Riley	602 swamp run rd Buckhannon ww 26201
10/26/2025 21:11:33	nicholehowes10073@yyc	Nichole Howes	
10/26/2025 21:37:42	jarno823@icloud.com	Joseph Arnold	749 W 2nd St Weston, WV 26452
10/26/2025 22:32:14	saraheater24@gmail.co	Sara Heater	37 amandaville ct st albans ww 25177
10/27/2025 0:01:47	mwayts@gmail.com	Michelle	1022 Cow Run Rd Crawford Wv 26343
10/27/2025 6:08:30	slpowers12@gmail.com	Sherry Haymond	Rock Cave, WV
10/27/2025 8:11:09	jarno81418@icloud.co	Jaclyn Arnold	
10/27/2025 8:48:58	pullen71@gmail.com	Stephanie	25 Ollie St Rock Cave , Wv 26234
10/27/2025 9:41:36	kkclass2012@hotmail.c	Kaitlin	
10/27/2025 11:11:46	pullen.jeff@yahoo.com	Jeff Pullen	28 New Hope Rd ,Rock Cave WV 26234
10/27/2025 13:30:27	srollins3727@gmail.com	Sierra Williams	
10/27/2025 13:32:07	faithwoody0@gmail.com	Faith Woody	111 getout run rd
10/27/2025 13:46:29	kara_perry@hotmail.com	Kara Perry	936 Philippi Rd Volga WV 26238
10/27/2025 18:01:01	muhsiler0926@gmail.cr	Miranda Uhl Siler	6 1/2 N Kanawha Street apt 1
10/27/2025 20:48:36	cogardonna@gmail.com	Donna Cogar	321 Brooks Hill Road Selbyville, WV 26236

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/27/2025 20:52:16	cogardonna@gmail.com	Charles Cogar	321 Brooks Hill Road Selbyville, WV 26236
10/27/2025 21:10:38	Sarah.f.scott@gmail.com	Sarah Scott	
10/27/2025 21:15:32	chperry19@gmail.com	Christopher Pery	615 beechtown road french creek wv 26218
10/27/2025 21:48:16	kelseymarsh622@gmail.com	Kelsey	
10/27/2025 22:35:56	ahope0930@gmail.com	Alyssa hope	726 Gaines rd rock cave wv
10/28/2025 6:51:06	bransoncarpenter04@gmail.com	Branson Carpenter	4198 Alexander Road French Creek Wv
10/28/2025 6:51:20	bransoncarpenter04@gmail.com	Branson Carpenter	4198 Alexander Road French Creek Wv
10/28/2025 11:38:02	maryfish41@gmail.com	Mary Fisher	
10/28/2025 12:20:36	mlong5098@gmail.com	Mike Long	South Florida street
10/28/2025 13:45:33	kmcie1107@gmail.com	Kathleen Mcie	6754 Alexander Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/28/2025 13:47:23	kmcie1107@gmail.com	Kathleen Mcie	6754Alexander Rd. French Creek WV 26218
10/28/2025 15:54:42	rachelnadam12@gmail.com	Rachel Ball	
10/28/2025 17:52:10	jadensuder049@gmail.com	Jaden	510 Gaines Rd, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/29/2025 6:49:30	taylorrolenson@yahoo.com	Taylor Hyre	587 Wagner Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/29/2025 18:27:43	bridgettenethken@gmail.com	Bridgette nethken	2209 Rock Cave Rd, Crawford, WV 26343, USA
10/29/2025 20:47:10	atenney13@gmail.com	Ashley Martin	
10/30/2025 8:13:23	dubvmaria@gmail.com	Maria Long	2245 Brushy Fork Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/30/2025 9:32:44	ahyre3@yahoo.com	Annette Hyre	12849 Route 20 South Road Rock Cave, WV26234
10/30/2025 10:16:36	anitahammer63@gmail.com	Anita Hammer	1119 Mt. Carmel Road Buckhannon WV 26201
10/30/2025 10:18:43	mannycarp72653@gmail.com	Manus Carpenter	2852 Tallmansville Road Buckhannon WV 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/30/2025 11:09:59	brittlynn_19@yahoo.com	Brittany Shaw	62 Flatwoods Run Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/30/2025 11:11:02	slynnCogar@gmail.com	Shirley Cogar	
10/30/2025 15:50:15	ryleighjeffries@gmail.co	Ryleigh Jeffries	
10/30/2025 20:21:23	mariangelys1990@gmail	Mariangelys Del Valle W	117 Railroad Avenue Buckhannon WV 26201
10/31/2025 14:57:09	janbeth49@yahoo.com	Jan crites	1391 Gould rd French creek WVU 26218
11/1/2025 9:16:30	vlloyd710106@gmail.co	Vanessa Lloyd	1465 Beverage Knob Rd Crawford, WV 26343
11/1/2025 17:24:43	mccannrobyn318@hotmail	Robyn McCann	
11/2/2025 10:13:05	springfranklpn@gmail.c	Spring franklin	P.O. Box 731 Weston wv 26452
11/3/2025 6:34:58	angjobrady73@yahoo.co	Angela Burwell	41 Geronimo Drive, St Albans, WV 25177
11/3/2025 9:38:59	cain_janice@yahoo.com	Janice Cain	
11/3/2025 18:09:45	carpentershanah@gmail	Shanah Carpenter	
11/9/2025 17:48:32	angiestarkey1126@yahc	Angie Starkey	3889 Gould Road French Creek Wv26218
11/10/2025 21:14:12	army11609@gmail.com	Chris Detamore	481 Alexander road French Creek, Wv 26218
11/11/2025 9:58:14	chellebug2012@yahoo.c	Michelle Fidler	
11/12/2025 17:52:03	sgbonnett47@gmail.cor	Sharon G Bonnett	30 Ballah Street Buckhannon WV (formerly from 352 Cente
11/12/2025 21:43:16	posey_am2001@yahoo.	Amber Anderson	573 Larry Anderson Road
11/12/2025 22:17:02	k.heater@outlook.com	Keagan Heater	225 Real Leaf Dr
11/12/2025 22:23:02	bobbyrollinsx10@yahoo	Bobby Rollins	5810 glady fork rd buckhannon wv

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 8:09:12	skyyyye24@iclou.com	Timberlee Perry	135, popular drive hacker valley
10/25/2025 8:42:05	jbickel23@yahoo.com	Jennifer Bickel	1665 Salem ridge road rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 9:22:49	shannaw7827@yahoo.c	Shanna collins	
10/25/2025 9:30:03	bnlee2100@yahoo.com	Bethany Hunt	1218 Abbott rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 9:42:45	bowhunter6163@yahoo	Mitchell Collins	
10/25/2025 9:44:22	lmcrites76@gmail.com	Louella Crites	199 Chicken Crossing Road Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 10:26:54	shanahcarpenter@yahoo	Shanah Carpenter	4198 Alexander Rd, French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 10:45:27	harlowautumn@yahoo.c	Autumn Loudin	573 Cow Run Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 11:07:52	bonniecarpenter922@ye	Bonnie carpenter	737 Grassy run rd Buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 11:13:34	cogarsara@gmail.com	Sara Collins	31 Collins Haller Dr Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 11:31:59	abcarp1999@gmail.com	Austin Carpenter	4198 Alexander Road
10/25/2025 11:32:35	dawsoncarpenter6@gm	Dawson carpenter	46 Main Street Lumberport
10/25/2025 11:49:18	chevellegirl90@gmail.cc	Cheyenne troxell	795 carter rd French Creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 11:50:07	ravencontractingllc19@i	Timothy troxell	795 carter rd French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 12:01:50	burnsidejennifer28@gm	Rock cave school is ess	941 Alexander Rd. French Creek WV 28218
10/25/2025 12:04:24	shellie.humphrey@yaho	Shellie Humphrey	French Creek, WV
10/25/2025 12:06:42	kathy.stalnak60@gma	Kathy Stalnak	1420 Canaan Rd, Rock Cave WV, 26234
10/25/2025 12:11:43	vickilynnervin@gmail.co	Vicki Ervin	61 Fortune Drive French Creek Wv 26218
10/25/2025 12:11:55	ashcraftsr@gmail.com	Stacey Ashcraft	59 Grand Camp RD French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:12:19	vmccartney33@gmail.c	Virginia Ables	1554 cow run road crawford WV 26343
10/25/2025 12:24:04	smcdaniels1972@gmail	Sheila McDaniels	376 Brooks Hill Rd Selbyville WV 26236

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 12:24:38	lananm32@gmail.com	Alana Swindler	Rock cave wv
10/25/2025 12:25:19	swindlerron1985@gmail	Ron Swindler	Rock cave wv
10/25/2025 12:25:40	haileybender2014@gma	Hailey Bender	941 Alexander rd
10/25/2025 12:25:55	lowlowmclain@gmail.cc	Logan McLain	Rock cave wv
10/25/2025 12:27:10	nicole26tenney@yahoo.	Nicole Tenney	764 Louis RD French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:34:00	christinatchc@yahoo.co	Christina Riley	2834 heaston ridge rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 12:35:32	mciepen2boys@gmail.	Ashley Pennington	134 Adena dr selbyville wv 26236
10/25/2025 12:36:33	burnsidejennifer28@gm	Jennifer Burnside	941 Alexander Rd. French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:36:47	vonniepeck46@gmail.cc	Veronica Anderson	37 Birdie Dr rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 12:38:07	khkhanline@gmail.com	Kim Hanline	156 Independent Drive French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 12:38:09	huntwv22@gmail.com	Keith Wilt	941 Alexander Rd.
10/25/2025 12:38:39	robin.lifeisgood.1@gma	Robin Stump	160 Ballah Street buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 12:40:46	nicholef80@yahoo.com	Nichole Freeman	22038 Route 20 South Road. Kanawha Head, WV 26228
10/25/2025 12:41:51	lcfagmomma@aol.com	Donna Snyder	
10/25/2025 12:42:36	posey_am2001@yahoo.	Amber Anderson	573 Larry anderson Road Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 12:46:27	brittanygriffith295@gme	Brittany Burnside	2091 Salem ridge rd rock cave
10/25/2025 12:53:11	saltisdrew@icloud.com	Drew Saltis	911 upper pecks run road buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 12:56:06	jsimmons1991@yahoo.i	Jamie Poling	305 Jr Burnside Rd rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 12:58:50	alyenae266@gmail.com	Ciearra Mcle	9779 Alexander Rd
10/25/2025 13:05:20	autumnrenee2004@gmi	Autumn Carpenter	312 Ray Young Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 13:09:06	chumphreybu@yahoo.co	Chelsea Humphrey	

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 13:16:34	lj37blue@gmail.com	Laurinda Poore	906 Lick Run Rd Buckhannon
10/25/2025 13:19:09	nanaanderson787@gmail.com	Jenny Anderson	Keep it open
10/25/2025 13:22:12	twayts@yahoo.com	Tonja Cutright	1804 Rock Cave Rd Crawford Wv 26343
10/25/2025 13:23:51	mdawv@yahoo.com	Misty Alderman	7077 Alexander Rd, French Creek WV
10/25/2025 13:25:00	Sherylbrown1953@gmail.com	Sheryl Brown	2796 Salem Ridge Road, Rick Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 13:25:06	kelsey luterek@gmail.com	Kelsey Luterek	862 Glassworks Rd, Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 13:31:39	alaynawright6@yahoo.com	Alayna Anderson	74 Old Mill Road French Creek WV
10/25/2025 13:56:33	mrsabigailjeffries@gmail.com	Abigail Jeffries	132 Holly Grove Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 13:57:30	joni.robby@yahoo.com	Joni	312 Rohr ave Buckhannon wv
10/25/2025 13:57:52	djeffries72@gmail.com	David Jeffries	132 Holly Grove Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 14:23:53	bendermiranda@yahoo.com	Miranda Parsons	French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 14:30:46	adsmith111288@gmail.com	Ashley Riffle	123 Loudin rd Crawford, wv 26343
10/25/2025 14:32:51	brittany_holdren@hotmail.com	Brittany Shaw	
10/25/2025 14:57:47	charlmc75@yahoo.com	Charlotte McCann	1514 Normal Road, French Creek, WV26218
10/25/2025 15:01:49	laurencelender@gmail.com	Lauren Celender	
10/25/2025 15:03:17	adwv19@yahoo.com	Alicia Sandy	4 Hawthorne Dr Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:08:53	kiwachob@gmail.com	Kimbra Wachob	13 Hoovertown Rd French Creek
10/25/2025 15:11:33	smurfinfrog@live.com	Shantelle Scott	145 Riley Heights Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:11:48	teacherMcCann@gmail.com	Terri Mccann	905 Frenchton road French creek wv
10/25/2025 15:14:45	vcscott2011@gmail.com	Vincent Scott	145 Riley Heights Buckhannon, WV
10/25/2025 15:23:19	casey.hamner@yahoo.com	Casey Hamner	1184 Bush Run Rd French Creek WV 26218

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 15:29:49	claire.simmons@k12.wv	Claire Wood	957 Lick Run Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:30:33	jerod.wood@icloud.com	Jerod Wood	957 Lick Run Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 15:34:59	blee40589@gmail.com	Brenda lee	Po box 251 French Creek Wva 26218
10/25/2025 15:48:17	rangermuddinredneck@	Lisa Lee	
10/25/2025 15:48:35	beckywright781@gmail.	Becky Norris	155 Ivanhoe road buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 15:48:45	leelogging2016@yahoo.	Keith Lee	
10/25/2025 15:51:16	ronda_p49@yahoo.com	Ronda Perrine	2165 Gaines Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 15:59:43	landisshai@gmail.com	Shai Watson	3063 Gladly Creek Rd Ireland, WV 26376
10/25/2025 16:00:09	normahovis511@gmail.	Norma Hovis	4 Snowed in Lane rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 16:05:03	sfhcc71@gmail.com	Sheila cunningham	14369 rt.20 south rd Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 16:06:58	cunninghamm44@gm	Michael Cunningham	14369 rt.20 south rd. Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 16:07:31	cuttrighttoni7@gmail.cor	Toni cutright	1556 cow run road Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 16:20:13	jessdavid2007@gmail.c	Jessica Phillips	2808 pleasant ridge road French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 16:20:15	ramona.poling@yahoo.c	Ramona Poling	953 Hardman Rd Ellamore WV 26267
10/25/2025 16:22:13	shelly.light@aol.com	Sheila Light	164 kesling mill road Buckhannon, wv 26201
10/25/2025 16:44:54	heater.betty@gmail.com	Betty Heater	225 Real Leaf Dr. Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 16:45:45	cljones2115@gmail.com	Christina Jones	2026 Rockcave Road Crawford Wv 26343
10/25/2025 16:55:17	amarie3@live.com	Autumn Bookheimer	Rock Cave
10/25/2025 16:59:58	melton.ciara@yahoo.co	ciara jarrett	
10/25/2025 17:00:54	melissawalton06@aol.c	Melissa Walton	14382 Route 20 South Rd Rock Cave WV 26234

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 17:02:24	bubblesw12@aol.com	Rhanda Donaldson	14340 Route 20 South Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:02:36	samantharibeirmatos@	Samantha Ribeiro Matos	297 JSK Drive Weston, WV 26452
10/25/2025 17:03:14	wlw1970@aol.com	Willard Walton	14382 Route 20 South Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:06:14	brittanycrites14@yahoo	Brittany Riffle	
10/25/2025 17:07:31	barrelracergirl97@gmail	Heidi Linger	2098 Alton road French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 17:09:08	n.riley2020@aol.com	Nicolette Riley	
10/25/2025 17:10:15	michelled2174@yahoo.c	Michelle DaSilva	773 Pringle Mill Road Adrian WV 26210
10/25/2025 17:10:51	stargaze662002@yahoc	Karen D Collins	2899 Selbyville Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:11:10	joejr90@hotmail.com	Joseph carpenter jr.	14369 Rt.20 south rd Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 17:13:21	branhoffman100@yahox	Brandon Hoffman	225 Real Leaf Dr. Rock Cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 17:13:56	Rneel.little20@gmail.coi	Renee little	14369 rt.20 south rd Rock cave wv 26234
10/25/2025 17:15:57	mamamea19811@gmai	BJ Jackson	15 factory st
10/25/2025 17:19:45	bobbie_riffle@yahoo.cor	Bobbie Riffle	1880 Beechtown Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 17:21:12	felixcoleman44@yahoo.	Debra Woody	810 Mountain Ridge Road Buckhannon WV
10/25/2025 17:21:14	lauter89@gmail.com	Jared Lauter	682 sauls run rd weston wv 26452
10/25/2025 17:30:17	tss12664@yahoo.com	Tammy Shingleton	321 Rilling Hills Vlg., Morgantown, WV. 26508
10/25/2025 17:30:43	suderapril@gmail.com	April	134 memorial park Road
10/25/2025 17:31:39	cwsmall1988@gmail.co	Chris	134 memorial park road
10/25/2025 17:31:59	sonyafisher.buhs@yaho	Sonya Henderson	51 Meade Street Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 17:33:53	cajwv@yahoo.com	Connie Johnston	230 Sapp Run Rd, Walkersville WV. 26447
10/25/2025 17:35:20	lntbryant96@yahoo.com	Lora Bryant	713 Natural Bridge Rd, French Creek WV 26218

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 17:36:43	benjaminardenwalton@i	Ben Walton	1587 cow run road Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 17:40:36	sarahlee0109@gmail.co	Sarah Cunningham	440 Skelton Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 17:41:14	kshif945@gmail.com	Kaitlyn Stull	1578 Alexander Rd french creek wv
10/25/2025 17:41:27	hsmccord@gmail.com	Don't close rock cave	673 crawfordrd
10/25/2025 17:42:00	tdepechemode88@aol.c	Tiffany Dean	
10/25/2025 17:42:10	rampersad1@outlook.cc	Randi Rampersad	23 Quail Acres Dr, Buckhannon, Wv 26201
10/25/2025 17:42:15	vaughn25801@gmail.co	Katrina Vaughn	4918 heaston ridge road Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 17:42:24	leealexis0824@gmail.cc	Alexis Lee	203 Mulberry Ridge Road
10/25/2025 17:43:32	teresasmith1965@gmai	Teresa Smith	595 Wolfgang Road, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:43:45	echayes91@gmail.com	Elana Hayes	714 Valley Green Drive
10/25/2025 17:44:26	akcw13@yahoo.com	Ann Wilson	2253 Canaan Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:46:08	apriltenney09@yahoo.cc	April Tenney	
10/25/2025 17:47:38	bradyfarm97@yahoo.co	Dawna Brady	2191 Salem ridge road rock cave wv
10/25/2025 17:49:54	candicecole1@yahoo.cc	Candice Cole	3948 Selbyville Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 17:51:10	amcrowell353@gmail.cc	Alexis	1039 spruce fork rd buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 17:51:39	jcutright55@gmail.com	Jeannie Cutright	178 Camden Avenue Buckhannon
10/25/2025 17:56:17	c3gaudet@gmail.com	Christina Gaudet	22 Walnut Dr, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 17:56:17	coleejones18@gmail.co	Nicole Jones	
10/25/2025 17:56:59	rebelpick1@hotmail.com	Rebecca Pickens	175 Real Leaf Drive
10/25/2025 17:58:16	martana06@icloud.com	Martana McCartney	1554 cow run rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 17:59:13	lorihamner@gmail.com	Lori Hamner	287childers run Buckhannon wv 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 17:59:30	mccartney05@icloud.cc	Anthony McCartney	1554 cow run rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 18:01:14	rbelled17@gmail.com	Rebecca Demastes	568 Canaan Road Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 18:01:20	janbeth49@yahoo.com	Jan crites	1391 Gould rd French creek we 26218
10/25/2025 18:13:52	lriegel2654@gmail.com	Linda Riegel	
10/25/2025 18:15:58	sennatrusler1972@gma	Mary	79 Ware Rd
10/25/2025 18:16:36	bugcar36@gmail.com	Ruth Ryan	2855 Phillips Ridge Rd French Creek Wv 26218
10/25/2025 18:20:21	jarnold.buckhannon@gn	Jerry Arnold	66 Shakota Ln. French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 18:20:25	jacobdawson33@icloud	Jacob Dawson	48 Meade Street Buckhannon WV
10/25/2025 18:20:41	deituni@yahoo.com	Deidra	Buckhannon, WV
10/25/2025 18:21:32	us3wvns@yahoo.com	Trish Lewis	3300 Waterloo Rd French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 18:23:11	megan.mccourt@yahoo	Megan Landers	381 Rohr Ave Buckhannon WV
10/25/2025 18:34:01	journeypringle72@gmail	Journey Smith	960 upper pecks run rd buckhannon wv 26201
10/25/2025 18:34:05	phoover97@yahoo.com	Pamela Hoover	Keep the school open!!
10/25/2025 18:43:11	ahope0930@gmail.com	Alyssa Hope	726 Gaines rd rock cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 18:43:39	harlowsuder69@gmail.c	Rhonda Harlow Suder	221 Camden Ave , Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 18:43:41	dilton.aloramom@yahoo	Lisa Elmore	16 Walker Smith Lane Crawford WV 26343
10/25/2025 18:46:28	wolfganger9101@gmail	William Stone	1549 brushy fork road
10/25/2025 18:49:27	lchsgf12009@hotmail.cc	Brittany Blake	643 Court Ave Weston, WV 26452
10/25/2025 18:51:28	courtneyshantel1999@ç	Courtney Simpson	4191 Selbyville rd Rock Cave Wv 26234
10/25/2025 19:02:08	savannahtuttle1996@ya	Savannah Petrulak	
10/25/2025 19:02:30	betsylewiscole@gmail.c	betsy cole	672 Turkey Run Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 19:03:08	betsylewiscole@gmail.c	JD lewis	672 Turkey Run Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 19:03:18	erobinson0330@yahoo.	Elizabeth Robinson	25 Ollie St Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 19:06:20	nateloudin@yahoo.com	Nathaniel Loudin	573 Cow Run Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 19:06:31	johnelle.goss@icloud.cc	Johnelle Wagoner	4343 Tallmansville Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 19:07:38	kadenwagoner900@gm	Kaden Wagoner	4343 Tallmansville Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/25/2025 19:08:36	daredevildixie@gmail.cc	Kayla	PO box 96 French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 19:11:00	sleffer87@gmail.com	SarahJean McGee	
10/25/2025 19:12:40	daynette8503@gmail.cc	Daynette Perez	2500 Lockington CT, Orlando, FL 32828
10/25/2025 19:13:30	jerdia1@aol.com	Diana Hefner	
10/25/2025 19:13:55	jerdia101@gmail.com	Diana	
10/25/2025 19:14:02	courtneystotler0@gmail	Courtney Stotler	2958 Beechtown Rd Frenchcreek Wv 26218
10/25/2025 19:15:09	ilandis34@gmail.com	Ivy Phillips	837 Childers Run Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201-9658, USA
10/25/2025 19:16:34	memaw.2-3@hotmail.cc	Bonnie Crouse	1944 Brooks Hill Rd. French Creek WV
10/25/2025 19:16:54	rachelee134640@yahoo	Rachel Lee	I think it's important to keep it open for kids that live so far
10/25/2025 19:20:06	bubblesw12@aol.com	Rhanda Donaldson	14340 Route 20 South Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 19:26:43	a_anderson2013@yahoo	Aaron	74 old mill rd French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 19:42:41	perry_lynne@yahoo.com	Lynne	
10/25/2025 19:44:03	cgwilliams9198@gmail.	Crystal Williams	
10/25/2025 19:46:12	vdemastes@gmail.com	Victoria Demastes	4956 Shinnston Pike Clarksburg WV 26301
10/25/2025 19:49:36	aldermanrosetta9110@	Rosetta Alderman	
10/25/2025 19:51:54	amy11609@gmail.com	Amy Wilson Detamore	481 Alexander road French Creek WV 26234

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 19:55:38	aisjariebel@yahoo.com	Aisja Riebel	215 Leighton drive big lake mn 55309
10/25/2025 19:58:02	yessieperalta@gmail.com	Yessenia Peralta	3080 UTAH DRIVE
10/25/2025 19:58:26	helena.mitchell72@yahoo.com	Helen Mitchell	265 Sand Fork Rd
10/25/2025 20:04:37	brown.sunshine1960@gg	Sheila Minix	PO Box 133 Adrian WV 26210
10/25/2025 20:09:33	kendrarileyxx@yahoo.com	Kendra Bender	464 mccartney road buckhannon ww 26201
10/25/2025 20:12:16	ravensmommy073@gm	Hope Crane	
10/25/2025 20:12:19	Timothy.bryant@weyerh	Timothy Bryant	713 natural Bridge rd French creek ww
10/25/2025 20:13:51	babybentley2011@icloud.com	Shelli	7655rt 20 s road
10/25/2025 20:17:11	ansleybarger@icloud.com	Ansley	
10/25/2025 20:20:53	skshannon129@yahoo.com	Sheila Reynolds	
10/25/2025 20:21:03	autumn.jean1226@gmail.com	autumn detamore	
10/25/2025 20:39:50	haileyaegan_1@icloud.com	Hailey	
10/25/2025 20:43:21	leeryan0928@gmail.com	Ryan Lee	203 mulberry ridge road
10/25/2025 20:46:11	deecutright@hotmail.com	Linda Cutright	
10/25/2025 20:50:03	tara.cogar@gmail.com	Tara Cogar	108 Parkview Drive Apt 203 Bridgeport, WV 26330
10/25/2025 20:50:42	tristanarogers@aol.com	Lori Andrews	11746 Route 20 South Rd, Rock Cave, WV
10/25/2025 20:53:43	benemeeks1982@aol.com	Rebecca Meeks	286 Toot Lane Tallmansville WV. 26237
10/25/2025 20:57:39	kakeplinger@mix.wvu.edu	Kendall K.	108 Parkview Drive Apt. 203 Bridgeport WV 26330
10/25/2025 21:04:32	smcdaniels1972@gmail.com	Sheila McDaniels	376 Brooks Hill Rd Selbyville WV
10/25/2025 21:13:26	s.crites75@gmail.com	Scott Crites	199 Chicken Cross Rd Buckhannon Wv 26201
10/25/2025 21:16:04	tanyapharis@gmail.com	Tanya Pharis	364 Big Bend Rd. French Creek, WV 26218

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/25/2025 21:19:24	kazbennett92@gmail.cc	Kazelyn Bennett	2712 Morgantown pike
10/25/2025 21:21:37	ericamartin9203@gmail	Erica Martin	
10/25/2025 21:22:56	zacherybender97@gmail	Zachery bender	18 mulberry ridge rd French creek wv 26218
10/25/2025 21:23:58	vanessa.blagg@yahoo.c	Vanessa Blagg	6421 Route 20 South Rd
10/25/2025 21:26:58	jmer9203@gmail.com	Josh Martin	1790 Canaan Rd Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 21:28:12	luzadergirl@gmail.com	Crystal Cook	1879 Frenchton Road French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 21:29:50	trucker26624@gmail.co	Patrick Cook	1879 Frenchton Road, French Creek, Wv 26218
10/25/2025 21:29:50	dustyogden4@gmail.coi	Dustin Ogden	18 Mulberry Ridge Rd, French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 21:42:16	baileyww3@yahoo.com	Tina Bailey	724 Natural Bridge Road French Creek WV 26218
10/25/2025 21:43:47	azellis@yahoo.com	Andrea Ellis	863 Vicksburg Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 21:48:41	rsriffle75@hotmail.com	Russell Riffle	123 loudin rd Crawford wv 26343
10/25/2025 21:59:26	destinijackson905@gmi	Destini	258 greenbrier dr
10/25/2025 22:35:47	sarahjordan.ej@gmail.c	Sarah Jordan	5463 Old Elkins Road Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/25/2025 22:40:00	sherbearwoody@yahoo.	Sherry Woody	111 Getout Run Road, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 22:45:08	missyw3@hotmail.com	Melissa Williams	Rock Cave, WV
10/25/2025 23:10:45	mccannrobyn318@hotn	Robyn McCann	
10/25/2025 23:19:51	livetoride120@aim.com	Natasha Davis	1011 Canaan Rd, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/25/2025 23:30:22	angelariffle04@gmail.cc	Angie Riffle	703 Canaan Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/25/2025 23:31:51	murphyfam4@yahoo.co	Tracy Murphy	157 Lodge Creek Lane French Creek, WV
10/25/2025 23:34:06	wvchristmastrees@gma	Matilda Fowler	French Creek, WV 26218
10/25/2025 23:58:13	mdok72@gmail.com	Missy OKeefe	9 Franklin St, Buckhannon, WV 26201-2225, USA

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 0:11:13	phillipsaiden44@gmail.c	Aiden Phillips	2808 pleasant ridge road
10/26/2025 0:18:04	kierashively@yahoo.com	Kiera Shively	18 Paul Lane Buckhannon wv, 26201
10/26/2025 0:30:40	shayla.gowers@gmail.c	Shayla Gowers	31 Shakota Ln, French Creek, WV 26218
10/26/2025 1:56:19	kyriaaax3@aol.com	Kyria Hosey	
10/26/2025 1:56:30	tiarawoodson96@icloud	Tiara	
10/26/2025 2:08:25	gartonclarissa@gmail.c	Clarissa Garton	169 Virginia St Apt 307 Jane Lew WV 26378
10/26/2025 2:57:06	kiananrobinson@gmail.c	Kiana Robinson	87 Sweet Pea Lane, Rock Cave,WV
10/26/2025 3:36:25	joeyjohnston54@yahoo.c	Joey	2797 Frenchton rd
10/26/2025 7:28:15	ggkutandkurl@hotmail.c	Patricia Gregory	496Frenchton Rd French Creek wv 26218
10/26/2025 7:29:30	ggkutandkurl@hotmail.c	Delmis Hamner	796 Centerville Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/26/2025 7:34:05	harpe1@mail.com	Jo Harpe	McChord Run Rd Walkersville, WV
10/26/2025 8:10:04	delisandwich97@gmail.c	Adele Summers	112 Wanless St Buckhannon WV 26201
10/26/2025 8:22:41	my.3.babies1517@iclou	Lynette (Unger) Moore	
10/26/2025 8:28:31	dcwayts@yahoo.com	Debby Wayts	5497 Eden rd Rock Cave Wv
10/26/2025 8:31:25	jennamichellecutright@i	Jenna Walton	1587 Cow Run Rd Crawford WV 26343
10/26/2025 8:32:03	bjack6908@yahoo.com	Betsy Jackson	67 Freemans Rd French Creek WV 26216
10/26/2025 8:32:48	rileysmith50@gmail.coi	Rachelle Rileysmith	7102 WV-20, French Creek, WV 26218-2014, USA
10/26/2025 8:39:26	savannah725@yahoo.c.c	Savannah Servetas	
10/26/2025 8:50:22	tifarrar@yahoo.com	Tasha Moore	935 Childers run rd Buckhannon
10/26/2025 8:57:51	casey.h790@gmail.com	Casey Hicks	Buckhannon wv
10/26/2025 9:03:15	stepheric@frontier.com	Stephanie Gillum	

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 9:17:55	rdwilson9260@yahoo.c	Robin Wilson	
10/26/2025 9:25:58	abby.1103@icloud.com	Abigail Parsons	743 Old Mill Road
10/26/2025 9:37:32	leahm316@icloud.com	Leah Collins	241 skeeter hill rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/26/2025 9:45:40	jackieunderhill@hotmail	Jackie Haymond	336 N Custer St Wichita KS 67203
10/26/2025 9:46:37	z.haymond@yahoo.com	Zach Haymond	336 N Custer St Wichita KS 67203
10/26/2025 9:59:58	wsias@aol.com	Wendy Sias	626 Sauls Run Rd Weston WV
10/26/2025 10:08:47	aleahjacks1981@gmail.	Amy Chidester	3919 Beechtown Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/26/2025 10:12:48	floydbaker546@yahoo.c	Dustin Jackson	130 tamarack drive Buckhannon WV
10/26/2025 10:17:07	julieeagle88@yahoo.cor	Julie Fisher	450 Selbyville Rd
10/26/2025 10:24:27	dpmack22@gmail.com	David Post	241 crystal springs rd
10/26/2025 10:31:06	msandreth23@gmail.co	Miranda Sandreth	
10/26/2025 10:32:41	ericadavis0931@gmail.c	Erica Lauter	682 Sauls run rd Weston Wv 26452
10/26/2025 10:55:18	donnatchc@yahoo.com	Donna Anderson	262 Robey Ridge Rd Rock Cave WV 26234
10/26/2025 11:35:00	kissmykazoo@mail.com	Connie Rogers	160 Logans Lane Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/26/2025 11:37:41	kissmyaster@mail.com	Randall Rogers	160 Logans Lane Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/26/2025 11:53:00	psandy3457@gmail.com	Pete Sandy	4 Hawthorne Dr Buckhannon WV 26201
10/26/2025 12:03:55	sdcarpen@k12.wv.us	Shanah	Carpenter
10/26/2025 12:04:54	dannycarp1974@gmail.i	Danny	Carpenter
10/26/2025 13:08:41	stalnakermegan04@gm	Megan stalnaker	59rohr avenu Buckhannon wv 26201
10/26/2025 13:49:25	renee Harper1980@aol.c	Tina Harper	7496 Clarksburg Road Volga, WV 26238
10/26/2025 13:51:48	claralouise801@gmail.c	Clara Scott	431 Glen Falls Rd

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 14:01:25	currence101@aol.com	Cindi Currence	220 Jack Acres Road
10/26/2025 14:19:13	eajacksonolliver2009@	Elizabeth Tolliver	296 Browning Road Rock Cave WV 26233
10/26/2025 14:26:44	avalon90116@aol.com	Tristan Rogers	2291 Sun Valley Rd Clarksburg WV, 26301
10/26/2025 14:44:49	wva_rayn@yahoo.com	Cathy Chidester-Blair	8004 Orcutt Ave, Newport News, VA 23605-1609, USA
10/26/2025 15:04:47	wvbigtruck@yahoo.com	Matt kittle	71 old chimney road buckhannon ww 26201
10/26/2025 15:32:31	knkplusthree@aol.com	Kelly Shiflett	18 Summer Place Drive, Buckhannon WV 26201
10/26/2025 16:26:15	hawk1218@yahoo.com	Brenda Hawkins	929 Ashton Pl Morgantown WV 26508
10/26/2025 16:55:56	dalia97@yahoo.com	Alicia Duran	
10/26/2025 17:29:34	lowthercourtney3@gma	Courtney Lowther	1950 beaver run road French creek ww 26218
10/26/2025 17:31:07	clarawimmer@hotmail.c	Clara Wimmer	
10/26/2025 17:32:37	joleelynn2713@gmail.cc	Stephanie Roth	1066 Kanawha Run Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/26/2025 17:35:07	huntarae@gmail.com	Amanda Rocha	123 S Alexander Ave Clarksburg ww 26301
10/26/2025 17:56:05	lowlowmclain@gmail.cc	Logan	184valwood ln
10/26/2025 18:41:56	emmas9442@icloud.coi	Emma Smith	1304 Right Freemans Creek Road Weston WV 26452
10/26/2025 18:49:44	noraleegriffith30@gmail	Nora Griffith	1060 hildreth rd buckhannon ww
10/26/2025 18:50:51	Noraleegriffith30@gmai	Alan Griffith	Buckhannon WV
10/26/2025 19:13:39	camdinbcarpenter@gm:	Camdin Carpenter	4198 Alexander Rd
10/26/2025 19:14:29	Carpenter.CamdinB@ggs	Camdin Carpenter	4198 Alexander rd
10/26/2025 19:19:11	heater_jessica@yahoo.c	Jessica Bennington	42 Heater Dr
10/26/2025 19:38:43	tffanyhewlett8@gmail.c	Tiffany	Forest circle, winter springs 32708
10/26/2025 19:45:08	courtneyhall843@gmail.	Courtney Hall	24 Tree Stump Drive Buckhannon WV 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/26/2025 19:49:58	arnold.dawn@gmail.com	Dawn Arnold	French Creek, WV 26218
10/26/2025 20:28:35	burnsidepat1@gmail.co	Pat burnside	121 Jr burnside rd rock cave
10/26/2025 20:39:27	iserinabck@gmail.com	Serina Pritt Bennett	1080 Gormley Road Ellamore WV 26267
10/26/2025 20:48:29	kjfnw@yahoo.com	Linda K Moore	55 Wilson Siding Rd Horner WV 26372
10/26/2025 20:50:18	kjfnw@yahoo.com	Linda K Moore	55 Wilson Siding Rd Horner WV 26372
10/26/2025 20:58:10	kernsw53@gmail.com	William Kerns	5 Maple Street Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/26/2025 21:08:38	chevellegirl90@gmail.cc	Judy Riley	602 swamp run rd Buckhannon ww 26201
10/26/2025 21:11:33	nicholehowes10073@ye	Nichole Howes	
10/26/2025 21:37:42	jarno823@icloud.com	Joseph Arnold	749 W 2nd St Weston, WV 26452
10/26/2025 22:32:14	saraheater24@gmail.co	Sara Heater	37 amandaville ct st albans ww 25177
10/27/2025 0:01:47	mwayts@gmail.com	Michelle	1022 Cow Run Rd Crawford Wv 26343
10/27/2025 6:08:30	slpowers12@gmail.com	Sherry Haymond	Rock Cave, WV
10/27/2025 8:11:09	jnarno81418@icloud.co	Jaclyn Arnold	
10/27/2025 8:48:58	pullen71@gmail.com	Stephanie	25 Ollie St Rock Cave, Wv 26234
10/27/2025 9:41:36	kkclass2012@hotmail.c	Kaitlin	
10/27/2025 11:11:46	pullen.jeff@yahoo.com	Jeff Pullen	28 New Hope Rd ,Rock Cave WV 26234
10/27/2025 13:30:27	srollins3727@gmail.com	Sierra Williams	
10/27/2025 13:32:07	faithwoody0@gmail.com	Faith Woody	111 getout run rd
10/27/2025 13:46:29	kara_perry@hotmail.com	Kara Perry	936 Philippi Rd Volga WV 26238
10/27/2025 18:01:01	muhsiler0926@gmail.ci	Miranda Uhl Siler	6 1/2 N Kanawha Street apt 1
10/27/2025 20:48:36	cogardonna@gmail.com	Donna Cogar	321 Brooks Hill Road Selbyville, WV 26236

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/27/2025 20:52:16	cogardonna@gmail.com	Charles Cogar	321 Brooks Hill Road Selbyville, WV 26236
10/27/2025 21:10:38	Sarah.f.scott@gmail.com	Sarah Scott	
10/27/2025 21:15:32	chperry19@gmail.com	Christopher Pery	615 beechtown road french creek wv 26218
10/27/2025 21:48:16	kelseymarsh622@gmail.com	Kelsey	
10/27/2025 22:35:56	ahope0930@gmail.com	Alyssa hope	726 Gaines rd rock cave wv
10/28/2025 6:51:06	bransoncarpenter04@gmail.com	Branson Carpenter	4198 Alexander Road French Creek Wv
10/28/2025 6:51:20	bransoncarpenter04@gmail.com	Branson Carpenter	4198 Alexander Road French Creek Wv
10/28/2025 11:38:02	maryfish41@gmail.com	Mary Fisher	
10/28/2025 12:20:36	mlong5098@gmail.com	Mike Long	South Florida street
10/28/2025 13:45:33	kmcie1107@gmail.com	Kathleen Mcie	6754 Alexander Rd French Creek WV 26218
10/28/2025 13:47:23	kmcie1107@gmail.com	Kathleen Mcie	6754 Alexander Rd. French Creek WV 26218
10/28/2025 15:54:42	rachelnadam12@gmail.com	Rachel Ball	
10/28/2025 17:52:10	jadensuder049@gmail.com	Jaden	510 Gaines Rd, Rock Cave, WV 26234
10/29/2025 6:49:30	taylorrolenson@yahoo.com	Taylor Hyre	587 Wagner Rd Buckhannon WV 26201
10/29/2025 18:27:43	bridgettenethken@gmail.com	Bridgette nethken	2209 Rock Cave Rd, Crawford, WV 26343, USA
10/29/2025 20:47:10	atenney13@gmail.com	Ashley Martin	
10/30/2025 8:13:23	dubvmaria@gmail.com	Maria Long	2245 Brushy Fork Rd, Buckhannon, WV 26201
10/30/2025 9:32:44	ahyre3@yahoo.com	Annette Hyre	12849 Route 20 South Road Rock Cave, WV26234
10/30/2025 10:16:36	anitahammer63@gmail.com	Anita Hammer	1119 Mt. Carmel Road Buckhannon WV 26201
10/30/2025 10:18:43	mannycarp72653@gmail.com	Manus Carpenter	2852 Tallmansville Road Buckhannon WV 26201

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	Address
10/30/2025 11:09:59	brittlynn_19@yahoo.com	Brittany Shaw	62 Flatwoods Run Road Rock Cave WV 26234
10/30/2025 11:11:02	slynnkogar@gmail.com	Shirley Cogar	
10/30/2025 15:50:15	ryleighjeffries@gmail.co	Ryleigh Jeffries	
10/30/2025 20:21:23	mariangelys1990@gmail	Mariangelys Del Valle W	117 Railroad Avenue Buckhannon WV 26201
10/31/2025 14:57:09	janbeth49@yahoo.com	Jan crites	1391 Gould rd French creek WVU 26218
11/1/2025 9:16:30	vlloyd710106@gmail.co	Vanessa Lloyd	1465 Beverage Knob Rd Crawford, WV 26343
11/1/2025 17:24:43	mccannrobyn318@hotm	Robyn McCann	
11/2/2025 10:13:05	springfranklpn@gmail.c	Spring franklin	P.O. Box 731 Weston ww 26452
11/3/2025 6:34:58	angjobrady73@yahoo.c	Angela Burwell	41 Geronimo Drive, St Albans, WV 25177
11/3/2025 9:38:59	cain_janice@yahoo.com	Janice Cain	
11/3/2025 18:09:45	carpentershanah@gmai	Shanah Carpenter	
11/9/2025 17:48:32	angiestarkey1126@yah	Angie Starkey	3889 Gould Road French Creek Wv26218
11/10/2025 21:14:12	amy11609@gmail.com	Chris Detamore	481 Alexander road French Creek, Wv 26218
11/11/2025 9:58:14	chellebug2012@yahoo.c	Michelle Fidler	
11/12/2025 17:52:03	sgbonnett47@gmail.cor	Sharon G Bonnett	30 Ballah Street Buckhannon WV (formerly from 352 Cente
11/12/2025 21:43:16	posey_am2001@yahoo.	Amber Anderson	573 Larry Anderson Road
11/12/2025 22:17:02	k.heater@outlook.com	Keagan Heater	225 Real Leaf Dr
11/12/2025 22:23:02	bobbyrollinsx10@yaho	Bobby Rollins	5810 glady fork rd buckhannon ww

BOE Speech – Rock Cave Elementary Closure

Good evening. My name is Kaitlin Davis, and I'm here tonight not just as a former student of Rock Cave Elementary, but as someone who still carries that school in her heart—and isn't afraid to speak up when something doesn't add up.

I went to Rock Cave from kindergarten through fifth grade. That school wasn't just where I learned my ABCs — it was where I learned who I was. I remember being the first in my class to count to 100, the 30-minute bus ride that felt like a mini adventure, and the smell of the library that somehow made everything feel safe. That library wasn't just for books—it was our art room, our music room, our choir space, and the home of the book fair. It was the heartbeat of our school.

But what made Rock Cave special wasn't just the memories—it was the people. Teachers knew us. Like, really knew us. They knew our favorite animals, our quirks, how we learned best. That kind of connection doesn't happen in crowded classrooms. It happens in places like Rock Cave.

Now, I've read the closure folder. Page 4, Enrollment 3.2.a. It says Rock Cave has room for ¹⁵⁴ ~~121~~ students, but only 71 are enrolled. Okay, sure—that's a gap. But let's be real: education isn't just about filling seats. It's about giving kids what they need to grow.

BOE Speech – Rock Cave Elementary Closure

salaries for each position—shows the real total is \$784,242.07 (Seven hundred eighty-four thousand two hundred forty-two dollars and seven cents). That's a difference of \$671,903.25 (Six hundred seventy-one thousand nine hundred three dollars and twenty-five cents). That's not just a mistake—it's a massive inflation. And if you're making decisions about closing schools based on flawed data, then this whole process needs a serious reality check.

Rock Cave isn't just a school. It's a place where kids are known, supported, and given the space to grow. Where learning isn't rushed, and teachers actually have time to care. That's worth fighting for.

So I'm asking you: are you making decisions based on what's best for budgets, or what's best for students? Because if it's the latter, Rock Cave deserves to stay open.

Thank you.

Kristina Davis

BOE Speech – Rock Cave Elementary Closure

Good evening. My name is Kaitlin Davis, and I'm here tonight not just as a former student of Rock Cave Elementary, but as someone who still carries that school in her heart—and isn't afraid to speak up when something doesn't add up.

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Now, I've read the closure folder. Page 4, Enrollment 3.2.a. It says Rock Cave has room for ¹⁵⁴ 154 students, but only 71 are enrolled. Okay, sure—that's a gap. But let's be real: education isn't just about filling seats. It's about giving kids what they need to grow.

BOE Speech – Rock Cave Elementary Closure

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So I'm asking you: are you making decisions based on what's best for budgets, or what's best for students? Because if it's the latter, Rock Cave deserves to stay open.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaitlin Davis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Good Evening,

I am here this evening as a parent of a former Rock Cave student, and as a concerned community member. ~~Our school is an integral part of our community.~~ *an Upshur county tax payer and voter*

We have all read your reasons as to why Rock Cave Elementary has been slated to close and tonight, we hope you will listen to our reasons for why it should remain open.

1. Low Attendance. In an article I read about the school closing on My Buckhannon, it stated 26 students that should be attending Rock Cave Elementary are attending French Creek Elementary. If I understand correctly, parents were not given the option of enrolling their children in Pre K at Rock Cave this year. I wonder how many of those 26 were transferred because of parents not wanting to have children at two separate schools? The 26 students that should be attending Rock Cave would bring Rock Cave's attendance to 96 and that's without any preschool numbers had Rock Cave been allowed to retain their Preschool program. More than 20 years ago, I attended a meeting here when Rock Cave Elementary was on the chopping block because of low attendance and lack of funds on the county level. A local parent did a deep dive into the Bd. of Ed's finances, and found funds that no one seemed to know about. Therefore the funding issue was laid aside. The attendance issue was easily solved by redistricting students back to Rock Cave. Why would this not work again?
2. More concerning money and funding - How about all of the property that the Upshur County School Board owns? I doubt that the superintendent, assist. Superintendent, board members, and

certainly not the State Board of Ed. knows where all of these pieces are located or if they have any potential use in the future of the school system. Perhaps some of these properties could be sold and the revenue added to the fund balance? It's difficult for us to understand wanting to close our school because of funding when there are pockets of potential income out there not being looked at.

3. Buckhannon Academy - One idea that was mentioned to me early in the school closure conversations included moving the Board Offices into empty spaces in the schools. My understanding from different news articles is that there is unused space at Buckhannon Academy, at least part of which would need major renovations in order for it to be used for students. Would the space be suitable with minor renovations for the Board of Ed to be housed there? The space needed for the Board of Ed employees would not be as great as the space needed in the original plan of moving Tennerton Elementary students there. The Board of Ed. property could be sold to recoup the cost of renovations with funds to spare and the School system would have one less property to maintain and less empty space in the schools.

4. Parking - The parking at the French Creek School is not sufficient for the students they have now. Parents attending school events have to park down the road somewhere and either walk back to the school along busy Rt. 20, sometimes with younger siblings in tow, or ask someone to pick them up. The educational system encourages parents to be involved and attend school functions but how can they when there is no available parking, and specifically safe parking. ^{split grade programs} I am pretty sure the cost of preparing the ground, which would need to be most of the green space, and paving costs would offset any amount you think you would save by closing Rock Cave.

146
290
5 students
45 total my spots

5. Drop off and Pick up and Rt. 20 traffic. What steps are you going to implement for safety and traffic flow into and out of the school.
6. Busing - There are students that currently get on the bus at 6:30 and don't get home until after 4:15, 4:30.. This is a long day for children. Longer than the average work day, and again these are elementary children. While the additional 10 -15 minute ride to French Creek may not seem significant, double that and add it to a kindergartner's already 9/1/2 to 10 hour day. To get an idea, try going to your office at 6:30 in the morning. Find a straight back ^{chair} (no arms chair) to sit in and sit ^{there} for 45 -60 minutes. No using the bathroom, no drinking coffee, snacking, or playing on your phone - just sit there. And then repeat the process after your work day so that you won't get home until 4:30.
7. Classroom size -
 - a. Sickness - Let's hope we never see another Covid epidemic or anything like it, but for schools, they have epidemics of their own kind all the time- Strep, the flu, hand and mouth disease, lice. The more children you put in the classroom or the school, the more likely germs are passed and spread around. *& therefore lowering attendance rates.*
 - b. I hate to even mention this, but in the world we live in today it bears thinking about. With shoving all of the students into one school, you are creating a bigger target.
 - c. Larger class size - Smaller classes are obviously better for the students, but let's also think about the teachers. With the additional stress on the teachers, will teacher burnout and teachers leaving the profession cause our teacher shortage to become worse?
 - d. Smaller classes give teachers more opportunity to know their students. *I make a difference* I mentioned our daughter was a former student. ?

8. In finishing, I am disappointed that at least a quorum of the WV
Dept. of Education board members did not attend tonight's ^{have enough respect for our comm. & school to}
meeting, yet they get to make the decision on whether our school
remains open or closes without hearing ^{from the students, teachers, & comm. members} ~~by~~ If our local board were
~~making the decision, there would have to be a quorum.~~

It may be legal, but it's not right.

♡ > #3

Rock school is the best school I have ever been to. Please don't shut it down. If you shut down, where are the kids going to go? French Creek may have to many kids. When I graduate, I would love to walk down the hallway at Rock Cave. But if you close it, my dream will be shattered. I have a bunch of friends and family that would love to see me walking the halls. Please do not shut Rock Cave down, I have completed Pre-k through part of 5th there. My 5th grade year was not a good year. Our class became overcrowded with 28 students. The learning environment became to much plus not having a teacher. My mom enrolled me at French Creek to finish 5th grade. I was thankful I had that choice. If you were to combine the 2 schools that would no longer be an option.

Every time I visit Rock Cave, I remember what I did while I was there. I get off the bus there a lot and when I do, the teachers always have a smile on their face when they see me. It makes me feel happy to see them. Please have it in your heart to not recommend the closure of Rock Cave School.

Sincerely,
Brooklyn Collins- past student of RCES

District - Upshur - School Year 2024 - 2025

Elementary Schools: 7
Enrollment: 1,592

Middle Schools: 1
Enrollment: 718

High Schools: 1
Enrollment: 0

Total Schools: 9
Enrollment: 3,376

State Overview

Choose School Year

State / District Summary

Choose District



Personnel Report

Per Pupil by School

Per Pupil Data

On-Site Reports

Identified Schools

ESSA Plan

FAQs

Fact Sheet



✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle Schools	Academic Achievement		Academic Progress		English Learners	Student Success	
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	✓	✓					
French Creek Elementary		✓					
Hodgesville Elementary							
Rock Cave Elementary	✓	✓					
Tennerton Elementary	✓	✓					
Union Elementary School	✓	✓					
Washington District Elementary							
B-U Middle School	✓	✓					

High Schools	Academic Achievement		Graduation Rate/Cohort		English Learners	Student Success		
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	4 Year	5 Year	English Learner Progress	Attendance	On-Track to Graduation	Post-Secondary Achievement
Buckhannon Upshur High School								

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to reconsider the closure of Rock Cave Elementary. Rock Cave Elementary School may be a small school with only 71 students this year, but this dwindling number is due to varied reasons. I could go on about the why, but I prefer to look toward the present and future. Our students deserve to be in a school that is close to their home and community. Students look forward coming to school each day and this is why Rock Cave has one of the better attendance rates in Upshur County. This school means so much more to our students than some will ever know. This school is their safe place.

Years ago, while I was still in high school, they redistricted the southern part of Upshur County Schools. This was due to low enrollment then. We need to look at the numbers of out of district students as a county not just Rock Cave and French Creek. Why are students out of district? Looking forward we should be looking at getting students back in their home schools.

Virtual school is another factor to low enrollment. This is a substantial number that continues to grow. We need to be taking a deeper dive as to why? Children should be in schools where they can get a free education, receive 2 free or reduced hot meals a day, and most importantly socialization.

Having both schools creates lower class sizes. Just because we can have 23 students in a Kindergarten, 25 in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, and 28 in both 4th and 5th, does not mean we should. We need to consider that small class sizes are open more individualized learning. Whether that be intervention for students to be filling in gaps they are missing or to providing enrichment for students who are ready for more advance learning.

Students are thriving at Rock Cave Elementary School. I can not see why you would want to close a school down that has made it into their Sustainability Year through CSI (Comprehensive School Improvement). When looking at the Balanced Scorecard for Upshur County, Rock Cave has no red, where other schools do.

In closing, we need to reconsider keeping Rock Cave Elementary School open because Rock Cave IS Upshur County's BEST!

Thank you,

Sara Collins

My name is Clara Wimmer. I grew up in southern WV and was raised in a family of educators. From teachers to principals, to headstart directors and board members. When my husband and I moved to Upshur County in 2013, the thing I heard over and over from those family members was how great Upshur County schools were.

I remember being so impressed with not only the facilities but the amount of extra curricular activities available to students. My daughter at age 10 has already experienced ballet, archery, and speaking opportunities at the regional literature fair and learned so much from the greenhouse located right here at Rock Cave Elementary School. But more important than all of that is her self-confidence and love of learning, which I attribute to her not being in an overcrowded school. In her most formative years, she is being nurtured and is thriving. Packing all the kids together into one school is going to rob her and all the other students of this.

When my daughter started kindergarten in 2021, we were still dealing with Covid restrictions. Given the timing of her enrollment we have watched from the beginning, all the wonderful staff at the school have a constant stream of problems to solve. Even with faced with the challenges Covid brought they stayed positive and with much creativity put the children first.

This school year a new chapter has started at Rock Cave. It feels like things have gotten back to normal. We have so many wonderful teachers and a principal who runs a tight ship. This year doesn't feel like we are flailing but rather that we have stood up straight and have dusted ourselves off. You can imagine how frustrating the timing of a possible school closure feels when everyone has worked so hard to bring the school back from chaos.

In closing I would like to reiterate a conversation I had with my daughter. I told her that I was nervous about speaking tonight. That I wish I could be more like her, because she never seems nervous. She said to me "I get nervous too mom, but you just have to keep thinking that maybe something you say will change things and save the school."

I hope and pray that something someone says here tonight will save the school.

My name is Clara Wimmer. I grew up in southern WV and was raised in a family of educators. From teachers to principals, to headstart directors and board members. When my husband and I moved to Upshur County in 2013, the thing I heard over and over from those family members was how great Upshur County schools were.

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Public Hearing Speech on the Proposed Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Addressing Legal, Logistical, and Community Concerns

- Good evening, my name is Cheyenne Troxell. I stand before you today to address the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School, a matter that profoundly affects not only our children but the very fabric of our community. My remarks will focus on key issues within the impact statement and the process by which it has been submitted, with the aim of ensuring that our voices and facts are fully considered in this critical decision.

Legal Process: Authority Under W. Va. Code 18-5-13a

First and foremost, I must highlight a procedural concern regarding the submission of the impact statement. According to W. Va. Code 18-5-13a, only the county board of education is authorized to submit such a statement. The statute does not list the state-appointed superintendent or anyone else to carry out this responsibility other than the county in their verbiage. Adhering to the code is essential for the legitimacy of this process, and I urge the board to review whether the current submission aligns with statutory requirements.

Facilities: Inadequate Loading and Unloading at French Creek Elementary

Turning to Facilities section 3.2.b, I wish to draw attention to the inaccuracies stating that French Creek Elementary student loading and unloading areas are adequate. Daily traffic congestion is a persistent issue congesting route 20, and during school events, overflow parking often spills onto the main route and private owned lots, creating unsafe conditions and logistical challenges. These shortcomings raise serious concerns about the capacity of French Creek to safely and efficiently absorb additional students and traffic flow.

• Personnel: Impact of Job Losses on the Community

Under Personnel section 3.2.d, it is noted that 21 employees from Rock Cave Elementary would lose their jobs should the school close. This is not just a statistic—it represents families, livelihoods, and a significant loss of community cohesion. Such layoffs would have a ripple effect, local stores, diners, and businesses would suffer the loss of many of

their customers as the traffic flow would solely be directed towards town creating an unfair business ecosystem solely impacting southern Upshur County.

Student Transportation: Excessive Bus Travel Times and Safety Risks

Student Transportation section 3.2.e addresses bus routes, and I must emphasize that the proposed changes would lead to travel times exceeding the 30min recommended limit from the state. This would necessitate waivers and expose our children to prolonged commutes, increasing safety risks, particularly in adverse weather conditions, with many students having nearly two hours of travel daily, which even exceeds the allowable waiver time per Code 18-2E-5d of 45 min. The well-being of our students should never be compromised for logistical convenience.

Impact Statement Accuracy: Removal of Opinion-Based Sections

I respectfully request that sections 3.2.f (Student Educational Program) and 3.2.g (Community) be removed from the proposed impact statement. These sections are based on opinions rather than verifiable facts, and the community was not involved in their formulation. For the integrity of the process, only substantiated and objective information should be included.

Student Enrollment: Overcapacity and Lack of Growth Potential

Student Enrollment section 3.2.a has major discrepancies, with the submitted numbers implying, “no issues with the merger”, but according to SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form LEA ID: 087205 merging Rock Cave Elementary with French Creek would result in classrooms exceeding and reaching maximum capacities based off current enrollment numbers. The listed classroom max capacity column for FCES shows grades pre-k – kindergarten is limited to (20per class) and 1st-5th to (25 per class). According to the max capacity regulations listed this discrepancy alone would totally void the request for a merger of the schools. Additionally, with local birth rates on the rise over the past four years shown in your chart, this leaves no room for future enrollment, placing unnecessary strain on resources and limiting educational opportunities for our children. Federal law 20 U.S.

Code 1701 declares that all children in public schools are entitled to equal educational opportunities. West Virginia Compulsory School Attendance law 18-8-1 mandates that children must attend school. This merger clearly would violate these laws and codes by denying our children adequate and equal opportunities for enrollment.

Facilities Clarification: Parking Lot and Pre-K Program

Regarding Facilities section 3.2.b, I must refute the claim that Rock Cave Elementary's parking lot requires paving. The existing lot is functional and does not present the immediate need for replacement as suggested. Additionally, Rock Cave Elementary has ample space for a pre-K program, which was closed by the superintendent but could easily be reopened to serve our youngest learners. Our greenhouse is also being utilized and is flourishing which was stated in the impact statement as "unused".

• Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

This section implies that there is a need for secure entrances for all schools per the 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities plan. Rock Cave Elementary already has a secure entrance installed and French Creek Elementary does not which would put our student's safety in jeopardy.

• Future of Closed Facilities

RCES would be closed and sold as surplus property. Who gets the money? Do the taxpayers that paid to build it have a say so? Why can't the BOE look into selling or timbering their other vacant tracts of property that haven't been in use? How will our children being uprooted benefit from its sale? Community members will have a decrease in their property value and lose their access to the playground and pavilion for after school activities, local businesses will suffer a loss in revenue, and local first responders will receive less funding. How will you make up for this loss to the local people?

• School Building Authority of WV SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form Site Evaluation

These evaluations were conducted on 10-17-2019! None of the information is up to date or correct. This evaluation is implying an extremely inflated renovation expense on RCES

causing an unfair disadvantage in decision making for our closure. Numerous projects have already been completed including the secure entrance which was stated in the impact statement as a need. The cost summary sheet also includes extremely inflated pricing for supplies and installation. Who decides this pricing and where does the information come from? Are the jobs properly put out to bid to ensure fair pricing? Also why aren't these Site Evaluations conducted more often to ensure that all schools, local boards, and state boards are receiving accurate information?

Conclusion: Call for Reconsideration and Community Involvement

In closing, I urge the board to reconsider the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary. Let us adhere to the proper legal processes, base our decisions on objective facts, and ensure meaningful community involvement in decision making. The impact statement does not have appropriate factual information due to repeated incorrect information and statements based on opinion for the State Board to make a final decision on this matter. Our children, employees, and the broader community deserve a transparent and thoughtful approach—one that truly serves the best interests of all. Our children are paying the consequences for adults that didn't have them in their best interest and there is not a value that anyone can put on their rights, they are not line items on your budgets, they are our future and the decisions you make now will impact them for years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Cheyenne Troxell

My name is Kelly Bowyer, a resident of Upshur County.

I'm writing to concerning the possible closing of Rock Cave Elementary School.

Rock Cave has consistently had high attendance and high scores in reading and math.

To close the school and force young students to be bused further from home in to already larger populated classrooms, would certainly be a deterrent to the above-mentioned achievements, as well as, negatively impact southern Upshur County families and their children.

Please re-examine this possible decision to give children the best chance of success as they eventually enter the onerous world of middle school.

Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,



Kelly Bowyer

161 Greathouse Road

Buckhannon, WV

Speech Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Delivered by a Concerned Community Member and Taxpayer

Good evening, everyone. My name is Delora Brown, and I stand before you tonight not only as a lifelong resident of this community, but also as a dedicated taxpayer and a voter who cares deeply about our children, our future, and the values that bind us together.

I am here to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. Like many of you, I am concerned that our local tax dollars, and the votes we cast to support our schools, are not being respected or considered in this decision. Since our local board of education is currently under state takeover, it feels as though our voices have been silenced at a critical time for our community.


This situation raises serious ethical questions. Is it right for the state to make decisions with such lasting consequences for our families, our children, and our local economy—decisions that will impact us for decades to come—without truly listening to those who live and work here? What message does it send when local input is dismissed, even though it is our tax money funding these schools?

We must also ask: How will closing Rock Cave Elementary actually benefit our community? Will our children have better access to education? Or will they face longer bus rides, decreased parental involvement, and the loss of a safe and nurturing environment? Will property values and community spirit improve, or will they decline?

The research on rural school closures is clear: the disadvantages far outweigh any potential savings or perceived benefits. Studies show that closing rural schools often leads to declining academic achievement, lower graduation rates, and reduced community engagement. Our school is more than just a building—it is the heart of Rock Cave, providing stability, support, and opportunity for our children. When a rural school closes, the community suffers, and what we lose cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

I urge those in power to reconsider this decision. Let us restore local control and listen to the people who know this community best. Our children, our families, and our future deserve nothing less. Please, stand with us and keep Rock Cave Elementary School open.

Thank you.


Delora L. Brown, Previous student of RCES, Community Member, Tax Payer



18th Judicial Circuit Community Corrections

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230 E 1st Street
Weston, WV 26452
P: (681)-822-1010
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85 W Main Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201
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18judicialccc@gmail.com

November 13, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

As a substance abuse counselor who works closely with youth and families in our community, I want to express my strong support for keeping our small schools open. The impact of school size and community connection on youth well-being cannot be overstated, especially when it comes to preventing and addressing substance use, mental health struggles, and trauma. Small schools provide more than education; they offer stability, belonging, and accountability. In a smaller setting, teachers, counselors, and staff are able to truly know each student recognizing early signs of distress, substance use, or isolation before these issues escalate. That personal connection is often what saves a young person from falling through the cracks. When students are moved to larger, consolidated schools, many lose that sense of identity and connection. They face increased social pressures, longer commutes, and less individual support, all of which are proven risk factors for substance use and emotional distress. For students already vulnerable due to trauma, poverty, or family challenges, those risks multiply.

Small schools also act as a protective factor for families. They strengthen community ties by allowing parents and educators to collaborate closely. This "whole community" model fosters prevention and resilience, two key ingredients in combating the rise of youth substance use and mental health crises that small towns across America are facing. Closing small schools may seem financially practical on paper, but from a behavioral health standpoint, it can have long-term costs: increased dropout rates, higher juvenile involvement, and greater demand for mental health and addiction services down the line. Investing in small schools is an investment in prevention, early intervention, and community health. I urge you to consider not only the educational outcomes but also the emotional and social safety that these schools provide. Our children deserve environments where they are seen, supported, and given every chance to thrive. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the well-being of our youth.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pinkney MS, AADC

Opposing the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

An Advocate Parent's Concerns for Disabled Children

November 13, 2025

To the Esteemed Members of the School Board and Education Officials,

I am writing as a concerned parent of two children with disabilities, both of whom attend a rural school and benefit from Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). I am also a dedicated member of the West Virginia Disabilities Council and a long-standing advocate for disabled children and their families. My intent is to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and to urge you to reconsider this decision in light of the potential harm it poses to our most vulnerable students.

Impact on Children with Disabilities and Overcrowding Concerns

Children with disabilities thrive in environments where they receive individualized attention and support tailored to their unique needs. Rock Cave Elementary has provided such an environment for children, allowing them to flourish both academically and socially. The prospect of closing this school raises serious concerns about the inevitable overcrowding that would result from relocating these students to already burdened facilities.

Overcrowding not only stretches resources thin but also significantly diminishes the quality of care and instruction children with disabilities receive. For students with IEPs, such disruptions can lead to regression and exacerbation of challenges that schools have worked diligently to address.

Evidence of Negative Effects from School Closures and Uprooting

Multiple studies have highlighted the detrimental effects of school closures and the uprooting of students with disabilities. Research published in the *Journal of Special Education* and by the National Education Policy Center demonstrates that transitions caused by school closures often result in academic setbacks, increased behavioral problems, and emotional distress for disabled children and their families. The loss of established relationships with trusted educators and support staff can have lasting

negative impacts, particularly for children who rely on consistent routines and familiar environments to thrive.

Concerns Regarding Quality of Care and Supervision

A paramount issue is the ability to provide quality care and proper supervision for children with disabilities, especially those with autism who may have elopement tendencies. In larger, more crowded schools, the risk of inadequate supervision increases, putting these children in potentially unsafe situations. As a parent and advocate, I am deeply concerned about how these students will receive the specialized attention, safety measures, and individualized instruction their IEPs mandate. Without sufficient staff-to-student ratios and appropriate resources, the well-being and safety of our children are at serious risk.

Conclusion and Offer for Further Discussion

Given the overwhelming evidence of harm caused by school closures and the unique needs of students with disabilities, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. The wellbeing, safety, and educational progress of our children must remain a top priority. I am willing to discuss these concerns further and collaborate on solutions that protect and support our disabled students.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued commitment to all children in our community.

Sincerely,



Samantha Ribeiro Matos

Parent

Member of the West Virginia Disabilities Council

Advocate for Disabled Children

Keep Rock Cave Elementary Open!!!

The proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School presents not only an educational concern but also a deeply personal and economic challenge for the families and residents of our rural community. While cost-saving measures are an understandable priority, closing Rock Cave Elementary would disrupt a foundation that supports not just student learning, but the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our area.

Educational Impact

Rock Cave Elementary offers small class sizes that allow for personalized instruction, individualized support, and strong relationships between teachers, students, and families. These characteristics are proven to enhance student achievement and emotional well-being. Transferring students to larger schools would eliminate this close-knit learning environment, leading to increased class sizes, longer commute times, and reduced opportunities for one-on-one attention.

Additionally, many rural families face transportation challenges. A longer bus route to distant schools could make attendance more difficult, especially during winter months, potentially lowering academic performance and increasing absenteeism.

Community and Economic Impact

Rock Cave Elementary is much more than a school—it is the heart of the community. The school serves as a gathering space for civic events, youth programs, and community meetings. Its closure would remove one of the few unifying institutions in the area, weakening community identity and diminishing engagement among residents.

Economically, closing the school could lead to lower property values and decreased appeal for young families considering moving to the area. Without a local school, new families are less likely to settle here, resulting in population decline, reduced local spending, and eventual economic stagnation.

Social and Emotional Consequences

The absence of Rock Cave Elementary would be especially hard on younger children, who rely on familiar teachers and community members for stability and nurturing. Students forced to attend larger, distant schools may struggle with adjustment, anxiety, and feelings of isolation.

For parents and staff, the emotional impact is equally significant. Teachers who have dedicated years to serving this community would face job loss or relocation, while parents would lose trusted partners in their children's education.

Conclusion

Closing Rock Cave Elementary School may appear financially practical in the short term, but the long-term consequences for education quality, community well-being, and local growth are far too great. Rock Cave Elementary is not merely a building—it is a cornerstone of this community's identity, opportunity, and pride. Preserving it is essential to sustaining both educational excellence and the spirit of rural life.

Sincerely,

Rodney Rolenson

Formal Grievance Regarding the Proposed Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Date: October 13, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education
West Virginia State Board of Education

From:

Cheyenne Troxell, Parent of a Rock Cave Elementary Student

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my deep frustration and strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School at the end of the 2025–2026 academic year. This decision, if enacted, will have devastating consequences for our students, families, and the broader Rock Cave community.

Rock Cave Elementary is not just a school—it is a pillar of our rural community. It boasts the highest attendance rates in Upshur County, a testament to the dedication of its staff and the trust it has earned from families. The school fosters a nurturing environment where children feel safe, supported, and engaged. Closing this school would disrupt the educational continuity of our children and erode the social fabric of our community.

Evidence-based research consistently shows that closing rural schools leads to:

- Lower academic performance due to longer commutes, larger class sizes, and loss of personalized instruction.
- Decreased community engagement, as schools often serve as hubs for local events, services, and civic participation.
- Increased dropout rates and emotional distress among students, especially those from low-income families.
- Economic decline, as families may relocate to areas with more stable school systems, further reducing enrollment and funding.

These outcomes are not hypothetical—they are documented realities in communities across West Virginia and the nation.

What is equally troubling is the lack of transparency and communication from the Upshur County Board of Education. Teachers at Rock Cave Elementary reportedly learned of the closure proposal through Facebook, not through official channels. Parents have been left in the dark, with no clear timeline, no public hearings scheduled, and no meaningful opportunity to provide input. This is unacceptable and undermines public trust in our

educational leadership.

Furthermore, the fact that Upshur County remains under state control due to prior financial mismanagement raises serious concerns about the motivations behind this proposal. Decisions affecting our children's futures should be made with community collaboration, not imposed from above without due process.

At the most recent Board of Education meeting, there were multiple discrepancies between the state and local board members regarding financial reporting. It was revealed that the board has millions of dollars in its unassigned budget, commonly referred to as a 'rainy day fund.' Despite this, they are proposing to close Rock Cave Elementary over a budget shortfall of just \$800,000.00. How is this acceptable? How can the state determine where our local tax money is allocated without a public vote or community input? This lack of fiscal clarity and disregard for democratic process further erodes trust in the decision-making authority of the Board of Education.

It is deeply unfair that our children are being forced to bear the consequences of financial mismanagement committed by previous superintendents and board members—individuals who have faced no repercussions for their actions. Why are they not being held accountable, while our innocent children are? Why is the state allowed to make decisions that will impact our county and our children for years to come, when they have no personal investment in our community? These decisions should be made by those who understand and care about the long-term well-being of our families, not by distant officials with no stake in our future.

We respectfully demand the following:

1. Immediate suspension of the closure proposal until full public hearings are held.
2. A transparent and data-driven justification for the closure, including financial breakdowns and educational impact assessments.
3. A community-led task force to explore alternative solutions to budgetary and enrollment challenges.
4. A commitment to preserving rural education, recognizing its unique value and role in community development.

We will not stand by while our children's futures are compromised. Rock Cave Elementary is worth fighting for—not just for its academic success, but for the heart and hope it brings to our community.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne Troxell
Parent, Advocate, and Concerned Citizen

Date: November 5, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education

Subject: Opposition to the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Dear Members of the Upshur County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. After attending the past three Board of Education meetings and reviewing the financial impact statement presented, I have serious concerns regarding the accuracy, transparency, and validity of the financial data being used to justify this decision.

It has become evident that multiple line items in the budget are already over-extended and were not properly accounted for. This raises significant questions about the fiscal management and planning processes currently in place. Furthermore, the Board has acknowledged uncertainty regarding the number of properties and acreage it owns, which is deeply troubling and suggests a lack of comprehensive asset oversight. Why can't these vacant properties be sold or timbered to pay for the alleged shortfall of funding needed for or school to remain open? How is it ethical to close a school when there are millions of dollars in unrestricted funds meaning that our school has already been budgeted for and that is your extra money? How is it ethical to continue to possess so many vacant properties and still consider the closing of a school when they can be sold? How is it ethical to show incorrect numbers and exceed multiple line items budgets on your budget when that is against rules and regulations for public entities?

Most concerning is the fact that the carryover amounts—critical to understanding the district's true financial position—were not available until the end of October according to your financial representative. This means that all figures included in the impact statement are merely estimates, not verified data. Making a decision as consequential as closing a school based on incomplete and speculative financial information is not only irresponsible but potentially harmful to our community.

Additionally, the justification for the closure includes references to a 2019 report from the School Building Authority (SBA). This report is outdated by six years and fails to reflect the current status of the school, especially considering that many of the projects listed have already been completed. Relying on obsolete data to support such a significant action undermines the credibility of the entire process.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than just a school—it is a cornerstone of our community. Its

closure would disrupt the lives of students, families, and staff, and diminish the educational opportunities available in our rural area. I urge the Board to reconsider this proposal and instead commit to a transparent, data-driven approach that includes updated financials, accurate property records, and current facility assessments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record and that the concerns raised herein be addressed before any further action is taken regarding the closure of Rock Cave Elementary.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne troxell

Delora Brown
247 Jack Acres Road
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304-439-4045

To: Upshur County interim School Board

I would like to take a minute to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this counsel and voice my opinion. I no longer have any students in Rock Cave Elementary School, however I have cousins, friends, and family members whose children do attend.

Rock Cave Elementary School has been a staple in our community. It provides an exemplary quality education. I am sure you are aware that Rock Cave Elementary School has the highest student attendance in Upshur County. With that being said, a good quality education exists when you have parental involvement and dedicated teachers.

Rock Cave Elementary School has been providing exemplary education for decades. I attended Rock Cave Elementary School. That foundation, allowed me to graduate high school as a Junior-Graduate with a 3.5 grade point average from Seymour-High School in Indiana. When I relocated, I could have chosen any place in Upshur County. I chose Rock Cave. I wanted my son to benefit from the same quality education that was afforded to me.

Mrs. "Dottie" Bosley was my son's 5th grade teacher. I have absolutely no doubt that her guidance and unyielding commitment to education, is what prepared him for the transition to Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School. The students from her class had no issues adjusting to the faster pace, the block format, or the curriculum.

Having my son receive that quality of education laid the foundation for him to build upon. It allowed him to flourish at Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School. He excelled in the AP classes and graduated Buckhannon-Upshur High School with a 3.5 grade point average. This enabled him to attend a private college in North Carolina.

You cannot achieve this aforementioned quality of education without teacher commitment, parental involvement, and small enough class rooms that allow the teachers to work one-on-one with students. Your proposal will increase class room size, students will have longer bus rides, and they will not receive the individual attention that children need.

Making a decision to close Rock Cave Elementary School, will have a detrimental effects on the students, on the community and to Upshur County as a whole. While considering closing, consider what you are doing to the current students. You are doing them a huge disservice. You will be neglecting to provide them with a proven, quality education, that has been previously provided to children in the past. That education, has allowed previous students to thrive and grow into outstanding adults. Those adults continue to support the community. It would be a travesty and a disgrace to dishonor the decades of commitment and dedication given by the teachers, the students, and the parents by closing Rock Cave Elementary School.

I would hope, that the school board and the state, would want to be commemorated for continuing a legacy that has taken decades to build, as opposed to being remembered for demolishing one.

Sincerely,



Delora L. Brown-Previous student and mother of a student/Upshur County tax payer

Questions for school closure hearing

My name is Tim Troxell, and I have a long list of questions for the attending members of this hearing. As a concerned parent, business owner, and tax paying citizen, I feel that everyone in this room deserves transparency and answers.

Ms Mille -

- ✓ • What alternative solutions were evaluated prior to proposing the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School, and what were the specific reasons for not pursuing those alternatives?
If any had been proposed, then why wasn't the community informed or involved?
- ✓ • Has the board considered selling or timbering any vacant properties owned by the Board of Education as a means to address financial or operational challenges? If so, what factors influenced this decision?
If not, why haven't alternative avenues been looked at before making such a rash decision that will affect our children and communities in a negative way?
- How is the proposal to close the school even practical when the board of education has millions of dollars in unrestricted funds? Why can't some of those funds be used to keep the school open?
- ✓ • Why is the 2019 building inspection report, which has been identified as containing invalid and outdated information, being used as a primary justification for the school's closure?
This report gives a false representation of renovation expenditures which are not currently needed, lessening the financial burden of the board of education.
- ✓ • Have you completed a walk-thru of the facility to inspect it yourself and remove the discrepancies in the impact statement?
If not you walked through our secure entry to enter this school, you parked in our parking lot which doesn't need milled and repaved, our greenhouse is still currently in use and producing, the pre-k classroom is still available along with the playground and many more things that I could point out
- What additional research or data collection was conducted to support the closure proposal, and why wasn't a more comprehensive analysis not undertaken before making this decision since this process has only been happening since the end of August 2025?
- What is the rationale for limiting the timeline from the proposal's release to the final decision to only four months, and how does this expedited schedule ensure adequate community input and review?

- How is only a 4-month timeframe ethical practice in making a decision that will cause a lifetime of changes for the communities involved?
- If the Rock Cave Elementary School building is sold as requested by the superintendent, how will the proceeds be utilized, and what mechanisms will be in place to ensure these funds directly benefit the local community?
- Have any local studies or polls been conducted on the impact of a school closure for rural students, families, and communities?
- Has the state board of education or superintendent discussed the impact of trauma or mental health on uprooted students and families with licensed professionals that specialize in this area?

If not will the board of education accept the responsibility of their actions and provide adequate support to children and families affected by this closure at their own expense and not just the support of a school counselor but by actual licensed professionals?

- Has the board witnessed firsthand the traffic issues at French Creek Elementary School?

Traffic flows onto rt20 during drop off and especially at pick-up and during special events people park in private lots, along rt 20, and have shuttled each other from the nearest store.

- How is this considered safe for children and families? How is this going to be prevented if a merger happens when you are going to add at least an additional 80 vehicles to the traffic problem?
- Who is going to be held liable when a child or family member gets injured due to the blatant disregard for their safety from this proposal?
- With the new proposed bus routes all requiring a waiver to have children on them over the recommended time and also exceeding the waiver times (especially in poor weather conditions), how is this even legal or ethical?
- Have any studies been completed to gauge the impact of school closures on local businesses?
- When a school closes it lowers property values in that area which also lowers the amount of taxes collected which in turn lowers the portion that goes to public education. Have you looked at the amount of taxes lost due to this to see how much that will be per year?
- The impact statement estimates a cost savings of a little over \$800,000.00 per year in closing RCES but that also includes the cost of staff salaries. If these staff move to different schools, which is likely due to the teacher shortage, then the board of education will still be paying the staff salaries portion just in a different location. So,

then the financial savings would only be a little over \$100,000.00. How is it ethical and rational to make such a rash decision to close the school for that small amount of savings while sitting on millions of dollars in unrestricted funds?

- Why are our children having to pay the price for the mistakes of adults that still haven't been held accountable for their actions?

Please take into consideration all of the facts before you make decisions that will impact on our children, community, businesses, and way of life. Your decisions are what we will be stuck to live with for generations to come.

Tim Troxell

Parent

Raven Contracting LLC, Owner

Concerned citizen and taxpayer

RavenContractingllc19@gmail.com

Good evening, I will be reading a summary of the article 'The Harm of School Closures Can Last a Lifetime, New Research Shows' written by Libby Stanford from June 18, 2024, found on the website, EducationWeek. The full article will be submitted to the board.

Students who attend a school that closes during their K-12 career have lower test scores along with worse attendance and behavior in the short term. In the long term, they're less likely than their peers to complete college and have a job, and their earnings tend to be lower.

Each year, hundreds of schools across the country close because of low enrollment, budget shortfalls, and poor performance. Decades of research have shown that those closures have a short-term, negative impact on students' academic achievement, with researchers documenting drops in test scores, attendance, and high school graduation rates that usually recover after three years.

But a new working paper shows that the impact of school closures often extends well past graduation, said Jeonghyeok Kim, a Ph.D. candidate in economics at the University of Houston and the researcher behind the study.

"Those students in secondary education, middle and high school students, they show a persistent drop in their test scores," Kim said. "From those effects, I also found long-term negative effects on their higher education attainment and even their wages."

Districts across the country are weighing school closures as they face tighter budgets with the coming end of COVID-era relief funds and declining enrollments. Some schools through the years have also closed due to poor performance. Research has shown closures disproportionately affect students of color and students from low-income families, which recently prompted two civil rights groups to request guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's office for civil rights outlining when closures violate federal civil rights law.

Kim centered his research around a dataset of 470 Texas schools that closed from 1998 to 2015.

By age 26, the students who experienced school closures were 4.8 percent less likely to have attended college, 4.7 percent less likely to have completed college, and 1.3 percent less likely to be employed than their peers in schools with similar demographics and in similarly sized cities who did not experience a school closure. Annual earnings for those students from ages 25 to 27 were also 3.4 percent lower than their peers'.

In his research, Kim also documented immediate disruptions to learning among students whose schools closed.

Kim found a statistically significant drop in math and reading scores among students who went through a school closure. They were also absent on 1.8 percent more school days in the three years following the closure than the three years before. In addition, Kim found an increase in disciplinary action, including expulsions, out-of-school suspensions, and in-school suspensions, for bad behavior following school closures. The number of days students were disciplined for bad behavior in the three years following a school closure increased by 15 percent compared to the three years before school closures.

The declines in educational and post-graduation success were more pronounced among Hispanic students, economically disadvantaged students, and students who were in middle or high school when the school closed rather than in elementary school, Kim said.

“The more vulnerable students are more negatively affected, so maybe we can put more attention to those students in the process of school closure,” Kim said. “Then maybe we can alleviate the negative effect a bit.”

Kim found that schools close primarily because of drops in enrollment, but poor performance is a factor as well.

But other factors have historically contributed to school closures as well. For example, people living in more disadvantaged neighborhoods may have less political power to advocate for keeping a school open, or budget decisions may force otherwise high-performing schools to close because of dilapidated buildings, researchers told Education Week.

The effect of school closures is felt unevenly.

Economically disadvantaged students were absent 7.3 percent more often following a closure. They also had the highest increase of any group for the number of days of disciplinary action- 38 percent.

The results ultimately show that school closures disproportionately impact students of color and students from low-income families.

“There is a long-term negative effect,” Kim said. “It is worsening inequality in some sense.”

SCHOOL & DISTRICT MANAGEMENT

The Harm of School Closures Can Last a Lifetime, New Research Shows



By [Libby Stanford](#) — June 18, 2024 ⌚ 5 min read



Desks and chairs are stacked in an empty classroom after the permanent closure of Queen of the Rosary Catholic Academy in Brooklyn borough of New York on Aug. 6, 2020. A new study examines the long-term effects on students whose schools close. — Jessie Wardarski/AP

Students who attend a school that closes during their K-12 career have lower test scores along with worse attendance and behavior in the short term. In the long term, they're less likely than their peers to complete college and have a job, and their earnings tend to be lower.

Each year, hundreds of schools across the country close because of low enrollment, budget shortfalls, and poor performance. Decades of research have shown that those closures have a

short-term, negative impact on students' academic achievement, with researchers documenting drops in test scores, attendance, and high school graduation rates that usually recover after three years.

But [a new working paper](#) shows that the impact of school closures often extends well past graduation, said Jeonghyeok Kim, a Ph.D. candidate in economics at the University of Houston and the researcher behind the study.

“Those students in secondary education, middle and high school students, they show a persistent drop in their test scores,” Kim said. “From those effects, I also found long-term negative effects on their higher education attainment and even their wages.”

Districts across the country are weighing school closures as they face tighter budgets with the coming end of COVID-era relief funds and declining enrollments. Some schools through the years have also closed due to poor performance. Research has shown closures disproportionately affect students of color and students from low-income families, which recently prompted [two civil rights groups to request guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's office for civil rights](#) outlining when closures violate federal civil rights law.

Kim centered his research around a dataset of 470 Texas schools that closed from 1998 to 2015.

By age 26, the students who experienced school closures were 4.8 percent less likely to have attended college, 4.7 percent less likely to have completed college, and 1.3 percent less likely to be employed than their peers in schools with similar demographics and in similarly sized cities who did not experience a school closure. Annual earnings for those students from ages 25 to 27 were also 3.4 percent lower than their peers'.

In his research, Kim also documented immediate disruptions to learning among students whose schools closed.

Kim found a statistically significant drop in math and reading scores among students who went through a school closure. They were also absent on 1.8 percent more school days in the three years following the closure than the three years before. In addition, Kim found an increase in disciplinary action, including expulsions, out-of-school suspensions, and in-school suspensions, for bad behavior following school closures. The number of days students were disciplined for

bad behavior in the three years following a school closure increased by 15 percent compared to the three years before school closures.

The declines in educational and post-graduation success were more pronounced among Hispanic students, economically disadvantaged students, and students who were in middle or high school when the school closed rather than in elementary school, Kim said.

“The more vulnerable students are more negatively affected, so maybe we can put more attention to those students in the process of school closure,” Kim said. “Then maybe we can alleviate the negative effect a bit.”

Schools close for a variety of reasons

Kim found that schools close primarily because of drops in enrollment, but poor performance is a factor as well.

Kim was able to determine the specific reason for closure in 267 of the 470 closure cases included in the study. Of those 267, 31 percent closed because of an enrollment change; 22 percent closed because of district changes, such as rezoning to accommodate shifting populations and the construction of new schools; 16 percent closed because of financial constraints; 13 percent closed because of old buildings; and 9 percent closed because of school reform, in which schools might not have been physically closed but converted into another type of school such as a charter or magnet school.

Only 3 percent of the schools in the study closed because of low performance. Another 3 percent closed because of a district merger, and 3 percent were marked as closed because of a coding change in the National Center for Education Statistics, the source of the data set.

A 2022 [study from the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice](#) found that schools, including public and charter schools, are less likely to close if they increase enrollment, post high scores or rankings, or improve students' academic growth. Federal policies that prioritize high standardized test scores and include the potential for state intervention and closure for poor performance, such as the Bush-era No Child Left Behind Act and the Obama-era School Improvement Grant program, have encouraged districts to improve test scores, rankings, and enrollment to avoid closure.

But other factors have historically contributed to school closures as well. For example, people living in more disadvantaged neighborhoods may have less political power to advocate for keeping a school open, or budget decisions may force otherwise high-performing schools to close because of dilapidated buildings, researchers told [Education Week](#).

Studies have shown that schools with high Black and Hispanic populations are disproportionately likely to close. In a study of federal enrollment data from 2000 to 2018, researchers at the Stanford Graduate School of Education found that majority-Black schools were three times more likely to close than schools with smaller enrollments of Black students.

The effect of school closures is felt unevenly

Kim's study confirmed that students of color are more likely to experience school closures and that the closures have a greater effect on their educational attainment.

Hispanic students accounted for 47 percent of students experiencing school closures in Kim's study, while they made up 43 percent of the total Texas student population. Students who qualify for free-and-reduced price lunch made up 63 percent of students experiencing closures while they only accounted for 49 percent of Texas students.

Attendance among Hispanic students also took a bigger hit than it did among other student populations: Hispanic students were absent 6.4 percent more days following a school closure, compared with the 1.8 percent increase for all students. Black students experienced a 33 percent jump in the number of days on which they received disciplinary action following a closure, compared with the 15 percent increase among all students.

Economically disadvantaged students were absent 7.3 percent more often following a closure. They also had the highest increase of any group for the number of days of disciplinary action—38 percent.

The results ultimately show that school closures disproportionately impact students of color and students from low-income families.

“There is a long-term negative effect,” Kim said. “It is worsening inequality in some sense.”



Libby Stanford

Reporter, Education Week

Libby Stanford was a reporter for Education Week.

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Hello, my name is Lauren Celender, I am currently the third-grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary school. I am here today to express my concern with the school closure/merger of Rock Cave and French Creek. I have been teaching for 11 years, with the last 4 being in the Upshur District. After two years at another school, I decided to take a chance and move to the third-grade position here at Rock Cave, it was my own choice to come to this school. When I moved into this position, I was welcomed with nothing but open arms from the staff members, including Mrs. Shanah Carpenter, Mrs. Pam Hissam and Mrs. Sara Collins. My first year being at Rock Cave we were already identified as a CSI school, for low test scores. Last school year because of the amazing test scores of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students, we were released into our sustainability year, for this school year. This was because, despite all the challenges that we faced, all our amazing teachers still persevered. In my two years of being at Rock Cave, we as a whole, have made it through coming off of CSI, having little to no subs (we have been told that our absences are not able to be seen in the system), having positions not filled (we have had no sub called out for our gym position until recently), having turn over to a new principal (Ms. Lunceford), who is an absolute amazing leader, not having working technology, etc.

Our school thrives in all different areas. Despite us not having a counselor or a CIS in our schools to help with emotional and mental needs or attendance incentives, our school has had top attendance in the county. That is due to the dedicated staff making our school feel like a home and a

place our students want to be. Without having a counselor or CIS that is more responsibility, then the already overwhelming responsibility, to be put onto the staff's shoulders and we have preserved through those challenges as well. We have had many times where sub jobs are not picked up and positions are left vacant, and our staff members step up to help and make our students' day more structured and have more of a routine. We did not have a gym teacher or sub for almost 2 months. Along with our music and counselor position, but we still persevere and provide for our students.

Our students have worked hard academically, in attendance, and extra curriculums. Our school participated in the literature fair, and we had a student place at the regional fair, because our students and staff make these chances possible for our students. Our students have worked hard in the greenhouse and enjoy planting and taking care of flowers and vegetables, they also get to eat what is grown in the greenhouse. Our students will be participating in the science and social studies fair as well.

I know this decision with school closures is all about money, and I am understanding of that. But the bigger picture to look at is the fact that our building is in good shape. The building that has been in question and in bad shape is the middle school (and no I do not feel the solution is to place 11-year-olds in a HS setting). As a community we all know that is where the problem lies. At Rock Cave, our students are safe when loading and unloading busses, when parents are here for gatherings, we have no issues with

parking on the road or other places to accommodate our students, staff, or parents. Financially, closing our school is not going to save money. Our staff would be transferred to new positions, so that money would not be saved. A lot of our staff is shared with a different location, therefore that money would not be saved. Our building could sit empty for years, it is not guaranteed this school would sell to anyone.

There are a lot of properties within the county that are owned by the district, what are we using those properties for? Why can't those properties be sold, instead of closing us? Director's salaries and salaries for various positions at the board office are totaled to be: over 900k dollars (see attached document), why are we paying out that much money to directors and people who work at the board office? Why can't we make cuts there? As a teacher, when I have needed help or support for various reasons and issues, very few directors seem to be available or able to return a phone call/email. I have worked in another county where the board office positions are cut and directors take on multiple titles, so teacher positions are left alone. This is true for other counties as well. One teacher salary is maybe half of one director's salary, so why aren't we focused on the cost that goes to the director salaries?

Last school year over 200k dollars were spent on Jimmy Casa's company, for motivational speakers, and no one questioned that money (see attached document), that could have gone to substitutes, educational materials, or could have been saved for future issues. Year after year new "programs" "platforms" or "ways to put grades in" are

adopted and then the very next year we are forced to do something new, with little to no training. We are told we are not allowed to use classdojo, remind, or seesaw yet these are ways to communicate and are free platforms. Last year we used WVEIS for grades (this is also a free way to display grades and share information), this year we must use Canvas, but were provided no training. It was left up to us to figure out how to enter grades, until after the first nine weeks was complete and then an online training was provided.

I feel as a staff member/community member the finances of this county need to be deeply dived into (I would also like to know where the “register” is located that is stated on the board agendas, to look at finances), the board office employees' salaries/positions need to be cut before teacher positions and school closures, and the middle school building needs to be the focused on. Our school board may not have a vote in any school closures, but our community deserves that right. The state is not affected by the closures, the county is.

Our student's best interest should drive any decisions made. Research has shown closing smaller schools does not improve academic success, if that is what drives this county, why are we trying to close schools? Research also shows that state takeover does not improve academic success (look at the schools who are CSI/ Additional Targeted schools). I feel a different plan to cut in different areas is going to be more beneficial, than closing Rock Cave Elementary school, especially when our school has been thriving. Last year my third-grade students, except for one

student, outperformed the county and state in math and all my students except 4 outperformed the county and state in reading. And before anyone states we have smaller class sizes so of course our scores are better, that in fact is not true. When one student does not do well, it affects our numbers more. I also want to state that our enrollment would not be so low if our students were redistricted back to their home schools. If this county is concerned with having qualified teachers, why do you think that teachers would stay when their school is closed, and they are forced into another position that they do not want to be in? Our students deserve positive recognition and should not be forced to lose their school.

Respectfully,
Lauren Celender

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Buckhannon Upshur High School
Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND/OR AGENDA ADJUSTMENT

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the agenda as presented.

Recommendation: _____ *2nd:* _____ *Yeas* ___ *Nays* ___

VI. INFORMATION

DELEGATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES

VII. MINUTES – POLICIES – CONTRACTS – AGREEMENTS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting July 23, 2024, and the Special Meeting August 6, 2024.

Recommendation: _____ *2nd:* _____ *Yeas* ___ *Nays* ___

AGREEMENTS –

Pre-K Meal Contracts – Mountain Cap of West Virginia, Upshur Human Resources, and Child Development Center of Central West Virginia

Marshall University Counseling - For Completion of Practicum

MOUs –

WVEIS Technical Support Services – for various WVEIS functions
Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program

BIDS - HVAC SERVICES/PARTS

Leggett Refrigeration for the 2024/2025 School Year

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

BOARD GOALS -

Goal 1:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools by prioritizing academic achievement including areas such as, but not limited to, benchmark assessments, instructional leadership, multi-tiered systems of support and the Science of Reading.

Goal 2:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools in improving Special Education services to all students which promote positive academic outcomes and compliance with federal and state code and policy.

Goal 3:

Identify and participate in training opportunities provided by the West Virginia School Board Association which further enhance understanding of county board members' roles and responsibilities.

Goal 4:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools in improving upon deficiencies within the areas of operations including:

- Items identified within reports from the West Virginia Department of Education.
- Additional areas identified through internal control processes since intervention and those discovered moving forward.

BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS -

Upshur County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.
Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

4-H Foundation Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.
Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

Extension Services Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

PURCHASE ORDERS –

Matheny Motor Truck Company – Purchase of School Buses, \$457,557.00
K12 Management, Inc. – Purchase of Upshur County Virtual School, \$900,000.00
McGraw Hill, LLC – Purchase of Textbooks for New Math Curriculum, \$99,253.00
OperationShero, Inc. – Purchase of Maintenance Inventory System, \$11,074.72
Signglasses, LLC – Purchase of Sign support, \$10,000.00
Stanton Lawn Service – Purchase of Mowing Services, \$18,990.00
Kristen Thompson – Purchase of Psychological Evaluation/Reports Services, \$15,000.00
Alpha Technologies, Inc. – Purchase of Voice Mail System for Upshur County Schools, \$13,642.24
Napa Auto & Truck Parts – Purchase of Transportation Parts, \$25,000.00
Benefit Assistance Company, LLC – Purchase of Dental/Vision Insurance for Upshur County Employees, \$23,000.00
Encova Insurance, - Purchase of Worker's Compensation Policy Renewal, \$115,132.00
Casaslwp, LLC – Purchase of Rock Cave Professional Leadership Coaching, \$61,100.00
Casaslwp, LLC – Purchase of Professional Leadership Coaching for all schools, except Rock Cave, and all Directors at the Central Office, \$164,900.00
CDW, LLC – Purchase of Google Workspace for Education Plus (students), \$10,500.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of I-Ready Curriculum, New Math Adoption, \$111,664.20
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Toolbox to support Teacher Resources for the Implementation of I-Ready Diagnostics, \$19,805.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Benchmark Diagnostics, \$20,877.04
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Professional Learning, \$52,800.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Support for Personalized Learning Paths, \$91,637.22
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Math and Reading Assessments for Students, \$17,914.00
Imagine Learning, LLC – Purchase of Odysseyware for Credit Recovery, \$34,040.00
Hand2Mind, Inc. – Purchase of Math Manipulatives to supplement newly adopted Math Curriculum for Grades K – 8, \$29,485.66

REQUEST TO USE FACILITIES -

WV Lady Pioneers Softball – BUMS
Buckhannon-Upshur Archery and Air Rifle Teams – BUMS

IX. FINANCIAL -

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED CHECKS – July, 2024

X. STUDENT MATTERS/PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

STUDENT MATTERS –

Out of County Requests -

Stephanie Ibarra requests that her daughter in 6th grade currently attending Randolph County Schools attend BUMS for the 2024/2025 school year.

PERSONNEL -

(See attached)

XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

September 10, 2024	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
October 8, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Rock Cave Elementary
November 12, 2024	6:00 p.m.	BUHS

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: _____ 2nd: _____ to adjourn the meeting, all members concurring therein, the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

UPSHUR COUNTY, to wit:

In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12 as amended, the Upshur County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the 2026 fiscal year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources:		
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	\$	<u>6,926,174</u>
Other local sources		<u>670,000</u>
State Sources:		
State aid to schools		<u>20,927,201</u>
Other unrestricted		<u>9,774,016</u>
Federal sources:		
Unrestricted		<u>350,000</u>
Miscellaneous sources		<u>15,000</u>
Total estimated revenues		<u>38,662,391</u>
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources		<u>27,303</u>
Estimated beginning balance		<u>2,100,000</u>
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$	<u><u>40,789,694</u></u>

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	\$	<u>24,050,378</u>
Supporting services:		
Students		<u>2,588,220</u>
Instructional staff		<u>609,453</u>
Central administration		<u>901,706</u>
School administration		<u>2,425,539</u>
Central services		<u>924,183</u>
Operation and maintenance of facilities		<u>3,763,620</u>
Student transportation		<u>3,985,957</u>
Food services		<u>181,462</u>
Community services		<u>119,300</u>
Capital outlay		<u>250,000</u>
Debt service:		
Principal retirement		<u>494,999</u>
Interest and fiscal charges		<u>-</u>
Total estimated expenditures		<u>40,294,817</u>
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses		<u>367,877</u>
Estimated budgetary reserves		<u>127,000</u>
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	\$	<u><u>40,789,694</u></u>

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources	\$	12,098
State Sources:		
State aid to schools		-
Other		1,195,014
Federal sources		5,521,541
Miscellaneous sources		-
Total estimated revenues		<u>6,728,652</u>
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources		<u>367,877</u>
Estimated beginning balance		<u>-</u>
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$	<u><u>7,096,529</u></u>

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	\$	2,425,507
Supporting services:		
Students		544,540
Instructional staff		1,034,892
Central administration		-
School administration		-
Central Services		5,734
Operation and maintenance of facilities		77,763
Student transportation		-
Food services		2,980,791
Community services		-
Capital outlay		-
Debt service:		
Principal retirement		-
Interest and fiscal charges		-
Total estimated expenditures		<u>7,069,226</u>
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses		<u>27,303</u>
Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	\$	<u><u>7,096,529</u></u>

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

Upshur County, to wit:

I, Christine Miller, Secretary of the Upshur County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget being considered for adoption by the board of education on the 27th day of May, 2025.

Christine Miller
Secretary of the Board of Education

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the Upshur County Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the FY 25-26 budget at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at B-U High School, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201. Given under my hand this 25th day of April, 2025. Jan Craig, President Upshur County Board of Education Christine Miller, Secretary

Jan Craig
President of the Board of Education

Christine Miller
Secretary of the Board of Education

Introduction

School facilities are an integral and expensive component of West Virginia's educational system. As educational programs evolve to respond to students' needs and communities' expectations, and as current facilities age and become obsolete, existing facilities must be maintained and monitored. At the same time, county school officials must envision and plan for future needs. The result of such a system of continuous assessment and forecasting will ensure that facilities are funded and in place necessary to accommodate a thorough and efficient system of education.

The WVBE and WVDE support the delivery of a thorough and efficient education for children by ensuring that every child in the state has access to educational facilities that are safe, healthy, and well suited to meet rigorous programmatic demands. The WVDE has the responsibility to provide guidance to county school systems in their on-going efforts to design and operate such facilities.

The WVBE/WVDE's role is to ensure that every child in the state attends an educational facility that is safe, healthy, and educationally sound. The WVDE supports the delivery of a thorough and efficient education to which all students are entitled.

Therefore, all counties must have equitable access to all facility resources. The following guiding principles serve as a foundation for an effective and fair school facility program.

- Educational needs of students come first.
- Students will be educated where they live whenever possible.
- All students will have access to equitable school facilities and educational opportunities.
- All students will have access to schools that are safe and healthy with environments that will allow for the evolution of programming and resources in order to keep pace with future educational standards and needs.
- The WVDE, School Building Authority (SBA), and county boards of education shall recognize that small and large school systems have unique characteristics and needs that may require a greater or different investment of resources.
- School facility planning must include, to the greatest extent possible, local community stakeholders who know and understand the needs of their students in both large and small communities.
- School facility programs shall recognize that schools can serve multiple purposes in a community and, to that end, consider efficient use of public resources wherever possible and efficient.
- School facility programs shall make the best possible use of resources and funds while meeting educational needs and goals.
- School facility plans will be accountable to the taxpayers and the students.

Policy 6200 and the Handbook on Planning School Facilities (Handbook) are designed to assist local county school systems with developing facilities to address current facility needs and new innovative schools for both small and large county school systems. However, the Handbook is not intended to be so prescriptive that it pre-empts the judgement of curriculum and design professionals. Decisions regarding curriculum implementation, spatial arrangement, classroom design, building design, building products, materials or required building systems will remain the responsibility of the design and education professionals.

206.01 Walks should be direct, convenient, and natural to encourage people to stay on them. They should connect the building with streets or highways, the bus loading zone, parking areas, and auxiliary school facilities. Limiting points of access is desirable for control of traffic. Main walks, such as loading areas, and main entrances should be constructed with the initial building program. Additional walks should be constructed after traffic patterns have been established.

206.02 Walks must be compliant with ADA standards.

206.03 Walks should be far enough from the building to permit ample space for shrubbery, must be crowned or sloped high enough for proper drainage, and must be illuminated per the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES) standards for night use. Walks should be of a continuing common surface where practical and should not be interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level. Walks, driveways, or parking lots should blend to a common level.

206.04 Safety is a primary consideration in locating vehicular circulation on the school site. Secondary considerations are economy, convenience, and directness. Driveways should be:

A. One way with clear views. Two lanes should be provided to main loading entrance and parking areas.

B. Hard surfaced, properly drained, and illuminated per IES standards for night use.

C. Planned to provide access and control traffic to loading areas and building service entrances. Wherever practical, driveways for buses should be separate.

D. Located so as not to connect to a heavily traveled highway if a lightly traveled street is accessible. Points of access to the site should be limited.

E. Of adequate space to ensure that carbon monoxide does not accumulate in idling vehicles or school buses.

F. Every educational facility not readily accessible from public roads shall be provided with suitable gates, access roads, and fire lanes so that all buildings are accessible to fire apparatus. Fire lanes shall be at least 20 feet in width, with the road edge closest to the building at least 10 feet from the buildings. Any dead-end road shall be provided with a turn-around at the closed end at least 90 feet in diameter.

G. Location shall be coordinated with the facility mechanical systems to prevent exhaust fumes from entering the facility through air intakes.

206.05 Parking space must be adequate to accommodate school visitors, employees, students who must drive, school buses, and school activities. Parking space must be provided for individuals with disabilities, and the site and building must be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Parking spaces can be provided at the rate of about 125 cars per acre. The following parking configuration is suggested:

A. For staff: 1 parking space per staff member including itinerants.

B. For students: Approximately 1/3 or more of the pupil population at the high school level and space provided as necessary.

C. For visitors: an additional 10 to 20% of total staff parking

D. A percentage of spaces must be labeled for individuals with disabilities according to ADA requirements.

206.06 Consideration should must be given to the following parking arrangements:

A. Car parking should be arranged to minimize backing. Parking areas must be hard surfaced, well drained, and illuminated per IES standards for night use. Traffic control signs must be installed.

B. Car parking should not be permitted on streets with street traffic, on pedestrian lanes, or on

driveways or loading areas. Parking areas must be away from playgrounds but near spectator areas when practical.

206.07 A designated bus loading and unloading zone is required and shall be provided to accommodate all buses anticipated to be present at the school at one time. This shall be based on:

A. A transportation survey covering bus schedules, partial unloading or transfer of students, provision for students with exceptionalities, and parking.

B. The number of students transported, based on the average number of students per bus or rated capacity of the bus.

C. Future growth or possible changes in the transportation pattern.

206.08 The bus parking area must be designed in connection with the bus loading zone, independent of driveways, so that backing the vehicle is unnecessary. It must be permanently surfaced and well drained, with designated spaces and traffic control signs.

206.09 Bicycle racks near the building are desirable for some schools. A survey to determine the need should be used to indicate the rack space necessary.

207 FIRE PROTECTION

207.01 As per the West Virginia State Fire Code, all school facilities shall have fire hydrants at specified locations to achieve the best fire insurance assessment. The type of hydrant required must be determined in consultation with the local fire department.

208 SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS

208.01 The principles of safe design and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) should be considered when new schools are designed and existing schools experience major renovations.

208.02 All school buildings and grounds shall be kept clean and free from debris and safety hazards.

209 BEAUTIFICATION

209.01 The school site should lend itself readily to landscaping and provide a pleasant natural environment. It should permit the location of the building an adequate distance from the street line, both for aesthetic setting and for the safety of children.

209.02 The site plan presented by the architect should encompass the total site and show future developments. The same general procedures used for planning the building should be used for outdoor facilities. The process of educational planning, writing educational specifications, and architectural designing are applicable to sites as to as well as buildings.

209.03 Well planned site plantings for individual schools should be prepared with the assistance of qualified personnel, such as landscape architects and nurserymen. Personnel at West Virginia University and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service are available to assist in planning for site beautification.

209.04 The school site plan shall not be considered adequate without an accompanying

Chapter 10
FACILITY SAFETY

1000 OVERALL FACILITY SAFETY

All school facilities are designed, constructed, furnished, and maintained in a manner that enhances a healthy learning environment and necessary safeguards for the life safety, security, and health of persons who enter and use the facility.

The safety of each facility is determined upon compliance with the minimum requirements of the State Fire Code, and all other applicable federal, state and local requirements.

1001 STRUCTURAL SAFETY

All school facilities are to be designed, constructed, furnished, and maintained with methods, materials, and equipment that provide adequate structural safety, fire resistance and protection, and convenience in traffic circulation. All school facilities shall be in compliance with the state building code and all applicable federal, state and local regulatory agencies.

1001.01 The structural design elements shall provide the following:

- A. The ability of the building to resist lateral forces such as are imposed by extreme winds and earthquakes
- B. The ability of the building to resist distortion and rapid deterioration from excessive or uneven foundation settling or the overstress of structural members and inadequate tying
- C. The ability of the building to carry the maximum live loads imposed on it by school and community use

1002 TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION AND AREA LIMITATIONS

1002.01 Buildings that require approved automatic sprinkler systems must be installed as per NFPA 13 Sprinkler Code and West Virginia Fire Code.

1002.02 Places of Assembly

In educational facilities places of assembly shall include, but are not limited to, all buildings or portions of buildings used for gathering together 50 or more persons for such purposes as deliberation, worship, entertainment, dining, amusement, or awaiting transportation. Examples: gymnasiums, auditoriums, libraries, and cafeterias.

Classifications of places of assembly are explained as follows: Each place of assembly shall be classified, according to its capacity:

Class A, capacity of 1000 persons or more; Class B, capacity of 300 to 1000 persons; Class C, capacity of 50 to 300 persons. Refer to the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code to pick the appropriate type of building construction.

1003 FIRE PROTECTION

1003.01 Fire Safety

In educational facilities, fire safety includes, but is not limited to, fire resistive construction,

fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, exits, enclosure of vertical openings, and evacuation plans. Each county shall ensure that fire evacuation plans are posted in all facilities.

1003.02 Refer to appropriate sections of West Virginia Fire Code and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.

1003.03 Heating Plant and Kitchens

A. The mechanical room shall be isolated from pupil-occupied areas by location and/or treatment (fire resistive construction).

B. Central heat plant installations shall be in accordance with appropriate state and local codes.

C. Kitchens must have ventilation and protection in accordance with the State Fire Code; NFPA 96, Vapor Removal Cooking Equipment and ASHRAE.

1003.04 Electric Services

All wiring, connections, and electrical installations shall be in accordance with the WV Fire Code and National Electrical Code.

1003.05 Fire Alarm System

1003.051 General Requirements

A. All fire alarm systems, including all components, shall be electrically supervised. Components shall include pull stations, automatic detection, sounding devices, flow switches, tamper switches, and main panel.

B. All fire alarm systems and wiring shall be in accordance with the National Electrical Code and the WV Fire Code.

1003.052 Requirements for Educational Occupancy

A fire alarm system is required in every educational occupancy area (as defined in the WV State Fire Code), and such a system must meet the requirements and standards as provided herein. Educational occupancies area as defined in the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. Exception: One or two room buildings of less than 2500 square feet gross floor area with two direct exits to the outside from each classroom.

1003.06 Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher shall be installed in accordance with the State Fire Code; NFPA 10, Portable Extinguishers.

1003.07 Occupant load Calculations

A. The occupant load of educational facilities, or any individual stories or sections thereof, shall be as determined by the State Fire Code; NFPA 101, Life Safety Code.

B. Occupant load requirements of lecture rooms, gymnasiums, or cafeterias used for assembly purposes shall also be determined by the State Fire Code; NFPA 101, Life Safety Code.

1003.08 Emergency Lighting

Every educational facility shall have emergency lighting as per NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, State Fire Code, and National Electrical Code.

1003.09 Extinguishment Requirement

A. Every portion of each educational building below the floor of exit discharge shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with the State Fire Code; NFPA 101, Life Safety Code.

B. Buildings that require approved automatic sprinkler systems must be installed as per NFPA 13 Sprinkler Code and West Virginia Fire Code.

1003.10 Vertical Openings

All vertical openings in educational buildings shall be enclosed and protected by fire resistive construction, as required by the State Fire Code.

1003.11 Classrooms

Every room or space used for classroom or other educational purposes that do not have a sprinkler system shall have at least one outside window used for emergency rescue or ventilation as per NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and WV Fire Code.

1004 NOTIFYING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Whenever a fire occurs in any building or on any premises of any kind, the owner, manager, occupant, or any person in control of such building or premises, upon discovery of a fire, or evidence of there having been a fire, even though it has apparently been extinguished, immediately shall cause notice of the existence of such fire, circumstances of same, and the location thereof to be given to the Fire Department, West Virginia State Fire Marshal, and the West Virginia Department of Education Office of School Facilities. This requirement shall not be construed to forbid the owner, manager, or other person in control of the aforementioned building or premises from using all diligence necessary to extinguish such fire prior to the arrival of the Fire Department.

No person shall make, issue, post, or maintain any regulation or order, written or verbal, which would require any person to take any unnecessary delaying action prior to reporting a fire to the Fire Department.

1005 CIRCULATION, SAFETY, AND CONVENIENCE

1005.01 Corridors

A. Each corridor shall be a minimum of 6 feet wide in the clear. Room and locker doors swinging into corridor shall not, at any point of the swing, reduce the minimum clear passage.

B. A means of egress shall exist at each end of a corridor, and in no case shall any corridor extend more than 20 feet beyond an exit.

C. Doors separating corridors from stair enclosures shall be B Label fire rated doors and swing in the direction of exiting.

1005.02 Stairways

A. All stairways shall conform to the requirements of the State Fire Code; NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. Life Safety Code provides details for construction and dimensions.

B. Closets, storage areas, or other rooms or spaces shall not open into the stairway enclosure; nor shall such space be permitted under or over stairways.

C. Buildings of more than one story have a minimum of two stairways, located remote from each other, which provides a continuous exit to the outside. Additional stairways may be necessary, dependent upon occupant load and square footage of the floor(s).

1005.03 Exits

A. All buildings, including one-room buildings, or classrooms over 1000 square feet shall have a minimum of two exits, remote from each other.

B. All exits shall comply with the State Fire Code, NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, which provides information for determining number, kinds, arrangement, and capacity of required exits.

1005.04 Signs

A. All auditoriums, assembly areas, gymnasiums, stairways, corridors, and exits should have illuminated signs marked "EXIT" in plain, legible letters (with direction arrow, if necessary) as per the appropriate codes.

B. Low hanging signs, ceiling lights and similar objects, signs and fixtures that protrude into regular corridors or traffic ways shall be avoided. A minimum height of 7 feet 6 inches from the floor is required.

1006 OTHER CIRCULATION AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS WHICH NEED SPECIAL ATTENTION

1006.01 The plan of the drive and bus-loading platform shall meet the Highway Safety Program Guideline 17 and should be such that all buses can line up in tandem, permitting children to enter the bus from the right (that is, without crossing in front or to the rear of buses). No backing up of buses will be permitted.

1006.02 Access to the school grounds should be such that pupils coming to the site do not need to walk through any part of the building to get to the playground.

1006.03 Pupil circulation to and from toilet units is simplified when these units and hand washing facilities are located as follows.

- A. On normal traffic routes from instructional spaces to outdoor recreation areas
- B. Adjoining playgrounds so that the building proper need not be entered by playground users
- C. Near cafeteria or lunchroom

1007 DEMOLITION, RENOVATION AND ALTERATION

Before embarking on a renovation project, there are preliminary steps, which must be taken. The existing facility must be examined carefully. Information about the educational program, the community, enrollment, and so forth must be assembled and analyzed. Educational goals must be clearly established and alternative solutions to the facilities problem (including renovation, renovation plus additions, demolition and replacement, or new site acquisition and new construction) must be developed and compared.

1007.01 An assessment of the existing facility should include an examination of at least the following areas:

- A. Program support
- B. Structural soundness
- C. Adaptability of the building
- D. Adequacy of space
- E. Aesthetics
- F. Operational and maintenance efficiency
- G. Condition of mechanical systems

H. Compliance with safety codes

I. Location

J. Site characteristics

K. Cost of project

L. Identify all hazardous materials (e.g. lead, asbestos, PCB, etc.) and plan for their management and remediation.

M. Condition of the electrical system

N. Temporary Exiting Strategy

1008 EMERGENCY SHELTERS

1008.01 Professional advice and assistance in the design of shelter areas for school buildings is available at no cost to architects and school boards. This service is obtained through the state Department of Emergency Services.

1008.02 *Each county shall ensure all facilities have a plan for locating students and staff for shelter-in-place including a plan for shutting down the HVAC system including all exhaust systems.*

1009 MODULAR OR DETACHED CLASSROOM STRUCTURES

1009.01 These installations shall be made with prior approval of the West Virginia Board of Education and only to relieve overcrowding or to provide interim housing while an approved school construction project is being planned and/or completed. Approval for continued use beyond three years must be obtained from the WVBE. Local school districts must include in their CEFP a method and time frame for replacing these buildings with permanent structures. These buildings shall comply with all state regulatory requirements, including installation of potable water and restroom facilities for early childhood (K-5), applicable building, fire and public health codes, and ADA compliance.

1010 SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS OF BUILDINGS

1010.01 All schools must be maintained in a safe condition. Scheduled inspections by properly trained and/or licensed staff will ensure that facilities are kept in a state as near to the original condition as possible at all times. Facilities shall also be kept clean and sanitary at all times by scheduled cleaning of all sections of the buildings. This shall be ensured by regular inspections for compliance with scheduled cleaning and maintenance tasks.

1010.02 Materials which, under normal use conditions, may release formaldehyde in excess of .1 parts per million or asbestos in accordance with 40 CFR Part 763 Asbestos Containing Materials in Schools (AHERA) which contribute to levels of indoor air pollutants considered potentially harmful to human health, shall not be permitted in building design. This includes that an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) is developed and maintained for all school buildings owned or leased. Asbestos Management Plans are even required for all newly constructed school buildings even if they are certified asbestos free in compliance with federal regulation. All AMP are to be approved by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Public Health. In addition, all field devices and equipment are to be mercury free, except for fluorescent lamps, which are to be in accordance with Section 1102.031D.

Exposure to lead, especially from paint products before 1978, may cause devastating health hazard

to young children, resulting in long term health effects, i.e., learning disabilities, decreased growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing, etc. Therefore lead based paint in child occupied buildings constructed prior to 1978 should be monitored and maintained in a safe condition in compliance with state public health law and rule (16-35 and 64 CSR 45). A child occupied building is defined as an area(s) where a child age 6 or younger is located for three (3) hours per day twice a week, i.e., child care centers, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. By policy child care centers in a facilities built prior to 1978 must have a lead risk assessment conducted prior to being licensed. A risk assessment is a plan developed to address lead hazards located within a facility.

1010.03 The Integrated Pest Management program, as per West Virginia Code shall be used for termite and rodent control. Prior to pesticide use, staff and parents are to be notified if they have requested this notification.

Good evening, my name is Abigail Jeffries. I come before you tonight as a parent of two Rock Cave Elementary K-5 alumni, former volunteer within the school, and concerned community member, to implore you to keep Rock Cave Elementary open.

“The future quality of life for the citizens of West Virginia is directly linked to the performance of our students. Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders. We must provide a comprehensive, high-quality learning system that empowers students to reach their full potential, promotes their development as productive and responsible citizens, and prepares them to meet workforce and economic demands.”. This quote is from the WVBE site. I agree wholeheartedly and I cannot think of a better description of what Rock Cave Elementary School does for its rural students. I say rural because it matters. Rural students come with unique challenges. Some rural students have stable lives, with solid families who support their education and personal growth, many simply do not. They face multiple socioeconomic disadvantages, including poverty, food insecurity, unstable housing, troubled family lives and have a higher risk of chronic disease, behavioral issues and developmental delays. I have witnessed all these instances firsthand; some children with one or two issues, some with many or ALL those disadvantages stacked against them. I have also witnessed the staff at Rock Cave Elementary identify those troubles and implement plans that help change the course for these students. These are the students, the children, who would be most affected by the closure of Rock Cave Elementary.

The second paragraph of the WVBE site states “West Virginia’s approach to college- and career- readiness ensures that students exit high school with a complete understanding of the career opportunities available to them, the education necessary to be successful in their chosen pathway, and a plan to attain their goals.” One

cannot expect this engagement to begin in middle or high school; a child must acquire a love of learning from the very beginning of their school career. Rock Cave Elementary is the place where many students realize that they CAN have goals, that college IS possible, a career IS possible. The road to that realization is often long and rocky, but with teachers who are caring, concerned AND committed, it can be done. Being committed is the most effective and most difficult aspect. There is often trial and error with interventions and methods, during school hours and in after school activities. I have personally seen this in action at Rock Cave Elementary, from the inside as a parent volunteer and as an outsider when coming across these children, some now adults, interacting in our community. Seeing a child who has had multiple disadvantages grow into a productive citizen with the chance to end the cycles that plague many rural communities, invokes a feeling of pride that is unmatched. I have no doubt that the staff at French Creek Elementary are caring, concerned and committed. My greatest concern is that class size and/or classes that have multiple students with multiple disadvantages allow for these students to be overlooked and underserved.

Studies show there are multiple negative effects when schools are closed and merged, and that these effects disproportionately impact low-income and marginalized communities. Students from closed schools have drops in academic achievement and attendance. Data from the BOE shows that there have been marked improvements in both areas at Rock Cave. Why would anyone want to undo the accomplishments that these students have recently achieved? I fear these drops would cause long term repercussions. Students may lose the joy of learning and gain an attitude of "why bother?" when they see that their hard work had been undone so easily.

Negative psychological effects including anxiety, grief, depression and loss of identity, have also been noted. These effects can lead to increased disciplinary actions within the classroom. These studies also show that community connections disintegrate when schools that are often the hub of the community close. Relationships with local organizations, volunteers and other community stakeholders suffer. A decline in parent involvement is also noted, particularly in rural areas where finances and logistics don't often align.

The cumulative impact of these effects can cause disadvantages over the long term. It has been shown that students who have been impacted by closures have lower graduation and college attendance rates, translating to lower lifetime earnings. I hate to think that even one child will miss THEIR chance for change, for betterment, for the opportunity to live their dreams and do what many think could never be done. Please keep Rock Cave Elementary School open so these children HAVE these chances and the opportunities that come with them.

Respectfully,

Abigail Jeffries

My name is Abigail Jeffries. My children who are now a BUHS senior, and Sophomore at WVU, attended Rock Cave Elementary K-5. I volunteered extensively within the school during that time. Most recently I was a foster parent to children who attended both Rock Cave and French Creek elementaries. Today I am speaking as a concerned community member.

I, along with many others, feel that closing Rock Cave Elementary would be a grave mistake, with effects that would be felt for decades to come. My opposition to the potential closure is multifaceted and it has been difficult to decide what aspect to focus on during this allotted time.

I have chosen to discuss the prudence in making such a far-reaching and permanent decision so hastily (14 weeks and 2 days from formal announcement to final vote). And while I much prefer that Rock Cave Elementary remain open indefinitely, I have challenged myself to consider possible options and solutions to the problems that have been noted by those in opposition to the current proposal.

My greatest concern is for the children of BOTH elementary schools. Children whose safety, health and education should NEVER be compromised. Children who WILL suffer effects should the proposed closure and merger proceed. These effects could be minimized by a true partnership between the Board of Education, the students, families and staff of both schools, and community stakeholders. One that allows time to construct a solid foundation where the success of ALL students can be built on.

The safety and health of these students is of utmost importance. Rock Cave students would be moving from a school that currently has a safe entrance to one that does not. This move results in an even greater potential for a mass disaster. Additionally, there is photographic evidence of overcrowded lots and overflowing parking that reaches Route 20 and beyond during student pick up and special events. A merger would undoubtedly cause larger class sizes that would be a breeding ground for sickness (e.g. Covid) and could lead to increased or overlooked issues with medically fragile students. It would be prudent to address the issues of safe entry and parking lot expansion prior to a merger and construct a solid plan to minimize the impact of the health of students and staff.

The entire reason we are all here is EDUCATION. When researching the topic of the effects of school closure, I could not find ANY articles that did not include the decline of test scores, attendance, parent involvement and student morale. All articles indicated that these effects were even more pronounced in rural areas. As per prior BOE meeting minutes, there have been marked improvements with benchmarks and attendance. It is not prudent to reverse these positive changes with a hasty decision. At risk students should be

identified prior to any merger with plans in place to ensure those students continue to build upon past growth and do not get lost in the shuffle.

In closing, while reviewing the approved BOE meeting minutes for Sept. 11, 2025, under the WV Department of Education section, I noted the quotes by the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Jeffrey Kelley; "put kids first", "prioritize teaching and learning and putting kids first", and "prioritize kids, teaching, and learning." If those quotes truly reflect the mission of our WV Board of Education, then I am confident that you will decide that Rock Cave Elementary School shall remain open, until measures are met to ensure the success of ALL our students.

Respectfully, Abigail Jeffries

The Impact of Closing Rock Cave Elementary School

Date: November 12, 2025

To: West Virginia Board of Education and Upshur County Board of Education

From: Gary Bonnett II

Subject: Why Closing Rock Cave Elementary Will Hurt Upshur County's Future

My name is Gary Bonnett II, and I am proud to be an alumnus of Rock Cave Elementary School. Though my career has taken me far from Upshur County, the foundation for everything I've achieved began in those classrooms. The dedicated teachers at Rock Cave gave me more than an education—they gave me confidence, curiosity, and the belief that I could succeed. Without that solid start, I would not be where I am today.

That is why the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary deeply concerns me—not only for the children who call this community home, but for the long-term vitality of Upshur County.

Here are the facts:

- Rock Cave Elementary currently serves approximately 74 students, including six kindergarteners, and has historically enrolled around 147 students in grades PK-5.
- If closed, these students will be transferred to French Creek Elementary, which is almost 5 miles away from Rock Cave. For a 5-year-old, that means a 10-20 minute bus ride each way, adding nearly an hour extra to their commute daily where certain routes will be over an hour each way.
- Upshur County already faces an average commute time of 24.7 minutes for workers, higher than most neighboring counties. Adding long school commutes for young children will make this end of the county far less attractive to families considering relocation.
- Research shows that rural school closures often lead to declining property values, reduced business activity, and loss of social capital, weakening the very communities they aim to serve.

The economic impact cannot be ignored. Upshur County is actively working to attract new businesses and expand economic opportunities through initiatives like the Upshur County Development Authority's site selection program and Opportunity Zone investments. But businesses don't just look at infrastructure—they look at quality of life. Families relocating for jobs want strong, accessible schools. Closing Rock Cave Elementary sends the wrong message and creates a barrier to growth in southern Upshur County.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than a school—it is a cornerstone of this community and a selling point for future development. Closing it would not only disrupt the lives of current students but also hinder our ability to attract talent and investment.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of this decision. Let's work together to find solutions that preserve educational access, strengthen our communities, and support the economic future of Upshur County.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to our children and our county.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Bonnett II". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a prominent horizontal stroke at the end.

Sincerely,
Gary Bonnett II
Global EHS Director, Chemelex
Rock Cave Elementary - '90
Marshall University - '06
Texas A&M '21

Statements in support of Rock Cave Elementary (used with permission)

My name is **Sheryl Brown**. I worked as a third grade teacher at RCES before I retired. I love this little school and want my grandchild to be able to finish his elementary education here! It is a wonderful little school. I feel it has endured a lot of negativity in the last few years as well as not getting the strong leadership it deserved making it a target for closing. People were told it would close after this year so many students moved to FCES in preparation for the closure this year. Perhaps those students would return to their community school if they knew it would remain open. Many factors were put into place to cause the "death" of this school. Please realize that larger class sizes are inevitable if the closure proceeds and children do not receive the individual help they so often need. Please reconsider what is best for students, parents, and this community!

Nicole Jones states "Small town schools are so important! Teachers like you are the absolute best! I went to rock cave as a child, the classes were small, but this just meant that there was so much more time for one on one with the children. No child was ever left behind, especially at rock cave! Not to mention the impact that each teacher had on the children. I'm 30 years old, so elementary school was forever ago for me, but I can promise you I remember the teachers that had the biggest impact on my life. That taught me life lessons & was always there to take the extra time for us kids to confide in. At 30 years old I can tell you the two teachers that stuck out the most to me & I'll never forget them as long as I live. I'm so thankful for the time & patience they spent helping through elementary school. That was you **Sheryl Brown** & Beverly Davis. We need to keep the small town schools open & the small classes. I could not even imagine 5 and 6 year olds being in a classroom of 30+ students with only 1 teacher. I can not even begin to fathom how many kids are going to be left behind 😞"

Chapter 2
SCHOOL SITE PLANNING

200 SCHOOL SITE

All school sites provide sufficient space for the school building, future expansion, educational program activities, and support facilities.

201 SELECTION

201.01 Intelligent and imaginative school site selection and development are significant aspects of educational facility planning. Because the design and use of the land on which a school is built is fully as important as the design and use of the facility itself, the site's potential as an educational and community resource must be considered.

201.02 The selection of a site requires the cooperative effort of the county board, school staff, planning committee, architect, and legal consultants. Since the educational program is of primary concern to the community, consideration should be given to lay membership on a site selection team.

201.03 Resources to be utilized when selecting sites may include: land-use maps, aerial photographs, soil maps, topographic maps, highway maps, flood control maps, neighborhood or school service area maps, pre-school and pupil spot maps, dwelling unit maps, utility service plans, and realtors' and developers' intentions.

201.04 Factors to be considered in selecting a site may include: number and grade level of students, nature of the educational program, initial cost, development cost, availability of utilities, transportation systems, availability of activities, provision for a safe and healthful environment, and the protection of the investment in the building.

202 LOCATION

202.01 School sites shall be located in proper relationship with existing and proposed physical facilities in the community, including: student population centers, parks, recreation centers, libraries, health centers, streets, highways, residential housing, and other schools.

202.02 Guidelines for school bus routing.

202.021 For elementary school students- thirty minutes

202.022 For middle school students - forty-five minutes and

202.023 For high school students - sixty minutes

202.03 A county board may not create a new bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels pre-k through grade five (5) to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after the first day of July, 2008, which exceeds by more than fifteen (15) minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students adopted by the WVBE in accordance with Section 202.02 unless:

202.031 The county board adopts a separate motion to approve creation of the route and request written permission of the WVBE to create the route; and

202.032 Receives the written permission of the WVBE to create the route.

202.04 A county board may not create a new bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels pre-k through grade five (5) to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after the first day of July, 2008, which exceeds by more than thirty (30) minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students adopted by the WVBE in accordance with Section 202.02.

202.05 The WVDE shall provide technical assistance to county boards with the objective of achieving school bus transportation routes for students which are within the recommended time durations established by the WVBE.

202.06 For the safety of students, the school site shall be located away from hazards and undesirable environments, such as:

- A. Railroads, arterial highways, heavily traveled streets, traffic, and congestion
- B. Noise, toxic gas escapes from railroads, airports, and odoriferous plants or industries
- C. Natural barriers limiting accessibility and expandability, such as rivers, lakes, swamps, and protruding ridges
- D. High voltage transmission lines, booster or reduction stations, high pressure gas lines, and transformer stations
- E. Taverns, fire stations, bulk storage plants for flammable liquid, and property zoned as industrial
- F. Situations where a combination of factors such as those presented above could contribute to the possibility of human entrapment
- G. Building sites must be located above the 100-year flood plain as determined by the U.S. Corp of Engineers. The finish floor elevation of a new facility must be a minimum of two feet above the established 100-year flood plain. When considering property at or adjacent to a flood plain, the county must obtain a Certificate of Compliance from the County Flood Plain Manager to verify the Base Floor Elevation is above the 100-year flood plain and safe from potential hazards.
- H. Public service facilities which must be available for a school site include: water, gas, telephone, cable/internet, electricity, sewage disposal, fire protection, and transportation.

203 SIZE

203.01 The size of any school should provide sufficient and appropriate space for all of the in-school and evening activities.

203.02 With the assistance of an architect, trial layouts of the area required for a site should be made and include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following items, with grade level appropriateness considered:

- A. The school building
- B. Reserve for expansion of building
- C. Set back from streets, sidewalks, approaches, and driveways
- D. Parking areas, access, and buffer
- E. Bicycle entrances and storage racks, with proper buffer areas, if appropriate

21.5.3.b.1. Public and private nonprofit organizations, including education employee organizations, for transportation associated with fairs, festivals, and other educational and cultural events.

21.5.3.c. Compensation for bus operators:

21.5.3.c.1. Consideration for insurance coverage, repairs, and other costs of service; and

21.5.3.d. Any rules concerning student behavior.

21.5.4. The county board may charge fees in addition to those charges otherwise required by this subsection.

22. Guidelines for School Bus Routing

22.1. The recommended duration of the one (1) way school bus transportation time for students to and from school under normal weather and operating conditions is as follows:

22.1.1. For elementary school students, thirty (30) minutes;

22.1.2. For middle school, intermediate school, and junior high school students, forty-five (45) minutes; and

22.1.3. For high school students, sixty (60) minutes.

22.2. A county board may not create a new bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels pre-kindergarten through grade five (5) to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation, or new construction project which exceeds by more than fifteen (15) minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students in accordance with subsection 22.1 of this section unless:

22.2.1. The county board adopts a separate motion to approve creation of the route and request written permission of the WVBE to create the route; and

22.2.2. Receives the written permission of the WVBE to create the route.

22.3. The WVDE shall provide technical assistance to county boards with the objective of achieving school bus transportation routes for students which are within the recommended time durations established by the WVBE.

23. Recommendations for County School Bus Transportation Systems

In addition to the pertinent sections of the West Virginia Code and the preceding regulations, the WVBE recommends the following:

23.1. School bus maintenance center equipment shall include:

23.1.1. Hoists, jacks, lifts, and/or service pits to enable repair and servicing in a safe and efficient

Chapter 4

EARLY AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (PRE-K-5)

400 EARLY AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (PRE-K-5) CENTERS

The WVDE is committed to providing guidance and assistance to counties in their efforts to continuously improve all aspects of educational programming, including physical facilities. Critical planning must precede the construction of facilities, or the purchase of equipment and materials in order to ensure that all students have access to a comprehensive, high-quality early learning system that empowers them to reach their full potential, promotes their development as productive and responsible citizens, and prepares them to meet workforce and economic demands.

Grades Pre- K through grade 5 are formative educational years and set the foundation for a child's future learning and school experience. Successful early learning (pre-k through grade 5) facilities are designed to be developmentally appropriate, inviting, inclusive, and supportive of all. Early learning environments should enable educators to use a variety of teaching approaches resulting in authentic engagement in active, purposeful learning. In grades pre-k through grade 4 the school staff provide school-wide, systematic guidance to ensure that a learner focused, developmentally appropriate approach to learning is prevalent within the school.

Closely coordinated planning of facilities containing housing early childhood/primary programs shall include factors such as the school's role in the community, the physical, emotional, and social needs of students, how students learn most effectively, and what constitutes the total coordinated program of learning in the early learning grades (pre-k through grade 5). Factors relating to a comprehensive approach to early learning that relies heavily on student engagement, mobility, and is flexible for multiple uses throughout the day. Close attention to outdoor spaces for gross motor movement are an extension of the classroom in the early learning environment. This space should permit areas for play, learning and social activities. Responsive environments that include time, space and developmentally appropriate materials necessary to create print-and language-rich environments conducive for learning and integration of standards. Classrooms are designed and equipped in a manner that encourages discovery, small group and individual learning, exploration, and problem solving. Classrooms have sufficient quality and variety of appropriate materials and resources to support student-centered learning.

All schools housing early and elementary education programs shall contain general-purpose instructional areas, specialized instructional spaces, auxiliary spaces, safety facilities, and service facilities. The school shall be large enough to accommodate projected enrollments, to provide an adequate curriculum, and to maintain reasonable efficiency. Available technology shall be incorporated into environmental controls to provide a comfortable environment, which facilitates the educational program. Where design considerations permit, the facility shall be constructed in a manner that utilizes maximum natural light.

An educational facility should be large enough to take advantage of reasonable economies of operation, comfortably accommodate the inhabitants, and support the educational program. Other factors such as density of population, availability of sites, and transportation should be considered in determining the size of the facility. Classroom furniture and equipment should be considered during the initial planning stage and should be selected on the basis of its contribution to, and compatibility with, the total educational program, which includes collaborative problem solving and project-based learning

experiences.

All modular or detached classroom structures must meet the requirement of this policy for the intended space and must have restroom facilities for all grades pre-k-5 unless waived by the WVBE.

All pre-k classrooms must also comply with all requirements set forth in W. Va. 126CSR28, WVBE Policy 2525, West Virginia's Universal Access to a Quality Early Education System (Policy 2525).

The following charts and description of spaces are example of the number, types, and square footage of administrative and service facilities that must be considered for typical schools. The educational program of each new facility shall dictate the actual number and types of spaces provided. Counties are encouraged to design administrative and service facilities tailored to meet the needs of the educational program of the school in consultation with an architect or educational facility planner.

400.01 Size of Centers

Early and elementary school centers should be organized for educational programs and administrative purposes according to the following enrollments.

A. Schools housing grades pre-k-5 should have a minimum of 110 square feet per pupil unless factors such as enrollment or architectural design permit otherwise as determined by the state superintendent of schools. Regardless of school size, the teacher-student ratio should not exceed the ratios established in W. Va. Code §18-5-18a for regular instructional spaces.

B. Special class enrollments (such as special and early and elementary childhood education) must be considered in addition to the above figures.

C. Centers shall be planned for a minimum of 240 students per center. Smaller centers require approval from the West Virginia Board of Education.

D. Square footage of facilities funded by SBA will be established in accordance with SBA Guidelines and Procedures Handbook.

400.02 SELECTION OF FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

400.021 Classroom furniture and equipment should be considered during the initial planning stage and should be selected on the basis of its contribution to, and compatibility with, the total educational program.

400.022 Criteria for selection should include the following:

- A. Appearance
- B. Maintenance
- C. Safety and Security
- D. Comfort
- E. Durability
- F. Building Codes
- G. Guarantees
- H. Flexibility
- I. Availability
- J. Cost

401 ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL AND SERVICE FACILITIES

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401.01 Certain physical and service facilities, such as a multipurpose room, dining, assembly, and music areas, are provided in some pre-k primary school centers. Similar facilities, modified in size and/or combined use, are provided in smaller elementary centers. All new schools must have separate dining and physical education instructional areas. The dining room area should accommodate at least one third of the student enrollment.

The following chart indicates the facilities considered essential to the implementation of high quality early childhood/primary education. Consideration should be given to changing various learning spaces and activity areas through the use of flexible or movable walls.

The following is an example of the number, types, and square footage of facilities that should be considered for typical grades pre-k-5 school enrollments. Specific educational programming should occur for each new facility and the educational program must dictate the actual number and types of spaces provided.

Enrollment				Physical Facility
240	340	440	540	
Students	Students	Students	Students	
1@150	1@150	1@150	1@150	ADMINISTRATIVE
1@200	1@200	1@300	1@400	Waiting
				General Office
Enrollment				Physical Facility
240	340	440	540	
Students	Students	Students	Students	
1@200	1@200	1@250	1@250	Work Room
--	1@75	1@75	1@75	Communications Room
1@250	1@250	1@250	1@250	Conference Room
1@180	1@180	1@180	1@180	Principal's Office
--	--	1@150	1@150	V. Principal's Office
1@100	1@100	1@100	1@100	Supply & Book Storage
STUDENT SERVICES				
1@250	1@250	1@300	1@300	Clinic
1@120	1@120	1@120	1@120	Guidance
ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS				
--	--	--	--	Pre-Kindergarten Classroom (as applicable)
2@1000	3@1000	4@1000	5@1000	Kindergarten Classroom
8@720	12@720	16@720	20@720	Elementary Classrooms
				(Classroom area may vary if computer stations are provided within the classroom)
MEDIA CENTER				
1@1800	1@2400	1@3000	1@3600	

See Chap. 7 - Students with Exceptionalities -
Instructional Areas

SPECIAL EDUCATION

1@1200	1@1200	1@1200	1@1200	ART
1@1200	1@1200	1@1200	1@1200	MUSIC
1@800	1@800	1@800	1@800	COMPUTER LAB and/or Distributed (See OTIS Handbook for specifications)
1@1800	1@1800	1@1800	1@1800	PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPACE
OR				
1@3100	1@3100	1@3100	1@3100	GYMNASIUM
1@1200	1@1800	1@2200	1@2700	DINING ROOM

See Chap. 3, Section 303 Food Service Facilities

KITCHEN

1@250	1@250	1@250	1@250	FACULTY LOUNGE
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CUSTODIAL

1@500	1@500	1@500	1@500	Mechanical Room (varies)
2@25	2@25	2@25	2@25	Custodial Closet
1@150	1@150	1@150	1@150	Custodian w/Restroom

Enrollment

Physical Facility

240	340	440	540	STORAGE (Instructional)
Students	Students	Students	Students	

1@100	1@100	1@100	1@100	Early Childhood
4@100	6@100	8@100	10@100	Elementary Education
1@130	1@130	1@130	1@130	Media Center
--	2@100	2@100	2@100	Music/Art
2@175	2@175	2@175	2@175	Multi-purpose
1@175	1@175	1@175	1@175	Dining

STORAGE (Non-Instructional)

1@120	1@120	1@120	1@120	Administrative
1@175	1@175	1@175	1@175	Central Storage
1@200	1@200	1@200	2@200	Outdoor Storage

RESTROOMS (consult code)

1@25	1@25	1@25	1@25	Student Services
2@20	2@20	2@20	2@20	Early Childhood
8@20	12@20	16@20	20@20	Elementary Education
2@40	2@40	2@40	2@40	Faculty
2@150	2@200	2@200	2@200	Public

The above program of spaces provides the net program area for the example shown. Building circulation, wall thicknesses, and other required area should be incorporated into the building area to arrive at the gross building area required in the total facility.

402 ESSENTIAL INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY FOR EARLY AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PRE-K-5 CENTERS

See Chapter 3, Section 302.

403 PRE-KINDERGARTEN (When services are provided) AND KINDERGARTEN

403.01 Size

Base the preliminary determination of early childhood education areas upon the allotment of 50 square feet per child.

403.02 Design Capacity - 20 students

403.03 Location

A. On ground floor with easy access to an entrance not generally used by older children. Corner areas are also preferable to permit the development of separate, fenced-in play areas.

B. Direct access to segregated outdoor play area that contains a large grassy area with climbing equipment, obstacle course and garden area, and adequate storage for equipment, based on a minimum of 75 square foot for child.

C. Area of the building, which permits maximum natural light.

403.04 Activities

Individual and small group instruction based on the Early Learning Standards as described in State Board Policies 2525 and 2510, including learning activities to address positive social-emotional skills, early language/communication and early literacy skills; and the use of appropriate behaviors to meet students' needs. These activities may include collaborative project-based learning, physical education, conversation, discussion, listening activities and creative activities with various media. The room should accommodate displaying students' work; storing instructional materials and supplies; demonstrations; and activities where stations with individual and collaborative assignments are to be done with manipulative materials and a wide range of technologies.

403.05 Equipment Space and Facilities

See Chapter 3, Sections 302.01 and 302.02, and the following requirements.

A. Work areas

1. Deep sink equipped with mud trap, hot and cold water

2. Waterproof counter top - 2 square feet per student with shelving beneath. Counter height at 22 inches to accommodate 3 and 4 year-old children.

3. Grounded duplex electrical outlets at 3 feet intervals over counter top. Avoid placing over sink.

4. Facilities for hanging mobiles from ceiling.

B. Instructional space and storage area for activities related to: art, science and nature, music and movement, language development, technology activities, creative play, crafts and construction.

C. Storage for student's personal belongings.

D. One self-contained student toilet facility per 20 students within the classroom and drinking

2. Lockable storage for teacher's personal belongings
3. Filing space for instructional material and supplies equivalent to 4-drawer, legal size file cabinets

- D. Work counter - see Chapter 4, Section 403.05
- E. Teacher's combination desk/table and chair
- F. Conference-type table and chairs
- G. Adjustable desks and chairs, or combination chair-desks
- H. Desirable equipment
 1. Corridor display cabinet for students' work
 2. All major types of instructional technology equipment should be readily available within classroom or in the nearby media center

I. Adequate provision for controlling the light level in instructional areas is essential. For efficient use of projection-type materials, the light in the room, particularly in the area of the projection surface, should not exceed one-tenth footcandle.

J. Duplex electric receptacles should be installed on all walls of the instructional space for the use of instructional equipment. Sufficient branch electrical circuits should be in each room. Conduits should be provided to permit installations of instructional technology devices. System's feeder conduits should be at least 3/4 inches in diameter in order to provide for installation of instructional technology as indicated above. Individual point of service drops should be at least 3/4 inches.

K. A projection surface should be installed in each instructional area with provision for eliminating keystoneing.

L. Use of audio devices mandates acoustical treatment of walls, ceilings, and floors in instructional areas and media centers, particularly in classrooms where many activities are occurring simultaneously.

M. Appropriate floor covering and ceiling tile, which is mold and microbial resistant

405 PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPACE

A physical education space or gymnasium is to be included. It should be based upon the amount of time required for the separate program activities to be housed.

405.01 Size

Base preliminary determination of physical education space on the allotment of six to eight square feet per student enrolled in the school. Allow approximately 65 square feet per student for physical education with 25 students per session.

405.02 Design Capacity

Design Capacity shall be determined by the SBA, WVDE, an architect or educational facility planner.

405.03 Activities

To be determined on the basis of the school's program. Consideration should be given to providing a clear height from 20 to 24 feet if the room is used for such activities as basketball. Consideration should be given to the installation of sound absorbing material on the walls if the room is used for such activities as assemblies or music and theater performances.

405.04 Location

- A. Removed from quiet areas of the building by location and/or acoustical treatment

- B. Direct access to outdoor physical education or recreation areas
- C. Convenient access to public parking areas
- D. Direct access to service drive
- E. If used for dining purposes, locate adjacent to kitchen serving area.

405.05 Equipment Space and Facilities

See Chapter 3, Section 302.05, and the following requirements

405.051 Fixed Platform - Optional

- A. Provide 500 square feet of permanent or portable platform area. Consideration should be given to staging "in the round."
- B. Two entrances to the fixed platform, one direct from the building corridor. Entrances to be double door size.
- C. The fixed platform location should be one that makes instructional spaces accessible for use as dressing rooms.
- D. Proscenium opening should be approximately 1/2 the width of the body of the multipurpose room.
- E. Curtains of fire resistant materials, portable or permanent acoustical paneling,
- F. Lighting facilities with controlled illumination.
- G. Grounded duplex electrical receptacles - 5 to 10 - should be provided in the fixed platform area.
- H. Storage for electronic and fixed platform equipment.
- I. Every fixed platform equipped with rigging for movable theater-type scenery and every enclosed platform larger than 500 square feet in area shall have a system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the state fire code.

405.052 Chair and Table Storage

Area as needed for storage of tables and chairs used for dining purposes

- A. Provision of ample space to accommodate assembly chairs stored on trucks and musical risers

405.053 Equipment Storage

- A. Approximately 200 square feet with convenient access to the outdoor physical education area and direct access to multipurpose area
- B. Provide double doors with flush threshold
- C. Shelving and cabinets for storage of miscellaneous types of physical education and other equipment

405.054 Public Restrooms

- A. If pupil restrooms are not conveniently accessible for public use, 2 restrooms of approximately 50 square feet each should be provided.
- B. Restrooms must conform to ADA regulations

406 GYMNASIUM (Optional)

406.01 Gymnasium (Physical Education Learning Station)

406.011 Size

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Determination of size is dependent upon physical education spaces to be located – 3,100 square feet minimum. Floor area should be marked for various games.

406.012 Design Capacity - Maximum of 70 students at 55 square feet per student.

406.013 Location

Convenient access from instructional areas with separate outside access for community use. The gymnasium area should be designed to provide the possibility of having access blocked to the remainder of the school while still retaining access to restroom facilities.

406.014 Activities

Include soccer, volleyball, basketball, football, softball, dance, gymnastics, and other activities to meet the county curriculum. Recommend basketball court (42 feet x 74 feet) with an apron of 3 to 6 feet.

406.015 Equipment Space and Facilities

See Chapter 3, Section 302.05, and the following requirements

- A. Provisions for using the learning center as 2 or more teaching stations may require canvas-net partition, folding door partition or mechanical folding walls.
- B. Adequate electrical outlets for multiple learning stations
- C. Bulletin board - 12 to 16 linear feet
- D. Drinking fountains
- E. Wood gymnasium floor or equal. Wood flooring must be provided humidity monitoring through the building monitoring and control system.

406.016 Equipment Storage

- A. Approximately 200 square feet with convenient access to the outdoor physical education area and direct access to multipurpose area
- B. Provide double doors with flush threshold
- C. Shelving and cabinets for storage of miscellaneous types of physical education and other equipment

406.017 Public Restrooms

- A. If pupil restrooms are not conveniently accessible for public use, 2 restrooms of approximately 50 square feet each should be provided.

407 FOOD SERVICE FACILITIES

See Chapter 3, Section 304.

408 ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE FACILITIES

See Chapter 3, Section 303.

409 ENGINEERING AND CUSTODIAL FACILITIES

See Chapter 3, Section 306.

410 SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS/CLASSROOMS

Specialized classrooms in the form of small or specially equipped instructional areas are provided in each facility. These areas are not intended to be permanent classrooms; rather, they are intended for flexible and fluid targeted instructional activities. Small group instructional areas should be designed for the provision of tiered, strategic, intensive or special education instruction to students in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and certain other subject areas. These classrooms may be used as instructional areas for the provision of gifted services.

410.01 Size

Base preliminary determination of area upon an allotment of 30 square feet per student. For example: 450 square feet of floor area should be planned for 15 students in an instructional space. To more accurately determine the area, trial room layouts should be made using scaled templates representing furniture and equipment and scaled floor and wall elevation drawings.

410.02 Design Capacity - 15 students**410.03 Location**

- A. Isolation from noisy areas of the building
- B. Close proximity to the media center
- C. Location which will permit easy expansion

410.04 Activities

Speaking, group discussion; viewing instructional technology and other projected materials; listening to recordings, podcasts and broadcasts; doing assignments on instructional boards, or at desk and/or tables; displaying students' work; storing instructional materials and supplies; demonstrations; and lab activities where stations with individual, small group and project based assignments are to be done with manipulative materials or computer equipment.

410.05 Equipment Space and Facilities

See Chapter 4, Sections 402.01 and 402.02, and the following requirements

- A. Instructional boards, bulletin boards, and other display areas - as much as possible, a minimum two-thirds of available wall space
 1. Instructional boards and bulletin boards should have map rails installed above
 2. The bottom of the display area should be at the eye level of the student when seated
- B. Storage
 1. Lockable storage for teacher's personal belongings
 2. Storage for teaching aids and supplies
 - a. Closed and open shelving
 - b. 4-drawer filing space
- C. Teacher's combination desk-table and chair
- D. Conference-type tables and chairs
- E. Desirable equipment

All major types of instructional technology equipment should be readily available within classroom or the nearby media center

- F. Adequate provision for controlling the light level in instructional areas is essential. For efficient use of projection-type materials, the light in the room, particularly in the area of the projection surface, should not exceed one-tenth footcandle.

G. Duplex electrical receptacles should be installed on all walls of the instructional space for the use of instructional equipment. Sufficient branch electrical circuits should be in each room. Conduits should be provided to permit future installation of network computer drops, television, and other electronic instructional devices. System conduits should be at least 3/4 inches in diameter in order to provide for installation of television and other teaching devices as indicated above.

H. Where there are to be specialized facilities, such as language labs, study carrels, microteaching, and television, provision should be made for electrical service in the floor.

I. A projection surface should be available in each instructional area.

J. Use of audio devices mandates acoustical treatment of walls, ceilings, and floors in instructional areas and media centers, particularly in open-type classrooms where many activities are occurring simultaneously.

K. Appropriate floor covering and ceiling tile, which is mold and microbial resistant

411 ART FACILITIES - Optional

Consideration may be given to providing multi-use space for the instruction of art and music, art and science, and art and social studies.

411.01 Space allotment of 45 to 50 square feet per child with movable tables and chairs. Table dimensions no less than 36 inches x 60 inches for each 4 students. Art room should be located on the ground floor.

411.02 Equipment Space and Facilities

See Chapter 3, Sections 302.01 and 302.02, and the following requirements

A. 2 deep sinks, each with extra large drain, clean-out trap, and long drainage top - stainless steel recommended

B. Uncarpeted floor of concrete, tile, linoleum, or other material not easily damaged by paint and clay

C. Counter space equivalent to the length of at least one wall

D. Closed-in storage shelves under counter - 6 or more drawers of built-in or movable storage space for flat pictures, at least 20 inches x 40 inches - storage cabinets and/or display boards on wall above counter

E. Adjacent storage room with shelves for art supplies - space allotment of 250 to 350 square feet

F. At least one instructional board, movable or stationary

G. Bulletin boards - 30 linear feet recommended. Movable display panels are also recommended. (Recommended for hallways and general areas: glass enclosed display space and movable display cabinets.)

H. Electrical outlets, 12 or more, located conveniently to working area

I. Audiovisual facilities may be separate, or combined with art room. These require blackout curtains and projection facilities.

J. Ceilings should be equipped with facilities for hanging mobiles.

K. Art appreciation corner with facilities for rotating display of two and three dimensional objects and related library materials. Recessed wall-display cabinets are desirable, but not essential.

L. Mechanical ventilation systems are utilized in the art rooms to handle fumes, dust, odors and gases from turpentine, lacquer thinners, acids, toxic markers, and clays. Special areas such as kiln rooms, dark rooms, pug mills, burnout kilns, and acid areas require additional specific ventilation.

M. Provision for ceramic kiln

N. If this space functions as a multi-use space, provide lockable storage for each academic area.

411.03 Location - Ground Floor location

411.04 Art facilities for small schools, which have no special art room, must include storage space for consumable art supplies, materials and equipment, and an arts and crafts corner.

411.041 Arts and Crafts Space

A. At least one sink, preferably deep, with long drainboard, large drains and clean-out trap - stainless steel recommended.

B. Built-in counter with Formica top and closed-in storage shelves beneath - at least 8 feet in length. This may double as workspace or drying area for unfinished work.

C. Display board or bulletin board, 12 linear feet or more

D. Uncarpeted floor area of tile, linoleum, or other material not easily damaged by paint and clay

E. Storage (minimum of 100 square feet) for art supplies in closet, case, or small storage room

F. At least 2 additional electrical outlets, adjacent to work area

411.042 Art Appreciation Corner

Equipped with glassed-in display case with shelves for crafts; wall space for displaying two-dimensional work. Should also accommodate a section for library materials in the form of built-in shelves or portable unit.

412 LIBRARY/LEARNING RESOURCE OR MEDIA CENTER

See Chapter 3, Section 305.

413 MUSIC FACILITIES

See Chapter 4, Section 410.

Physical and spatial requirements for music education obviously exceed the capacity of the conventional classroom. Spaces for individual and group vocal and instrumental instruction and rehearsal are necessary. The size, quality, and number of these spaces will be determined by the enrollment and the educational level of the school, the scope of the music program, and the degree of encouragement offered music education by the administration and the community.

A good location for the music room is in a wing of the building close to the multipurpose room. Physical isolation should be sought to reduce the transmission of sound to other areas of the building. Practice rooms may be separated acoustically from the rehearsal room by placing storage rooms or walls having dead air space between them. It is important that the facility be arranged for supervision of all practice and storage rooms. Also, the temperature shall be between 68-75°F and humidity shall be less than or equal to 60% rH in the instrument storage rooms.

413.01 This facility shall be large enough to accommodate physical movement and daily use of "classroom/general music" instruments for teaching general music and a facility for elementary instrumental music class instruction.

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413.011 Size

400 cubic feet per student; ceiling 14 to 16 feet high. Allow space for design capacity of 25 students.

413.012 Location

- A. Direct access to instrumental storage
- B. Isolated area of building

413.013 Activities

Instruction in instrumental and classroom/general music

413.014 Equipment

- A. See Chapter 3, Sections 302.01 and 302.02, and the following requirements.
- B. Stereo sound reproduction and recording equipment
- C. Electronic piano and bench
- D. Classroom instruments
- E. Portable marker board, 30 linear feet
- E. Chairs
- F. Music stands
- G. Filing cabinets - legal size

413.02 Office Space for Planning or Studio Teaching

413.021 Size

250 to 350 square feet - 8 to 12 students

413.022 Design Capacity

Accommodate small group

413.023 Location

Convenient to music room

413.024 Equipment

See Chapter 3, Section 302.04, and the following requirements.

- A. Desk and chair
- B. Filing facilities
- C. Portable marker board
- D. Work table and chairs
- E. Storage for tapes and records

413.03 Storage Space for Instruments, Equipment and Music

413.031 Size

Approximately 150 square feet. Secure room with shelving to accommodate stringed instruments, classroom instruments, and legal size filing cabinets.

Impact potential of Rock Cave Elementary school closure and merger with French Creek Elementary as it relates to the Rock Cave community.

Negative effects on local businesses and their employees

- Loss of revenue due to lack of foot traffic; the shifted school traffic WILL take consumers with it.
- Difficulty retaining employees due to decreasing available hours as an effort to remain open and/or the inability of local workers to balance work and childcare
 - Loss of local jobs due to businesses closing.

Negative effects on local property owners

- Studies indicate that a community without schools is less desirable for families and businesses, causing a trickledown effect of lower property values. Since Rock Cave would be LOSING a school, current property values could DROP.
- Closure of Rock Cave Elementary is likely to indirectly cause increased rates of homeowners insurance due to economic decline and increased community risks, including the school itself being a large vacant building.

Negative effects on the Rock Cave community

- Rock Cave Elementary is currently a voting precinct, closure of the school could lead to reduced civic involvement.
- Rock Cave Elementary hosts fundraising events, serves as a staging area for the SUBA Christmas parade and hosts other community events, closure would reduce the opportunities for the community to unite.

Negative effects on Upshur County

- Decreases in property values would lead to decreases in county revenue, this would decrease available monies for SCHOOLS and possibly even local fire departments.

Delora Brown
247 Jack Acres Road
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304-439-4045

To: Upshur County interim School Board

I would like to take a minute to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this counsel and voice my opinion. I no longer have any students in Rock Cave Elementary School, however I have cousins, friends, and family members whose children do attend.

Rock Cave Elementary School has been a staple in our community. It provides an exemplary quality education. I am sure you are aware that Rock Cave Elementary School has the highest student attendance in Upshur County. With that being said, a good quality education exists when you have parental involvement and dedicated teachers.

Rock Cave Elementary School has been providing exemplary education for decades. I attended Rock Cave Elementary School. That foundation, allowed me to graduate high school as a Junior-Graduate with a 3.5 grade point average from Seymour-High School in Indiana. When I relocated, I could have chosen any place in Upshur County. I chose Rock Cave. I wanted my son to benefit from the same quality education that was afforded to me.

Mrs. "Dottie" Bosley was my son's 5th grade teacher. I have absolutely no doubt that her guidance and unyielding commitment to education, is what prepared him for the transition to Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School. The students from her class had no issues adjusting to the faster pace, the block format, or the curriculum.


Having my son receive that quality of education laid the foundation for him to build upon. It allowed him to flourish at Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School. He excelled in the AP classes and graduated Buckhannon-Upshur High School with a 3.5 grade point average. This enabled him to attend a private college in North Carolina.

You cannot achieve this aforementioned quality of education without teacher commitment, parental involvement, and small enough class rooms that allow the teachers to work one-on-one with students. Your proposal will increase class room size, students will have longer bus rides, and they will not receive the individual attention that children need.

Making a decision to close Rock Cave Elementary School, will have a detrimental effects on the students, on the community and to Upshur County as a whole. While considering closing, consider what you are doing to the current students. You are doing them a huge disservice. You will be neglecting to provide them with a proven, quality education, that has been previously provided to children in the past. That education, has allowed previous students to thrive and grow into outstanding adults. Those adults continue to support the community. It would be a travesty and a disgrace to dishonor the decades of commitment and dedication given by the teachers, the students, and the parents by closing Rock Cave Elementary School.

I would hope, that the school board and the state, would want to be commemorated for continuing a legacy that has taken decades to build, as opposed to being remembered for demolishing one.

Sincerely,



Delora L. Brown-Previous student and mother of a student/Upshur County tax payer







Petition to Keep Rock Cave Elementary School Open

To: Upshur County Board of Education

From: Citizens of Rock Cave and Surrounding Communities.

We, the undersigned, respectfully urge the Upshur County Board of Education to reconsider any plans to close Rock Cave Elementary School. This school is not just a building, it is the heart of our community, a place where generations have learned, grown, and built lifelong connections.

Reasons for Keeping Rock Cave Elementary Open:

-  **Community Anchor:** The school serves as a vital hub for families in Rock Cave and nearby areas. Its closure would disrupt the fabric of our community and diminish local engagement.
-  **Student Well-being:** Transferring students to distant schools would increase travel times, reduce access to extracurricular activities, and strain young learners emotionally and academically.
-  **Family Impact:** Many families chose to live in Rock Cave because of the school's reputation for personalized attention, small class sizes, and dedicated staff. Closing it would negatively affect property values and community stability.
-  **Educational Excellence:** Rock Cave Elementary consistently provides quality education with strong teacher-student relationships. Its closure risks overcrowding other schools and diluting the quality of education.
-  **Property Management:** The school board currently owns over 50 different properties, many of which are not actively used for educational purposes. Instead of closing a school that fills young minds with knowledge and hearts with lifelong memories, we urge the board to consolidate or repurpose underutilized properties. Strategic asset management should prioritize preserving institutions that directly serve students and families.
-  **Economic Considerations:** While budget concerns are real, we believe there are alternative solutions that do not involve shuttering a beloved institution. Community partnerships, grants, and fundraising efforts could help bridge financial gaps.

We ask the Board to engage with parents, teachers, and local leaders to explore all possible options before making a decision that would deeply affect our children and our town.

We stand united in support of Rock Cave Elementary. Please keep our school open.

Print Name	Phone Number	Signature
Briana Haymond	(681) 495-4045	Briana Haymond
Linda Herndon	472-2534	Linda Herndon
Tonya Pinegar	(304) 516-2907	Tonya Pinegar
Chris Detamore	304-627-7521	Chris Detamore
Lori Hamis	304-704-6701	Lori Hamis

Cassidy Leigh	304-613-7269	Cassidy Leigh
Lisa Knight	681-495-8957	Lisa Knight
Brian Chidester	681-495-5750	Brian
John Malcolm	304-642-7505	John Malcolm
Casey Kelley	304-439-9249	Casey Kelley
Betty Malcolm	304-642-2595	Betty Malcolm
Mandy McCarthy	304 437 3004	MANDY MCCARTHY
Michael Lewis	304-940-6191	Michael Lewis
Rodney McCoy	304-997-2874	Rodney McCoy
Robert Demastes	681-837-7050	Robert Demastes
Mars Hill Haymond	681-495-5379	Mars Hill
Chadwick Dan	304-838-1501	Judy A. Wilson
Jandra Kirger	304-472-9788	Jandra Kirger
Braden Lloyd	681-495-2273	Braden Lloyd
Kristyn Hissom	304-040-4363	Kristyn Hissom
Keith Lee	681-433-9413	Keith Lee
Timmy Cogar	304-924-5686	Timmy Cogar
Amy Chidester	304-516-9317	Amy Chidester
Donna Snicker	304 704 0535	Donna Snicker
Robert Snicker	304 613 0122	Robert Snicker
Rhonda Donaldson	681-433-9542	Rhonda Donaldson
Shirley Dantyne	304-924-5709	Shirley Dantyne
Valerie Walls	304 439-1223	Valerie Walls
Ruth Tolliver	304-924-5105	Ruth Tolliver
Donna Small	304-472-3821	
Shane Small	304-203-7940	
Lee Knabenshue	304-472-4966	
MICHAEL KNABENSCHUE	304-472-4966	Michael Knabenshue
Arnold Burnett	304 472 4854	Arnold Burnett
Mary Anne	304 472 613-6437	Mary Anne
Michelle Fidler	304-997-9373	Michelle Fidler
Michael Fidler	304-709-9908	Michael Fidler
Wesley Summers	304-207-0011	Wesley Summers
Adele Summers	304-207-0011	Adele Summers
Austin Wilson	304-924-5142	Austin Wilson
Berna White	304-924-5142	Berna White
Alvin Wilson	304-924-5142	Alvin Wilson
Clara Wimmer	304-667-4068	Clara Wimmer
Todd Starkey	304-940-6039	Todd Starkey
LARRY ARINS	616-405-3351	Larry Arins
Philip Riddle	304-924-6240	Philip Riddle

Print Name

Phone Number

Sign Name

Print Name	Phone Number	Sign Name







Petition to Keep Rock Cave Elementary School Open

To: Upshur County Board of Education

From: Citizens of Rock Cave and Surrounding Communities.

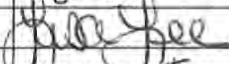
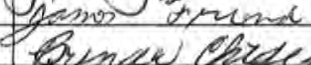
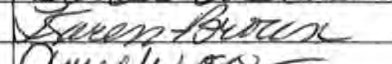
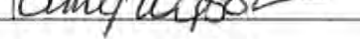

We, the undersigned, respectfully urge the Upshur County Board of Education to reconsider any plans to close Rock Cave Elementary School. This school is not just a building, it is the heart of our community, a place where generations have learned, grown, and built lifelong connections.

Reasons for Keeping Rock Cave Elementary Open:

-  **Community Anchor:** The school serves as a vital hub for families in Rock Cave and nearby areas. Its closure would disrupt the fabric of our community and diminish local engagement.
-  **Student Well-being:** Transferring students to distant schools would increase travel times, reduce access to extracurricular activities, and strain young learners emotionally and academically.
-  **Family Impact:** Many families chose to live in Rock Cave because of the school's reputation for personalized attention, small class sizes, and dedicated staff. Closing it would negatively affect property values and community stability.
-  **Educational Excellence:** Rock Cave Elementary consistently provides quality education with strong teacher-student relationships. Its closure risks overcrowding other schools and diluting the quality of education.
-  **Property Management:** The school board currently owns over 50 different properties, many of which are not actively used for educational purposes. Instead of closing a school that fills young minds with knowledge and hearts with lifelong memories, we urge the board to consolidate or repurpose underutilized properties. Strategic asset management should prioritize preserving institutions that directly serve students and families.
-  **Economic Considerations:** While budget concerns are real, we believe there are alternative solutions that do not involve shuttering a beloved institution. Community partnerships, grants, and fundraising efforts could help bridge financial gaps.

We ask the Board to engage with parents, teachers, and local leaders to explore all possible options before making a decision that would deeply affect our children and our town.

We stand united in support of Rock Cave Elementary. Please keep our school open.

Print Name	Phone Number	Signature
Lisa Lee	681-433-9412	
James Friend	304-924-2395	
Brenda Chidester	304-924-6346	
Haven Brown	304-613-2297	
Amy Wilson	304-924-9359	

Urgent Concerns Regarding the School Merger

Good evening. My name is Autumn Loudin. At the last Board of Education Meeting, I outlined my concerns regarding this proposed merger, specifically addressing **classroom capacity, the hazardous French Creek parking lot, and student transportation times**. I stand here tonight to reinforce the seriousness of some of these issues and want to touch on another one that's very close to my heart..

Classroom Capacity and Future Growth

We have already seen the system strain. When Pre-K was removed from Rock Cave, French Creek's Pre-K enrollment filled up, forcing them to turn students away. While Pre-K is optional, what is the plan when this scenario occurs in higher grades? If enrollment capacity is reached, will we accept over **28 students** in a 4th or 5th-grade classroom? Or will children be redistricted to town? The United States Census data review estimates Upshur County's population growth for 2025 at 0.36%, which is about 84 people. This is growth and it's projected to rise next year. I believe that with time, effort, and support from the Board, both schools' enrollments would rise to a more sustainable size. We should not be preemptively consolidating due to what I believe is a temporary dip.

The Hazardous Parking Lot

Next, my concern about French Creek's parking lot sounds dramatic; but it is about safety and people's lives are literally at stake. Most of us saw how both school's parking lots were filled to the brim on Halloween. During evening pickup, the line almost always ends up on the main road at French Creek, making parents park elsewhere until the line dies down and families are often forced to park off-site during events. What happens if the new owners of the old plumbing place refuse to let families park there? What if the Post Office or Dollar General or the school's neighbor start having vehicles towed? **It is the school's responsibility to provide safe parking for its staff and families, not to rely on the generosity of its neighbors.**

Community Impact: Rock Cave's Value

The Impact Binder on page 5 claims the community impact of closing Rock Cave would be minimal, yet it fails to capture the immense consequences of closing down this school. As an employee at a local store and a parent and volunteer here for nearly nine years, I see the integration of the school and our community firsthand. I see almost half the Rock Cave staff and student's families in my store daily, I swear to God. Our PTO has consistently prioritized **"shopping local"**, buying for school parties and events, staff appreciation, our Christmas Store- the list goes on and on.

Beyond the financial ripple effect, Rock Cave Elementary is the **indispensable heart** of this community in my opinion:

- Our **SUBA parade** starts here, and there is nowhere else in Southern Upshur that can be safely used for this event.
- Also, one of the only Easter egg hunts for Southern Upshur is held at this school by Eastern Star.
- For some, the SUBA parade and the egg hunt here are the *only* parade and egg hunt that a lot of Rock Cave students are able to go to and in the last few years, that's been my family's truth.
- Closing the school would also be taking away one of the only places that offers outside exercise in our area. Teenagers use the basketball court, our pavilion is used for birthday parties, our playground and walking path always has kids playing and people of the community getting their steps in almost daily.
- Closing this school is truly stripping these children and all of us in Southern Upshur of one of our biggest community anchors.

A Plea for Trust

I am begging the State Representative and the State Board to hear us tonight. Upshur County residents have had a difficult time trusting the BOE and the state because of past issues-keep Rock Cave open and give Upshur County a reason to trust Upshur County Schools again. I ask you to make a decision that puts **our children's education and safety first**. Give this county time to figure out how to cut costs in a way that benefits our kids the most and keep Rock Cave open.

Thank you.



10/31 Cars parked by a very busy main road



10/31 bottom of French Creeks driveway



10/31 Private Lot that's currently ""For Sale" .3 miles down the road (Not viewable from the school)



10/31 Every parking spot is filled (concrete and grass)



Families even parked where there is " No Parking Signs"



10/31 Some parked at the post office, where there is ""No unauthorized Parking" Signs



10/27 Pick-Up Line goes to the road. Some had to drive past and wait until the line died down.

French Creek Elementary School
May 6, 2023

We appreciate our families' patience this evening when buses were behind schedule and traffic was backed up! Thank you for being understanding with us, making adjustments and changing your plans to get all of our students home safely! We truly appreciate you all! 🙏

Like Comment Share

Amanda Bailey + 36

Most relevant

Thank you for keeping our children safe as we worked to get there to pick them up!

Like Reply

And we appreciate you! ❤️

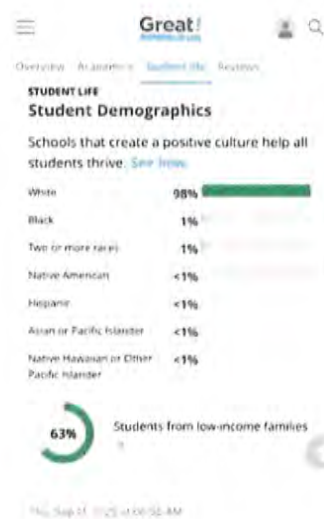
French Creek Elementary School
Nov 16, 2022

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF Parents,

I wanted to ask that we be respectful when we're lining up for parent pick-up at the end of the day. Please do not block driveways near the school entrance and please stay off of the property of our neighbors. We've caused some property damage already and would like to prevent it from happening in the future.

Thanks,

Mr. Baisden



Good morning. This is a message from Upshur County Schools. Bus 18 running 20 to 25 minutes behind today. Thursday, September 11th

Upshur County Schools West Virginia
Oct 1, 2023

Bus 86 will not run Monday morning, October 2nd. Middle and High School students need to meet at Rock Cave Elementary School no later than 7:10 a.m. Bus 33 will be transporting middle and high school students to their schools. Bus 23 will be transporting elementary students to French Creek Elementary and will pick up students at regular stops and times.

Melinda Lipscomb + 3

57 shares

Like Comment Share

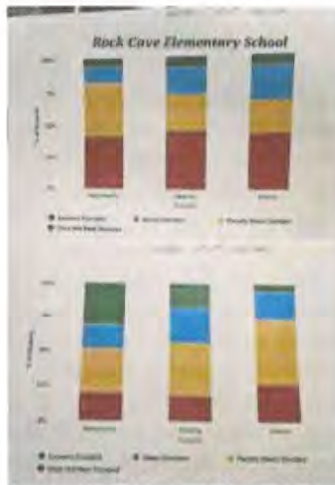
Fri, Sep 12, 2023 at 06:26 AM

Good morning. Busses running on the southern end of the county will be running about 20 minutes late due to an accident near the General Store.

Rock Cave Population

Data after 2023 is projected based on recent change

YEAR	POPULATION	GROWTH	ANNUAL CHANGE
2025	369	25	6.8%
2024	344	24	7.0%
2023	320	25	8.4%
2022	295	-104	-35.0%
2021	399	13	3.3%
2020	386	0	0%



Average Daily Attendance rates for 8/14/25-10/16/25

School	Average Daily Attendance
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	94.161%
French Creek Elementary School	94.623%
Hodgesville Elementary School	94.557%
Rock Cave Elementary School	94.817%
Jennett Elementary School	94.933%
Union Elementary School	93.986%
Washington District Elementary School	93.267%
Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School	93.448%
Buckhannon-Upshur High School	93.515%

School	Average Daily Attendance
Rock Cave Elementary School	94.486%
French Creek Elementary School	94.438%
Jennett Elementary School	94.707%
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	94.890%
Buckhannon-Upshur High School	94.485%
Washington District Elementary School	93.903%
Union Elementary School	94.170%
Hodgesville Elementary School	94.102%



TRANSPORTATION

Christine Miller
November 9, 2023

Dear Families,

Upshur County Schools sincerely apologizes for the lack of buses running today, November 9, 2023. We have a dedicated group of drivers that at times need to be off for various appointments requiring substitutes to fill their runs. Unfortunately, we do not have enough currently to cover when our drivers need to be away from their positions. Upshur County is not unique to this, across the state runs are cancelled daily in many counties. We are always looking for folks willing to complete the required training to provide for situations like today.

We once again apologize and thank you for your support as we move forward in providing a quality education for all of our students.

Christy Miller, Superintendent

Upshur County Schools West Virginia
Nov 9, 2023

Bus 32 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at Hodgesville Elementary and get on bus #31 at 9:15AM and will be returned at 3:55PM. Bus 88 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at Rock Cave Elementary and get on bus 93 at 9:10AM and will be returned at 3:45PM. Bus 92 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at Rock Cave Elementary and get on bus 94 at 9:10AM and will be returned at 3:45PM. Bus 238 will not be running the AM or PM run. HS/ MS students can meet at French Creek Elementary and get on bus 17 at 9:25AM and will be returned at 3:45PM. Bus 243 will not be running AM or PM. HS/Ms Students can catch bus 29 at BAES at 9:35AM and return at 3:40PM

Bus 30 will not be running AM route this morning HS/MS students can meet at Washington District Elementary and get on bus 26 at 9:20AM.

27 comments 29 shares



WORLD POPULATION REVIEW

Upshur County Population

Data after 2023 is projected based on recent change

YEAR	POPULATION	GROWTH	ANNUAL CHANGE
2029	24,070	84	0.36%
2028	23,986	84	0.36%
2027	23,902	84	0.36%
2026	23,818	84	0.36%
2025	23,734	84	0.36%
2024	23,650	84	0.36%
2023	23,566	-149	-0.63%
2022	23,715	-97	-0.41%
2021	23,812	6	0.025%
2020	23,818	-497	-2.04%
2019	24,315	-109	-0.45%
2018	24,424	-165	-0.67%

US Counties | West Virginia | Upshur County

Upshur County

State: West Virginia
County Seat:

Upshur County's estimated 2025 population is 23,734 with a growth rate of 0.36% in the past year according to the most recent United States census data. Upshur County is the 26th largest county in West Virginia. The 2010 population was 24,242 and has seen a growth of -2.1% since that time.

23,734 (2025 Population)

67 (Population Density (per sq. mi))

26 (Population Rank (State))

84 (Annual Population Growth)

My idea for the Board to consider is:

Upshur County Schools has hundreds of acres that are not being utilized at all in Upshur County. I think the board should consider selling the acres that houses old Upshur County schools off or even timber them. Create a Forestry Trade in Upshur and use the Forestry students to timber the lands. You could even use the milled wood for the new school the board was wanting to build. The possibilities are truly endless and should be considered before having to close schools and making negative impacts on our kid's education. State Board- I beg you, keep Rock Cave open and let Upshur County decide how to offset costs. I pray we all choose the option that's best for our students and you all will be in my prayers daily.

As we had our Upshur County Board meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, we (the citizens of Upshur County) were enlightened by Mr. Parker's questions. Our county has great expenditures in services due to lack of certified professionals. This has added to the snowball effect that Mr. Cummings spoke of at the Hearing. BUT WHOSE FAULT IS THIS????? You, and especially, Mrs. Miller blame us, Upshur County citizens and employees for the horrible situation we are in. But we are not the ones that continuously disrespect and not support teachers and drive them to surrounding counties. You are the ones that agreed to pay Jimmy Casa company an insane amount of money when we DID NOT NEED OR WANT OR BENEFIT from them. You are the ones making the decisions on the expenditures of our county. You are also somewhat to blame for the lack of Levy because you have not explained to the public anything about the progressions of the state take over or any long-term plans for the county. Everything we get is hearsay...the money was found, the federal case is ongoing,...What are the facts? I understand that you cannot control the federal case and you cannot speak to that, but you can be honest and forthcoming with facts. How many of you knew that Rock Cave was closing before we found out on social media on the day that Mrs. Miller stood in front of us and told us how great we all were and how great Upshur County was going to be this year. We, Rock Cave staff, were in a room alone having a meeting and she did not have the decency to come to us and explain what was going to happen or give us any information. Upshur County is in a horrible place and you do not even know what really goes on. Contact Mr. Mouser or Mr. Fitzwater, professionals leaving our middle school, and ask them why they are leaving Upshur County and one leaving the profession completely. If they are honest, you might be surprised. You get the sugar-coated opinion of Upshur County from Mrs. Miller. STOP the closure of Rock Cave, get a better system of control for state takeover.

Shanah Carpenter

Dear Board Members,

My name is Autumn Loudin, and I am writing to strongly urge you to prioritize the **education and safety** of Upshur County students when voting on the proposal to close Rock Cave Elementary.

In the opening of the public hearing, Ms. Miller stated that our school is more than just a building and that the community's needs were being taken seriously. However, her closing remarks focused heavily on nothing but financial considerations, leading our entire county/community to feel that this decision has already been predetermined and hasn't been given it's due process and that we bared our fears and souls to you all for nothing until 10:40 that night. I sincerely hope, for everyone's sake, that this is not true.

While French Creek Elementary is a great school with excellent staff, its current infrastructure is not equipped to handle a significant increase in enrollment. It truly can't even handle the enrollment it has now. I wish I was being dramatic about it, but it's the God's honest truth.

- **Unsafe Parking and Traffic:** The current parking lot is already unsafe for its existing enrollment. I am genuinely concerned that it is only a matter of time before a student or family member is injured or killed. Parents are being forced to:
 - Park in private spaces that belong to neighbors and local business's that are posted.
 - Shuttle from 0.4 miles down the road.
 - Park directly on the side of the very busy main road.
- **I implore you to address this critical safety issue before considering moving more children to this location.**
- I have attached pictures illustrating the evening pick-up line and unsafe parking conditions. It is like this [daily](#).
- What happens if the owners of the private lot that's for sale, the post office, the dollar store down the road, and the school's neighbor start having vehicles towed, as is their right? We shouldn't depend on their generosity , especially since the neighbors property has already been damaged from school over flow parking before. How can we add 70+ more students to this?

Overcrowded Classrooms: The projected class sizes, such as the 28 children that will be in the 4th and 5th-grade classrooms, are scary excessive. Classrooms will already be at max capacity. **What is the contingency plan for the students who move to Rock Cave district and attempt to enroll mid-year when there is no remaining space?** This crucial question was not answered at the hearing. Smaller class sizes are proven to improve student outcomes, and this merger will regrettably cause more Upshur County

children—who have already endured many hard challenges since COVID-19—to fall through the cracks. I wish you could meet the ones I'm truly worried about so you could see.

The merger will also result in many young students enduring bus rides exceeding **45 minutes**.

- **Extended Commutes:** Many Rock Cave children already commute many miles/10+ minutes to their bus stops before their bus ride to school. Imagine a 45+minute bus ride to French Creek on top of that. This extended time on the bus is excessive for a six-year-old, or any elementary aged child really.
- **Bus Driver Shortage:** Upshur County is already struggling with a bus driver shortage, resulting in multiple delays and route cancellations (at least 10 times a year, sometimes more just for my girl's bus alone). Consolidating schools will only exacerbate the strain on an already fragile system. Not guaranteeing we'll be able to get new drivers for new routes.

Exploring Financial Alternatives and Community Support

Before immediately resorting to closing schools, I believe all alternative methods to save funds and offset costs should be exhausted first. Our community is eager to help.

1. **Community Fundraising:** Our community has offered to volunteer, form focus groups, and fundraise for the BOE. Our small school's most successful Bingo raised over \$8,000(our bingo's average profit is \$6,000+). If all county schools held similar events a few times a year (Bingo, fun runs, etc.), the profit could easily exceed **\$100,000 if not double that per school year for the BOE**. I would personally volunteer to help fundraising efforts from Rock Cave for the Board of Education if Rock Cave remains open.
2. **Utilizing County Land:** The county also owns a substantial amount of unused land. While selling or timbering is a one-time solution as Miller stated, we could pursue sustainable revenue-generating models:
 - Leasing unused properties to farmers, hunters, or businesses.
 - Implementing a continuous, sustainable forestry program (clear-cutting and reforestation cycles).
 - Utilizing the timber for the new middle school and starting a student-led Forestry/Carpentry trade program to build it.
 - Exploring cost-saving methods like growing our own meat using methods like those of Joel Salatin.

My point is- there are numerous alternatives that could be explored first if the community is just given the time, support, and effort from the you all and our Board of Education.

A Plea for Trust and Time

I am begging you to **hold off on making any immediate decisions** to close the school. Give Upshur County the chance to implement these alternative solutions. Please grant us a one-year moratorium at least, similar to what Pickens was given. If our school closes, it won't

just close our school, it will turn our community into a ghost town just as our population here has started growing.

I believe you want what is best for the state and our county. However, the state takeover combined with the schools closing, past BOE mistakes, and the current situation at Hodgesville, has deeply eroded community/county/state trust in both the State Board and our local BOE. Please give the Upshur County community a reason to trust you and our local Board again. Search through past emails and see that I have never emailed you all for anything ever. The one and only reason I am emailing you now is because this merger, and all of the other schools closing, is taking our state in the wrong direction and I fear it will be the end of public schools. Doesn't our student's and us as their stewards, deserve better than being a number on a spreadsheet? I believe so. I know so and I feel like you all being in the positions that you're currently in know that too. Please vote to keep Rock Cave open. If you would like to talk about anything more in depth, please reach out. Thank you for listening to me ramble.

Respectfully,

Autumn Loudin Mother of Two, Taxpayer, Voter, Community Member, employee at a store in Rock Cave that will be deeply affected by this merger, Assistant Soccer Coach, PTO Treasurer, and Volunteer for 9 years at Rock Cave Elementary

Attachments:

- Photos of French Creek's unsafe evening pick-up line.
- Demographics for Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools.
- Demographics indicating an increase in the county's population.
- Documentation confirming the bus driver shortage in Upshur County.
- Evidence of community dissatisfaction with the state takeover and Upshur County Schools.
- Proof of the fundraising potential that could happen if Upshur County works together.

Mr. Kelley,

My name is Abigail Jeffries and I am continuing my comments and concerns from the Rock Cave Elementary School closure hearing that was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Regarding my concerns of legalities, I missed commenting that the most blatant misrepresentation in the impact statement is who proposed the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and who will be voting on the school closure. All wording in the impact statements references the county BOE as initiator and final decision makers, when the closure was proposed solely by the state appointed superintendent, with the state DOE and BOE voting. This is a gross misrepresentation in the disclosure of public information to the people of Upshur County.

Mr. Cummings' explanation of the past deficit and the WV Department of Education's expectations regarding unrestricted funds was helpful. During his comments he also pointed out the fact that the levy did not pass. I believe we all know far too well, just why the levy did not pass. I am confident that time will heal those wounds and a levy will pass again in the future. I do not believe that would be the case, if schools are closed, particularly if they are closed in a forceful manner by the state BOE with no input from our county board representatives.

Superintendent Miller responded to questions of options other than the closure of Rock Cave Elementary being explored by stating the closure of other schools (Hodgesville, Washington District, Tennerton) had been explored. I would like the record to reflect that we do not find the closure of any school to be an acceptable option.

Superintendent Miller also mentioned that the sale of property the county owns would "just" be a one-time influx of revenue. We realize that, but that revenue would allow more time and opportunity to find budgetary solutions other than closure. It was announced earlier this month that FirstEnergy plans to build a natural gas plant in Harrison County, with plans to be filed to the WV Public Service Commission in early 2026. Over 3,260 construction jobs are expected to be created. It is also estimated to support 2,000 plus jobs when in operation, at the plant and in WV's natural gas industry. These jobs will likely create population growth in Upshur County, as we offer an affordable cost of living. There is also an article written by Lori Kersey from October 1, 2025 where WV BOE president Paul Hardesty is quoted to say "...on public education, I think they played a little heavy handed, and they've got some unintended consequences from their actions." The they he is referring to is the WV Legislature. In that same article Del. Joe Ellington who is chairman of the House Education committee, said through a House spokeswoman that "it's too early to say" if lawmakers will address the school funding formula during the next legislative session. "But we have spent a good deal of time looking at the formula, and it's possible the Public Education Subcommittee may have some discussions about it before the regular legislative session," The closure of Rock Cave Elementary is proposed for future budgetary concerns due to trends and hypotheticals, why don't we allow time for the possibility that there will be positive improvements and upward trends? A school can be closed at a later time, but it is most likely to never reopen once closed. Closing Rock Cave

Elementary and merging with French Creek Elementary would definitely cause detriment to students at both schools, and to the entire Rock Cave Community, let's err on the side of positive caution and KEEP Rock Cave Elementary open!

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Abigail Jeffries

Mr. Whitlow,

My name is Abigail Jeffries and I am continuing my comments and concerns from the Rock Cave Elementary School closure hearing that was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Regarding my concerns of legalities, I missed commenting that the most blatant misrepresentation in the impact statement is who proposed the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and who will be voting on the school closure. All wording in the impact statements references the county BOE as initiator and final decision makers, when the closure was proposed solely by the state appointed superintendent, with the state DOE and BOE voting. This is a gross misrepresentation in the disclosure of public information to the people of Upshur County.

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Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Abigail Jeffries

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to follow up on last night's meeting and to express my deep concern with both the decision being considered and the way the discussion unfolded.

As a parent, it was incredibly difficult to watch so many heartfelt, emotional, and personal testimonies be met with little to no visible reaction or acknowledgment from several members of the board. Our community came forward with genuine fear, sadness, and a plea for our children's future, yet the lack of empathy shown made many of us feel unheard and dismissed.

This decision carries long-term consequences for our children—far beyond numbers on a spreadsheet. The negative outcomes for students, families, and our community should outweigh a financial issue that stems from decisions made by previous adults in leadership roles, not our children. It is deeply unfair that the weight of past financial mismanagement is now falling on the shoulders of students who had no part in creating it.

Our children deserve stability. They deserve a school where they feel safe, supported, and seen. They deserve leaders who consider the human impact first.

I urge you to truly reflect on what was shared in that room and to reconsider the direction this decision is heading. Our families are not fighting for convenience—we are fighting for our children's well-being, their education, and their sense of home.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for giving genuine consideration to the voices of the families you serve.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Hope

Mr. Stansbury,

My name is Abigail Jeffries. My children who are now a Buckhannon-Upshur High School senior, and Sophomore at WVU, attended Rock Cave Elementary K-5. I volunteered extensively within the school during that time. Most recently I was a foster parent to children who attended both Rock Cave and French Creek elementaries. Today I am speaking as a concerned community member.

I, along with many others, feel that closing Rock Cave Elementary would be a grave mistake, with effects that would be felt for decades to come. My opposition to the potential closure is multifaceted and it has been difficult to decide what aspect to focus on during this allotted time.

I have chosen to discuss the prudence in making such a far-reaching and permanent decision so hastily (14 weeks and 2 days from formal announcement to final vote). And while I much prefer that Rock Cave Elementary remain open indefinitely, I have challenged myself to consider possible options and solutions to the problems that have been noted by those in opposition to the current proposal.

My greatest concern is for the children of BOTH elementary schools. Children whose safety, health and education should NEVER be compromised. Children who WILL suffer effects should the proposed closure and merger proceed. These effects could be minimized by a true partnership between the Board of Education, the students, families and staff of both schools, and community stakeholders. One that allows time to construct a solid foundation where the success of ALL students can be built on.

The safety and health of these students is of utmost importance. Rock Cave students would be moving from a school that currently has a safe entrance to one that does not. This move results in an even greater potential for a mass disaster. Additionally, there is photographic evidence of overcrowded lots and overflowing parking that reaches Route 20 and beyond during student pick up and special events. A merger would undoubtedly cause larger class sizes that would be a breeding ground for sickness (e.g. Covid) and could lead to increased or overlooked issues with medically fragile students. It would be prudent to address the issues of safe entry and parking lot expansion prior to a merger and construct a solid plan to minimize the impact of the health of students and staff.

The entire reason for my concern is EDUCATION. When researching the topic of the effects of school closure, I could not find ANY articles that did not include the decline of test scores, attendance, parent involvement and student morale. All articles indicated that these effects were even more pronounced in rural areas. As per prior BOE meeting minutes, there have been marked improvements with benchmarks and attendance. It is not prudent to reverse these positive changes with a hasty decision. At-risk students should be identified prior to any merger with plans in place to ensure those students continue to build upon past growth and do not get lost in the shuffle.

In closing, while reviewing the approved BOE meeting minutes for Sept. 11, 2025, under the WV Department of Education section, I noted the quotes by the Assistant Superintendent,

Mr. Jeffrey Kelley; “put kids first”, “prioritize teaching and learning and putting kids first”, and “prioritize kids, teaching, and learning.” If those quotes truly reflect the mission of our WV Board of Education, then I am confident that you will decide that Rock Cave Elementary School shall remain open, until measures are met to ensure the success of ALL our students.

Respectfully, Abigail Jeffries

I am writing to ask that you stop the proposed closing of Rock Cave Elementary School in Upshur County until the county and state, together, can make a supported (supported by the stakeholders and community) plan on what to do about our middle school. Part of the building that is currently used as our middle school was the high school for the grandparents and great grandparents of the students that are there now. Mrs. Miller is proposing closing Rock Cave Elementary to save money to then put the middle school students at the high school. Yes, our enrollment is down but putting 11 year olds with 18 year olds is not an option that should EVER be considered. I hope that she has them segregated in her plans, however we know kids and young adults, and if they are in proximity to one another they will intermingle. I am asking that you, as the WV BOE, in control of Upshur County, allow our elected BOE members to work with Mr. Wotring, your next appointed superintendent, and county stakeholders to develop a reasonable, sustainable plan for Upshur County. We need change, students have changed, education must adjust and change to meet student needs. Student needs are much greater than they were when class sizes were set at 25 and 28. Students come to school with very little common background, unlike the past, even in a small school in a small community like Rock Cave. Knowledge and experiences are enormously different because of all the options that technology presents. We need to make education meaningful to bring back those that are choosing virtual. We need to make it valued by society again. This change must be in considering that the future might have more students and therefore the ability to house them. We may have less students and be able to adjust to those needs. We are lacking in teachers, bus drivers, etc., we must consider those

aspects of this plan. In closing Rock Cave, from Mrs. Miller's numbers, the county will not save the personnel costs because the personnel will move to open positions in the county, there are enough. Therefore, the only true savings from the Impact Statement are utilities \$26,229, maintenance \$21,324, other \$68,339, and transportation \$873, totaling \$116,764. This is not enough savings to close a school, uproot 70 students and families, max out classes in one school in our county, causing a few overage students there to be transferred to Tennerton (while across the county there are other elementary schools with low enrollment as well) all in the plan of making money to move middle school students to the high school. The idea of just closing a school and merging a middle school into a high school to save money is not a solution to the true problems that we face in Upshur County or in education across the state and country. Let the plans for change be made by stakeholders looking at all of the county needs and problems and finding real solutions for the long term.

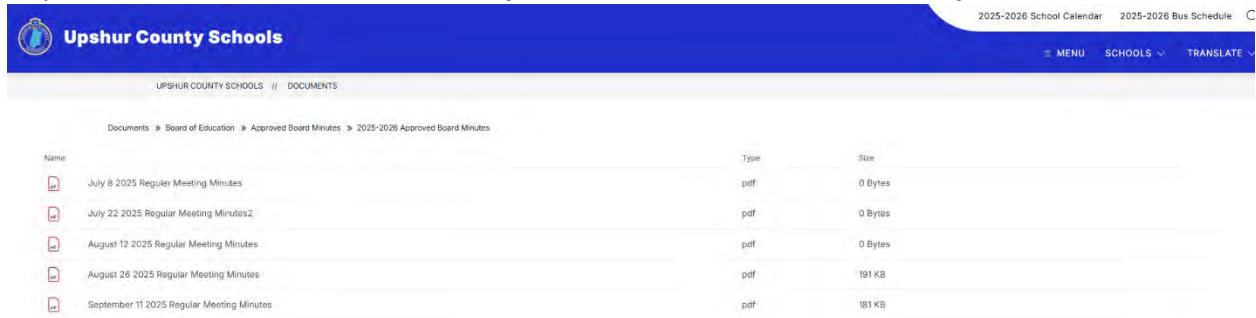
Thank you, Shanah Carpenter

Mrs. Blatt,






Our community had a special community meeting this evening and we read through the Impact/Closure statement for Rock Cave Elementary merging with French Creek Elementary. We found several discrepancies and would like to know who to address this with? The numbers for personnel for RCES are off by hundreds of thousands of dollars. I have a list of current staff (and used the WVDE certified salary list for current salaries) and even with adding staff that is only at our school less than part-time (and shared with other schools) it's still way off.

We also believe other numbers are inflated. Including the estimates for construction/building supplies in the SBA report. We had several construction business owners present this evening and they said "if that's what school's are paying, we need to charge more!" They couldn't believe the estimates, especially for the year 2019. We understand mistakes happen but this decision affects more than just 71 families in our community so we would appreciate if all the information/data given was at least accurate.

Another concern that was brought up this evening was Upshur County BOE does not post their approved board minutes in a timely manner. I believe the code/rule is within 2 business days and the most recent minutes they have posted on their website is from September. A few members said they have tried to address this locally to no avail.



The screenshot shows the Upshur County Schools website. The header includes the school logo, the name "Upshur County Schools", and navigation links for "2025-2026 School Calendar", "2025-2026 Bus Schedule", "MENU", "SCHOOLS", and "TRANSLATE". The main content area is titled "DOCUMENTS" and shows a breadcrumb trail: "Documents > Board of Education > Approved Board Minutes > 2025-2026 Approved Board Minutes". Below this is a table of documents:

Name	Type	Size
 July 8 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes	pdf	0 Bytes
 July 22 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes2	pdf	0 Bytes
 August 12 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes	pdf	0 Bytes
 August 26 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes	pdf	191 KB
 September 11 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes	pdf	181 KB



The footer of the website contains the Upshur County Schools logo and contact information: "Upshur County Schools, 102 Smithfield St., Buckhannon, WV 26201, (304) 472-5480 (Phone), (304) 472-0258 (Fax)". It also features "Quick Links" for "Website Accessibility" and "Website Map", and a "Stay Connected" section with "Download on the App Store" and "GET IT ON Google Play" buttons, along with social media icons for Facebook and YouTube.

We understand changes must be made but all involved cannot make educated votes if the information provided is incorrect.

Thanks for your time & consideration,
Natasha Davis

My name is Jamie Poling. I am a parent and community member of Rock Cave. I want to start by saying thank you for all that you do for our school system. I know that the purposed plan to close 2 of our counties elementary school and merging our middle school and high school have not been made lightly. I am glad to see that Tennerton will not be closing now. I know that there are many things to consider such as finance and staffing. My purpose in this email is to ask you to reconsider these decisions.

I know that when making these decisions you have to consider all students and not just one. When it comes to parenting my child is my main focus. As I have spoken with other members of Upshur county not just the Rock Cave area, I have found that my child is not the only one whom struggles in a larger environment. I will share some of his story in hopes that you will keep in mind that there are other students whom are similar.

I believe that Rock Cave Elementary school has allowed my child to become more comfortable with school. He cried the first 4 months of school the first 2 years. The teachers met him with nothing less than love and compassion and nurtured a positive environment and frequent communication with his Father and I to help him succeed in becoming comfortable with school. The teachers have gone above and beyond because their hearts are in their careers. As we are now in his third year of school, he is finally walking through the doors without crying and communicating his needs. As we struggled to get assistance with what help he needed, I had considered pulling him from public school and homeschooling him. As a mother, my heart broke for my child. I knew that pulling him would not help with socializing and his attachment to his Father and I. I chose not to and do not regret that decision because he has blossomed in his third year of school. I do not believe that my child will benefit from moving to a larger school. We have already cut out riding the bus most days because the ride is so long that it lessens the time for him to get adequate sleep, time for homework, eating, and family time. He is also overstimulated by the bus and does not like riding it. If he were to move to French Creek school this will be an even larger overstimulating environment and provided his Father and I are unable to provide transportation this will be a longer bus ride. Right now we are fortunate enough to be able to privately transport our child. What about the families that are unable to do that?

I cannot say that I will have more children that will enter the school system of Upshur county. If I did have younger children and Rock Cave were to stay open, I can confidently say that I would send them.

We want to raise and nurture children whom will one day be in the shoes that we are walking in. The people that will be making these decisions, teachers, lawyers, nurses, board members, etc. If we do not provide an environment that they are comfortable to learn in, how do we expect them to succeed?

For many students, school is not enjoyable. We push them to start at a young age. Would it not be an option to stop pre-k, Leave our 6th graders in the grade schools and put the 7th and 8th graders students at the high school? Our goal is for the middle school to be updated anyway. Many parents have chosen to either start homeschooling their children from the beginning in our county or pull the from public schools to homeschool.... Why? If you ask many will say because they feel that public school in Upshur county is failing to provide what is needed for their children. I feel that by making the changes that are proposed there are more parents who will choose to homeschool their children which will only make things worse as far as enrollment, which in turns will cut more funding.

We now have a principal who cares about our school, from monitoring drop off and pick up, to making sure our children are supervised at the flag pole while taking down the flag at the end of the day, to communicating with the parents, and greeting our children with "Good morning" and advocates for a children's needs. I did not attend this school as a child but I have two younger siblings who did and they are now thriving in life. As I went through nursing school, I worked with one of the teachers whom still teachers there and she was phenomenal and she genuinely cares about her students. I am more than thankful that we have a qualified special education teacher in our school because my child personally has done well with in person education vs virtual.

Rock Cave Elementary school has provided a small safe environment for my child among many to learn and grow. Our children do not deserve to reap the repercussions of adult decisions. I ask as a parent of a child who has grown in this school and still has time in elementary school and would benefit from a smaller environment to reconsider this decision. I ask as a community member to keep this school open because it adds asset to our community. What can be done to keep our school open?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jamie Poling

[You don't often get email from ahope0930@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Alyssa Hope, and I'm a parent and community member from Rock Cave. I want to thank the Board and Superintendent for the opportunity to write to you on behalf of our school.

I'm here to ask that you reconsider the proposal to close Rock Cave Elementary and merge it with French Creek. This decision would deeply affect our children, our families, and our entire community.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than a school — it's the heart of our area. Our small class sizes allow teachers to truly know and support every child. Students receive one-on-one attention that helps them grow academically, socially, and emotionally. That personal connection is something larger schools simply cannot provide.

If the school closes, many students will face long and tiring bus rides — some over an hour each way. These commutes will take away from rest, family time, and after-school opportunities. For our youngest learners especially, that's a huge burden.

French Creek Elementary is already near capacity, and combining two student bodies will only increase strain on teachers and resources. Every child deserves an environment where they can learn without overcrowding or overstressed classrooms.

Rock Cave Elementary also represents generations of history, pride, and community involvement. Closing it would not only hurt education — it would take away one of the few remaining anchors that keeps this part of Upshur County connected.

Our school may be small, but it makes a big difference. Once a rural school closes, it rarely reopens — and communities like ours suffer for years to come.

I ask the Board to look beyond the numbers and consider the lives behind them — the children who thrive in these small classrooms, the families who rely on this local school, and the community that rallies around it.

Please keep Rock Cave Elementary open. Our kids, our families, and our future depend on it.

“When you take away a small school, you don’t just close a building — you close a piece of a community’s heart.”

Thank you for your time and your commitment to our schools.

— Alyssa Hope

Dear Mrs. Blatt,

I am writing to you concerning the possible closing of Rock Cave Elementary School. My granddaughter is currently in grade 4 at the school and is excelling. This is a reflection of the caliber of teachers at the school. They have turned around a high absentee rate, to become the school with the best attendance rate! They have also increased their test scores, due to the dedication of teachers in motivating their students to reach their potential.

Rock Cave is small, with the school being the heart of the community. Closing the school would have a negative impact on this part of the county. Students and families are hoping the state will acknowledge their hard work and improved outcomes and stand with them to save their school.

I hope when you see the efforts being put forth, you can support our children, the teachers and the school on the road to success.

Thank you for your consideration,
Janet Butcher

Superintendent Michele Blatt,

I am reaching out in regards to the potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. My niece is currently a student there and loves her local elementary school. It would be devastating for the community to lose their local school. It is an integral part of life for so many local children in the K-5 grade level. Soon enough, as the students get older and go to middle school and high school, they will branch out to larger schools that are within the county, but not a part of the local community. The bonds that are established with students and teachers are an important foundation to build a love of learning and a chance to interact with those from the community, with various local activities that the school year includes. For the students in the more rural settings of the county, the local elementary school plays a vital role that I would hate to see disappear.

Please consider keeping Rock Cave Elementary school a part of the local fabric and support the small scale neighborhood schools. They are so very important!

Sincerely,

Kim Butcher

Good afternoon, Ms. Blatt,

I am writing in reference to the news of Rock Cave Elementary being closed in the near future.

I am aware, current attendance of the school is low in comparison to earlier years. However, I believe most of this had to do with the rumor going around that the school was intended to be shut down. A lot of parents were bothered by the idea of their child having to be moved over to another school, and proactively pulled their kids from RCES. It felt like there were a lot of staffing decisions and last-minute changes that made the school look less than stellar last year.

Despite the uphill battle that the school seemed to be challenged with, my understanding is the test scores still increased and attendance is among the best this year. We were delighted to see that my daughter's current teacher decided to stay with the school, despite the uneasy ground of the future for those employed by RCES.

I am afraid if the operation of RCES does not continue and multiple districts merge, that our kids (including my daughter), may not receive the kind of education and attention that they are owed.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your attention to these details that make our small community schools so important moving forward.

Regards.

Kipp Wimmer.

Good evening, Mrs. Blatt,

I am writing concerning the possible closure of Rock Cave Elementary. My daughter is currently a 4th grade student. I ask that you please consider keeping it open. That school is a staple of our little community. I worry not only the impact on the students but the entire community will be immense. The kids have worked so hard to improve test scores (which have hugely improved!) and they now have the best attendance rate in the whole county. They have finally bounced back from obstacles brought on by the pandemic. I truly believe this will lead to most of not all classes filling up again. We just need the states support in getting there. Support meaning just a little more time. We are the part of the county that by far has the highest poverty rates, and we can't give up on these kids and the care they get from this amazing bunch of teachers. They see their moms fighting for them in this moment and it would mean the world to us for them to see their state fight for them as well.

Thank you so much for your time,

Clara Wimmer

Sent from my iPhone

My name is Natasha Davis. I am writing as a concerned parent. My daughters attend Rock Cave Elementary, B-U Middle and B-U High schools. I want to throw an out-of-the-box idea out to you all in hopes of saving our elementary schools.

We all know the middle school is our county's (physically/building), "problem-child". It's old and needs some major improvements. We've tried the past few years to pass levies with no success. So, what if there was a way we could eliminate that building and save our beloved Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools? I would like to challenge this board to look at all options and even try some more creative approaches.

Have you heard of multi-age classrooms? Multi-age classrooms are also known as composite classes, multi-grade or mixed-age classrooms. Students can span multiple grade levels, often ranging from [one to three years apart in age](#). One of the closest, multi-age classroom-based schools to us is in Frederick, Maryland. The Carrol Creek Montessori Public Charter School had 315 students enrolled for the 23/24 school year with over 2,000 applicants applying to join. Their classrooms are broken down into a Primary (prek and kindergarten), Lower Elementary (1,2, 3), Upper Elementary (4, 5, 6) and Middle School (7 and 8). Carrol Creek Montessori Public Charter School, Frederick, MD.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gj6EMjIQNN2sauLcqWRnPljPhc51a1Zf/view?pli=1>

This could be a great model for Upshur County to study and from which to make our own. Multi-age classrooms offer benefits like: deeper teacher-student relationships and a stronger sense of community, promoting peer learning and leadership, enabling individualized instruction and flexible pacing, and encouraging cooperation over competition. These types of classrooms offer flexible grouping based on ability, reduce grade-level labels, and can lead to higher student confidence, leadership skills, and positive social/emotional development. Often found in [Montessori](#) and other nontraditional schools, multiage classrooms typically span two or three grade levels. In a Montessori lower elementary classroom, for instance, students from ages 6 to 9 may be in a single class together, but break up into different small groups by ability in different subjects.

"The curriculum in a multiage classroom is flexible to the needs of each child", says Sandra Stone, professor emeritus at [Northern Arizona University](#) and founder of the university's National Multiage Institute. For example, she says, "in one multiage classroom she observed, 9- to 11-year-old children who were excelling in math were given the opportunity to advance to algebra, a subject typically not taught until eighth grade, when students are 12 or 13. " "In the multiage classroom, every child moves forward and is not limited by a grade-level curriculum," Stone says.

According to <https://montessoricensus.org/> there are zero public multi-age, Montessori-based public schools in West Virginia. In a time where more and more parents are looking for different schooling options, let's try something different. Multi-age classrooms could be a great way to attract more students into Upshur county by offering something no other county has. This could be the way we make our schools better for our students and more attractive for our parents. If we wanted to, surely, we could make this work. Many states have schools similar to this and they are in higher demand than the traditional public school. This could save schools, jobs and elevate our students' education to a higher level.

Please give this consideration.

Sincerely,

Natasha Davis

Rock Cave Elementary Parent

I am third grade teacher at Rock Cave Elementary School in Upshur County. We were identified as a CSI school at the end of the previous county administration. We are currently on our Sustainability year. This is due to the teachers, staff, and students at the school, with VERY LITTLE credit to be given to the CSI people, county administration, or school administration.

As a third-grade teacher my student's test scores are a direct result of coming out of CSI status. Our school is on the upward climb of becoming a successful school. With positive moves in the right direction. All last year's third, fourth, and fifth grade student's test scores were a result of their hard work and the teachers hard work, with no support from admin on any level. We as a collective staff continue to go above and beyond for our students and their successes.

Although this is only my second year at Rock Cave, I chose to transfer from another school in the county and go to Rock Cave. That said school is now on CSI status and has showed little to no academic success. Aside from having no support from admin last year, I have choose to stay and continue to try and make a positive change, despite our school year being started with a bombshell being dropped and told there were proposals of us closing. No matter what good our small school has showed in just a year's time, it seems like it all goes unnoticed and we continue to get kicked while we are down. We are never informed of proposals, plans, or included in any decisions being made that deeply affect us and our lives/lively hood.

Due to the turmoil and current county administration we have very low enrollment. We now have strong staff in place, though still lacking a music teacher, and excellent administration in our school. We are ready to build and grow. Yet, with the positives we are making, our school is facing closure.

I am concerned for Upshur County as a whole, and decisions being made for change without addressing ongoing concerns that our county has had for decades. Parts of our middle school are very old and have been decaying for several years. There were efforts to make changes by the previous county administration, but they were the vision of few and not well planned, and so not supported.

Our largest elementary school, Buckhannon Academy Elementary School, has been added on to and now is spread out and so not the best set up for young students. The current, appointed by the state, superintendent, Christy Miller, is making plans to merge two of our elementary schools into two others; Rock Cave Elementary with French Creek Elementary, and Tennerton Elementary with Buckhannon Academy Elementary. I am afraid she is doing this without considering what is best for the entire Upshur County, our future and our students. Yes, enrollment is down and needs addressed. We have inadequate staffing in some of our schools, but what about finding a solution to fix the problems we have had for several years in addition to addressing current concerns. Is getting rid of a school that is in good shape and has made amazing progress in the last year going to address the ongoing problems we have in Upshur County or is it just a fix for the money? We need your help in addressing our Upshur County's problems in a way that gives input from all stakeholders as well as transparent planning and dissemination of facts and information.

Ms. Lauren Celender
Third Grade Teacher
Rock Cave Elementary
Upshur County Schools

Kayla Sack

105 Jolynne Drive

Buckhannon, WV 26201

August 12, 2025

To:
Board of Education Members
Upshur County West Virginia

Subject: Opposition to Closing Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools and Combining Middle & High School

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong concerns about the proposed closure of Tennerton Elementary School and Rock Cave Elementary School, and the plan to merge middle and high schools. While navigating budget constraints is essential, this approach raises serious negative developmental, academic, and community consequences, especially in a rural county like ours. Below is compelling evidence from West Virginia-specific studies and local data that should inform your decision.

1. Developmental and Academic Consequences of Consolidation

- A study examining school and district size in West Virginia found that small schools significantly facilitate academic achievement for impoverished students, whereas larger schools primarily benefit affluent students. This suggests that our most at-risk students thrive in the close-knit environment of smaller, community-run schools like Tennerton and Rock Cave.

- West Virginia Public Broadcasting's "Closing Costs" investigation revealed that consolidating over 300 schools between 1990 and 2002 did not save money, despite widespread promises. Rather, it led to:

- Higher transportation costs and longer bus rides (with many students exceeding state guidelines), causing stress, lower grades, and reduced participation in after-school activities.
- The elimination of advanced courses—some consolidated high schools offered fewer advanced placement or foreign language classes than their predecessors,

hurting academic rigor.

2. Broader Educational Recovery Trends in West Virginia

- According to the Harvard–Stanford Education Recovery Scorecard, West Virginia has made strides in academic recovery—but still lags behind pre-pandemic achievement:

- Math: ~0.45 grade level below 2019 levels
- Reading: ~0.74 grade level below 2019 levels

This shows we cannot afford disruptions like school consolidation that worsen academic recovery and lower achievement—especially for younger students.

3. Community & Safety Impacts

- Consolidation tends to erode the community fabric: small schools are often community hubs, fostering social cohesion, local events, and strong parental involvement.

- From local experiences: “...the loss of the community feeling ... the loss of the community feel and history as well as their comfort and safety/peace in their current environments.” These firsthand reflections underline that consolidation often costs more than it saves—through diminished community engagement and student well-being.

4. Summary of Key Concerns with Evidence-Based Support

Concern Area	West Virginia–Specific Impact/Stat
Academic Performance	Small schools boost achievement for poorer students
Cost Efficiency	Consolidations failed to deliver savings; transportation costs skyrocketed
Curriculum Quality	Consolidated schools often dropped advanced courses
Learning Disruption	Academic recovery remains incomplete post-pandemic
Community Impact	Schools serve as social anchors; consolidation erodes community bonds
Local Educator Concern	Losing community-based schools affects safety, belonging, and comfort

Final Appeal

Given this evidence, consolidating Tennerton and Rock Cave Elementary Schools—and combining them with middle and high school—is likely to reduce academic performance, stifle student development, strain families, and erode

community identity—all while providing little to no actual savings or educational improvement within West Virginia's context.

I urge the board to pause these plans and instead:

- Prioritize local academic data and community feedback
- Invest in rebuilding trust and transparency post-embezzlement
- Explore interim solutions (e.g., shared resources, grants, targeted improvements) that preserve these schools while addressing fiscal challenges

Our students and families deserve education that supports not only academic success but also belonging, safety, and community continuity.

Thank you for considering this deeply.

Sincerely,

Kayla Sack

From: Amber Anderson <
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 2:05 PM
To: Larry Hardesty <larry.hardesty@wvbe.k12.wv.us>
Subject: Rock Cave Elementary

Mr. Hardesty,

Please find attached the impact binder created by Rock Cave Elementary's staff, parents, and community members. After noticing many discrepancies in the version submitted for state review by Christine Miller, we worked together to prepare our own accurate representation. This binder, however, is only a small glimpse into why RCES is so important and why it must remain open. You will be receiving many messages from our community speaking out against the consolidation. To understand the heart of our school, please search "Rock Cave Elementary" on Google or Facebook. Please watch the past Upshur County BOE Meetings on You Tube. We are ROCK CAVE—not Rock Creek—and we stand tall and proud!

P.S. A lot of their information is outdated!



[RCES Impact Part 2 1.pdf](#)

Thanks for your consideration in keeping RCES open for years to come!
Amber Anderson, a parent and teacher of RCES

The Impact of Closing Rock Cave Elementary School

Date: November 12, 2025

To: West Virginia Board of Education and Upshur County Board of Education

From: Gary Bonnett II

Subject: Why Closing Rock Cave Elementary Will Hurt Upshur County's Future

My name is Gary Bonnett II, and I am proud to be an alumnus of Rock Cave Elementary School. Though my career has taken me far from Upshur County, the foundation for everything I've achieved began in those classrooms. The dedicated teachers at Rock Cave gave me more than an education—they gave me confidence, curiosity, and the belief that I could succeed. Without that solid start, I would not be where I am today.

That is why the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary deeply concerns me—not only for the children who call this community home, but for the long-term vitality of Upshur County.

Here are the facts:

- Rock Cave Elementary currently serves approximately 74 students, including six kindergarteners, and has historically enrolled around 147 students in grades PK–5.
- If closed, these students will be transferred to French Creek Elementary, which is almost 5 miles away from Rock Cave. For a 5-year-old, that means a 10–20 minute bus ride each way, adding nearly an hour extra to their commute daily where certain routes will be over an hour each way.
- Upshur County already faces an average commute time of 24.7 minutes for workers, higher than most neighboring counties. Adding long school commutes for young children will make this end of the county far less attractive to families considering relocation.
- Research shows that rural school closures often lead to declining property values, reduced business activity, and loss of social capital, weakening the very communities they aim to serve.

The economic impact cannot be ignored. Upshur County is actively working to attract new businesses and expand economic opportunities through initiatives like the Upshur County Development Authority's site selection program and Opportunity Zone investments. But businesses don't just look at infrastructure—they look at quality of life. Families relocating for jobs want strong, accessible schools. Closing Rock Cave Elementary sends the wrong message and creates a barrier to growth in southern Upshur County.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than a school—it is a cornerstone of this community and a selling point for future development. Closing it would not only disrupt the lives of current students but also hinder our ability to attract talent and investment.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of this decision. Let's work together to find solutions that preserve educational access, strengthen our communities, and support the economic future of Upshur County.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to our children and our county.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Bonnett II', with a stylized, scribbled end.

Sincerely,
Gary Bonnett II
Global EHS Director, Chemelex
Rock Cave Elementary - '90
Marshall University - '06
Texas A&M '21



10/31 Cars parked by a very busy main road



10/31 bottom of French Creeks driveway



10/31 Private Lot that's currently "For Sale" .3 miles down the road (Not viewable from the school)



10/31 Every parking spot is filled (concrete and grass)



Families even parked where there is "No Parking Signs"



10/31 Some parked at the post office, where there is "No unauthorized Parking" Signs



10/27 Pick-Up Line goes to the road. Some had to drive past and wait until the line died down.

Formal Grievance Regarding the Proposed Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Date: October 13, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education
West Virginia State Board of Education

From:

Cheyenne Troxell, Parent of a Rock Cave Elementary Student

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my deep frustration and strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School at the end of the 2025–2026 academic year. This decision, if enacted, will have devastating consequences for our students, families, and the broader Rock Cave community.

Rock Cave Elementary is not just a school—it is a pillar of our rural community. It boasts the highest attendance rates in Upshur County, a testament to the dedication of its staff and the trust it has earned from families. The school fosters a nurturing environment where children feel safe, supported, and engaged. Closing this school would disrupt the educational continuity of our children and erode the social fabric of our community.

Evidence-based research consistently shows that closing rural schools leads to:

- Lower academic performance due to longer commutes, larger class sizes, and loss of personalized instruction.
- Decreased community engagement, as schools often serve as hubs for local events, services, and civic participation.
- Increased dropout rates and emotional distress among students, especially those from low-income families.
- Economic decline, as families may relocate to areas with more stable school systems, further reducing enrollment and funding.

These outcomes are not hypothetical—they are documented realities in communities across West Virginia and the nation.

What is equally troubling is the lack of transparency and communication from the Upshur County Board of Education. Teachers at Rock Cave Elementary reportedly learned of the closure proposal through Facebook, not through official channels. Parents have been left in the dark, with no clear timeline, no public hearings scheduled, and no meaningful opportunity to provide input. This is unacceptable and undermines public trust in our

educational leadership.

Furthermore, the fact that Upshur County remains under state control due to prior financial mismanagement raises serious concerns about the motivations behind this proposal. Decisions affecting our children's futures should be made with community collaboration, not imposed from above without due process.

At the most recent Board of Education meeting, there were multiple discrepancies between the state and local board members regarding financial reporting. It was revealed that the board has millions of dollars in its unassigned budget, commonly referred to as a 'rainy day fund.' Despite this, they are proposing to close Rock Cave Elementary over a budget shortfall of just \$800,000.00. How is this acceptable? How can the state determine where our local tax money is allocated without a public vote or community input? This lack of fiscal clarity and disregard for democratic process further erodes trust in the decision-making authority of the Board of Education.

It is deeply unfair that our children are being forced to bear the consequences of financial mismanagement committed by previous superintendents and board members—individuals who have faced no repercussions for their actions. Why are they not being held accountable, while our innocent children are? Why is the state allowed to make decisions that will impact our county and our children for years to come, when they have no personal investment in our community? These decisions should be made by those who understand and care about the long-term well-being of our families, not by distant officials with no stake in our future.

We respectfully demand the following:

1. Immediate suspension of the closure proposal until full public hearings are held.
2. A transparent and data-driven justification for the closure, including financial breakdowns and educational impact assessments.
3. A community-led task force to explore alternative solutions to budgetary and enrollment challenges.
4. A commitment to preserving rural education, recognizing its unique value and role in community development.

We will not stand by while our children's futures are compromised. Rock Cave Elementary is worth fighting for—not just for its academic success, but for the heart and hope it brings to our community.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne Troxell
Parent, Advocate, and Concerned Citizen

The following bullet points summarize the main concerns and discrepancies raised regarding the proposed school merger and impact statement:

Legal & Procedural Issues

- **Statutory Authority:** The **W. Va. Code 18-5-13a** mandates that **only the county board of education** is authorized to submit the impact statement, raising a procedural concern about the current submission being made by the state-appointed superintendent or others.
 - **Impact Statement Integrity:** Request to remove **Sections 3.2.f (Student Educational Program)** and **3.2.g (Community)** as they are based on **opinion rather than verifiable facts** and lacked community involvement.
 - **Outdated Data:** The **School Building Authority (SBA) Form 134 Site Evaluations** cited are from **10-17-2019**, making the information outdated and potentially leading to an "unfair disadvantage" due to inflated renovation expense estimates for Rock Cave Elementary (RCES).
-

Facilities & Student Capacity

- **French Creek Elementary (FCES) Adequacy:** Claims in Section 3.2.b that FCES's student loading/unloading areas are adequate are **inaccurate**. **Daily traffic congestion** on Route 20 and overflow parking during events create **unsafe conditions**.
- **Transportation:** Some students already commute 10+ minutes to their bus stops. **Most buses in southern Upshur will need a waiver** changing the maximum time of elementary student bus rides from the recommended 30 minutes up to 45 minutes (Code 18-2E-5d). Southern Upshur buses are also known to be 15+ minutes late multiple times a year. **Imagine your 5 year old or a child with IEP's in a vehicle/bus for that long morning and evening five days a week.**
- **French Creeks parking lot is UNSAFE.** Daily the pick-up line is to the main road, causing parents to park elsewhere down the road until the line dies down.
- **On event days, French Creek's parking lot is OVER capacity,** leaving families to park on the side of the busy main road, they park between the neighbors "No Parking signs", at the Post Office that has "No Unauthorized Parking" across the street, .3 miles down the road on a private lot that's "For Sale", and families shuttle to the school from .4 miles down the road from Dollar General.
- **In 2023, a Facebook post was made talking about how French Creek's neighbor's property was damaged from families parking on their property.** What happens when all of the neighbors' and local business's generosity runs out and they start towing people?

IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING DATA
FOR THE
OPPOSITION FOR THE CLOSURE OF
ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY
MERGING INTO
FRENCH CREEK ELEMENTARY

ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY STAFF, PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND
STAKEHOLDERS

Prepared Pursuant to

W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a
and
WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204

Public Hearing Date: November 13, 2025
County Board Approval Date: November 20, 2025

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3.1. County Procedures

WVDE Application for school closure and/or consolidation

Upshur County Schools

Closure and Merger of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek

Elementary. Scheduled Date(s) of Hearing(s): November 13,

2025

Scheduled Date(s) of County Board Vote(s): November 20, 2025

County Procedures

This template shall be used to accumulate and present the data that is requested in Policy 6204 and W.Va. Code 18-5-13a to support the closure or consolidation of a WV public school.

The county shall prepare and submit an impact statement and supporting data concerning proposed school closings or consolidations to the WVBE for approval in accordance with this policy and W. Va. Code §18-5-13a. The impact statement and supporting data shall:

- be available for public inspection in the office of the county superintendent during the 30 days preceding the date of the public hearing; and*

Be delivered in duplicate to the:

- principal of a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and of any school which the county designates to receive the students who are relocated because of the closure or consolidation; and*
- chair of the local school improvement council (LSIC) representing a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and any school that the county designates to receive the students who are relocated as a result of the closure or consolidation.*
- A copy of the notice shall be posted at all schools, bus garages, and maintenance areas in the county in conspicuous working areas, for all professional and service personnel to observe.*

Superintendent

Date:

3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements

County Procedures

Staff and community members are collaborating to create their own impact report to address the discrepancies identified in the booklet prepared by Superintendent of Schools, Christine Miller.

Enrollment 3.2.a. (Starting on Page #7)

Like all counties in West Virginia, Upshur County Schools continue to experience a decline in student enrollment. This trend has accelerated year over year with the expansion of educational choice options such as learning pods, microschools, charter schools, private schools, and the implementation of the Hope Scholarship program.

At the beginning of the 2022–2023 school year, enrollment in grades PK–12 was 3,689. For the 2025–2026 school year, enrollment has decreased to 3,063, which includes students participating in the district’s virtual learning option that has been available since the 2021–2022 school year. With the district’s increased emphasis on virtual learning, the county appears to be showing a lack of support for in-person instruction.

What these figures do not reflect is the growing number of homeschooled students, which has reached 240 for the 2025–2026 school year. This enrollment decline corresponds with an overall decrease in county population, from 24,415 in 2010 to an estimated 23,177 in 2025. Population demographics also indicate a shift toward an older population and a decline in the number of residents aged 5–19.

Over the past ten (10) years, Rock Cave Elementary has experienced a decrease of 77 students. The 2016–2017 school year recorded the highest enrollment of the past decade, with 149 students. Enrollment has fluctuated over the years, reaching another peak in the 2023–2024 school year before declining 76 students. As of October 1, 2025, the current enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year is 71 students. Rock Cave Elementary has a building capacity of 171 students, resulting in a current utilization rate of approximately 41 percent.

Over the past ten (10) years, French Creek Elementary has experienced a decrease of 26 students. The 2017–2018 school year marked the highest enrollment of the past decade, with 247 students. The current enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year is 221 students, which includes 26 transfer students from Rock Cave Elementary. French Creek Elementary has a building capacity of 322 students. Following the proposed merger of French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary in the 2026–2027 school year, the combined enrollment is projected to be 293 students.

Facilities 3.2.b. (Starting on Page #11)

Rock Cave Elementary is located approximately 4.7 miles from French Creek Elementary. The school building is currently in average condition and requires only limited safety and entry upgrades. Student loading and unloading from buses are efficiently managed and safely monitored. The parking lot is in average condition, and the access road to and from the property is adequate.

The detached building that previously housed the pre-Kindergarten (PK) classroom is no longer used for that purpose, following the relocation of the PK program from Rock Cave Elementary. However, one portion of this building is currently used for music instruction, and for the library. A second building on site is utilized for speech services, Title I storage, a bookroom, and the Clothes Closet program.

French Creek Elementary is in good overall condition but requires improvements to ensure a safe and secure school entrance. The school also has an urgent need for a well-organized area for student loading and unloading, as the current setup presents safety concerns—particularly if enrollment increases. Walkways are in need of minor improvements. The parent pick-up and drop-off area currently extends onto Route 20, which places it beyond direct staff supervision and further heightens safety risks.

Finance 3.2.c. (Starting on Page #17)

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary and its merger with French Creek Elementary will not save the Board of Education \$865,982.81 annually, even when including projected savings from maintenance and operational costs associated with aging facilities.

Personnel 3.2.d. (Starting on Page #19)

The Upshur County Board of Education has continued to reduce staff over the past few years due to declining student enrollment in order to align with the state aid funding formula for professional and service personnel. The merger of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary will result in the reduction of nine (9) professional personnel positions and seven (7) service personnel positions, while increasing the likelihood that students will be taught by fully certified teachers. Upshur County Schools will continue to follow the West Virginia Department of Education's recommended guidelines regarding the number of professional employees per grade level, as outlined in WV Code §18-5-18a, and will maintain the staffing levels necessary to deliver educational programs to all students.

Student Transportation 3.2.e. (Starting on Page #21)

French Creek Elementary is located approximately 4.7 miles from Rock Cave Elementary. Existing bus routes will be used to transport students to French Creek Elementary; however, these routes will exceed the recommended 30-minute travel time guideline outlined in WVBOE Policy 6200. For students residing near the Webster County line and in the Salem Ridge area, travel times already exceed this guideline by an additional 10 to 15 minutes. Most Rock Cave Elementary School bus routes begin before 6:30 a.m., with students arriving and being released at the school around 7:20 a.m. This early start results in some students spending nearly an hour on the bus each morning, which may increase further following the proposed consolidation.

Student Educational Program 3.2.f. (Starting on Page #23)

Upshur County Schools has been on a path of continuous improvement since the state assumed control, with key areas identified based on the accountability provisions outlined in WVBOE Policy 2322. The district remains dedicated to preparing students for success in a changing workplace, higher education, and military service. The mission statement—*“Upshur County Schools is committed to creating a united community for educational excellence”*—reflects this ongoing commitment. Upshur County Schools continues to build a culture in which education is valued within a supportive and future-focused environment. However, the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary and its merger with French Creek Elementary does not align with this path of improvement.

The merger will not provide all students with access to enhanced educational opportunities and programming. Following the merger, French Creek Elementary will continue to serve students in Pre-K through Grade 5. It is recommended that the Pre-K program be reinstated at Rock Cave Elementary School. Restoring the program would provide local families with access to early childhood education within their home community, reduce transportation barriers, and strengthen enrollment and family engagement at the school. Both Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools are Title I schools, and Title I funding will continue to support county interventionists and quality parent engagement initiatives that promote student learning. In addition, students receiving special education services will benefit from instruction delivered by certified teachers who will continue to meet the individual needs of students as outlined in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) at both schools.

Community 3.2.g (Starting on Page #25)

Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools are located approximately 4.7 miles apart. Although the distance between them is short, they serve two distinct communities. Rock Cave Elementary is at the heart of a small town that includes local diners, an IGA, Family Dollar, Arlington Mini Mart, several churches, the Parish House, and a number of small businesses that take pride in supporting the school. These businesses frequently donate goods and provide assistance to Rock Cave Elementary as needed.

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary would disrupt these long-standing community relationships. While many students and families will continue to participate in local activities, their community identity will become part of a larger, more centralized school population. The combination of the two schools may not strengthen community ties, as families will need to adjust to new routines and environments. Additionally, the merger could create hardships for Rock Cave families who may face challenges attending school events due to distance or lack of reliable transportation, which may limit their ability to volunteer or engage in school activities.

Both Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary serve as voting precincts for their respective communities. The closure of Rock Cave Elementary would not only impact students and families but also affect the community's access to a convenient polling location, which has long served as a central gathering place for civic participation.

3.2.a Student Enrollment

County Procedures

Enrollment and Population Table

Trends in student population growth or decline in the county for the previous 10 years.

Upshur County Schools

Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total	3785	3757	3762	3737	3701	3947	3774	3601	3380	3214

Enrollment Table 1

Trends in student population growth or decline in the attendance area of the school targeted closure or consolidation for the previous 10 years.

Rock Cave Elementary

Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total	149	134	136	135	129	123	138	130	105	71

Enrollment Table 2

Trends in student population growth or decline in attendance area of the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students affected for the previous 10 years.

French Creek Elementary

Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total	236	247	246	220	227	212	213	236	214	221

Enrollment Table 3

Population data and characteristics for the county. At a minimum, the data shall include the total population, number of births, number of deaths, and age composition of the county for the previous ten years. The requisite information shall be cited and may be obtained from local, state, and national agencies for health and statistics.

The following table represents the best available data from Vital Statistics and US Census Bureau. Year 2025 in births and deaths is an estimate based due to the year not ending at time of this analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Population	24758	24658	24082	24117	24193	24048	23903	23758	23613	23468
Births	252	252	248	227	204	241	169	174	181	189
Deaths	250	250	243	267	307	241	220	200	200	200

Enrollment Table 4

Age Composition: Estimates from Census Bureau begin in year 2021; WV Vital Statistics Prior

Year	5 years or less	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	>84
2016	1427	2863	3472	2831	2752	3132	3410	2823	171	477
2017	1317	2885	3484	2756	2714	3080	3358	2832	1535	504
2018	1311	2864	3444	2770	2687	3057	3306	2879	1585	502
2019	1201	2860	3415	2748	2671	2938	3274	2970	1597	502
2020	1236	2813	3433	2743	2690	2837	3268	3021	1629	560
2021	1157	2523	3394	2721	2675	2763	3232	3072	1669	581
2022	1140	2452	3355	2699	2660	2689	3196	3123	1709	602
2023	1114	2406	3316	2677	2645	2615	3160	3174	1749	623
2024	1104	2381	3277	2655	2630	2541	3124	3225	1789	644
2025	1062	2391	3283	2633	2615	2467	3088	3276	1829	665

Enrollment Table 5

Upshur County Schools · Rock Cave Merger into French Creek Elementary

Projections of enrollment, by grade and school, in the affected attendance area, for the next ten years.

Rock Cave

Year	2025- - 2026	2026- - 2027	2027- - 2028	2028- 2029	2029- 2030	2030- 2031	2031- 2032	2032- 2033	2033- 2034	2034- 2035
Grade PK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade K	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 1	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 3	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 4	10	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 5	12	10	15	15	13	7	0	0	0	0

Enrollment Table 6 -All years except 2025--2026 are estimates

French Creek Elementary

Year	2025- 2026	2026- 2027	2027- 2028	2028- 2029	2029- 2030	2030- 2031	2031- 2032	2032- 2033	2033- 2034	2034- 2035
	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20	20
	42	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20	20
	33	42	37	35	29	26	19	20	20	20

Enrollment Table 7 - All years except 2025-2026 are estimates

French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Merged

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
Grade PK	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade K	26	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 1	29	33	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 2	35	42	33	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 3	37	50	42	33	19	20	20	20	20	20
Grade 4	42	52	50	42	33	19	20	20	20	20
Grade 5	33	52	52	50	42	33	19	20	20	20

Enrollment Table 8 -All years except 2025--2026 are estimates

Projection Method

Explanation of the projection method utilized addressing the relationship between the most recent Certified October Enrollment, the Certified October Enrollment for the previous three years, and the most recent census data for the county.

Upshur County Schools' enrollment is projected to continue declining over the next ten years. Both French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary have experienced a downward trend in enrollment, reflecting the broader pattern observed throughout the district. Enrollment projections were determined by analyzing the past ten years of enrollment trends for each school, certified October 1st enrollment figures from the past three years, and the most recent county census data. The recent arrival of an oil and gas company in the area may attract families seeking employment and a lower cost of living. This potential influx could influence local school enrollment patterns and may partially offset projected declines in student numbers over the coming years.

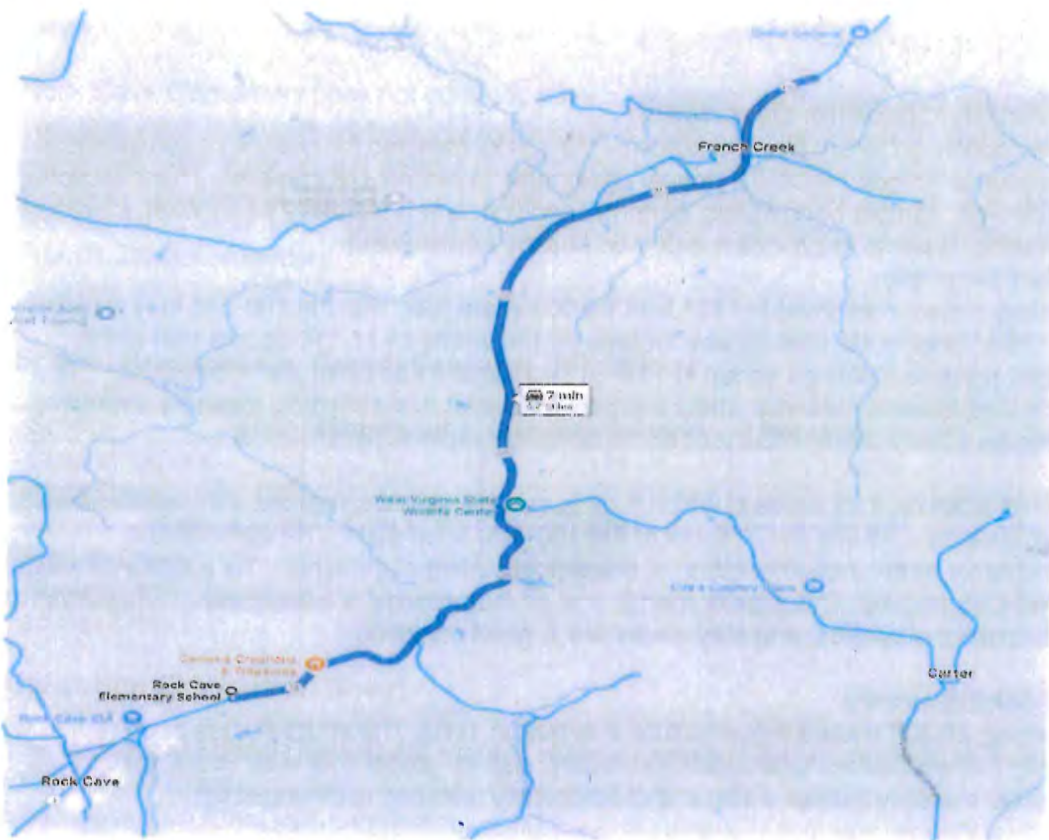
3.2.b. Facilities

County Procedures

Descriptive Maps

General Reference Maps showing prominent natural and manmade features where the location of school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) that the county designates to receive the students are highlighted.

Charts shall be provided indicating the grade configuration, student enrollment, utilization percentage, and mileage between each school on the map.



Map 1

The dark blue line shows the distance from Rock Cave Elementary to French Creek Elementary (4.7 miles). The time shown is provided by Google Maps for car travel between the two schools.

School	Grade Con-fig.	Enrollment Before/After Action	Utilization Before/After Action	Distance to School A	Distance to Rock Cave	Distance to New or Receiving French Creek
Closing Rock Cave	K-5	72	Before- 80% After 42%			4.7 miles
New or Receiving French Creek	PK-5	221	Before -76% After - 90%	4.7 miles		

Facilities Table · 1

Written Facility Condition Description

Written description of the physical condition of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students. This description shall include age, number of buildings, general conditions, and adequacy of structural, electrical, and mechanical systems to provide a safe and healthy environment.

Rock Cave Elementary

The one-story school was originally constructed in 1971 with 9,800 square feet. A single addition in 1988 expanded the facility to 17,104 square feet, including two portable buildings added in 1995. The building has been well maintained. It features load-bearing masonry walls, slab-on-grade construction, a steel joist roof structure, masonry exterior and interior walls, and a modified bitumen roof that was replaced in 2016.

The site encompasses 9.02 acres, of which 6.42 acres are usable; meeting recommended acreage guidelines. The property is entirely outside the 100-year floodplain, and the access road to and from the site is adequate. Physical education spaces, playfields, and play courts are all in good condition.

French Creek Elementary

The one-story, 26,300-square-foot building was constructed in 1983 and has been well maintained. The facility features load-bearing masonry walls, slab-on-grade construction, steel joist roofing, masonry exterior and interior walls, and a mechanically fastened roofing system.

The site encompasses 23.21 acres, of which 15.83 acres are usable; meeting recommended acreage guidelines. The property is entirely outside the 100-year floodplain. However, the site is not well organized for student loading and unloading, and the parking area is inadequately lit, creating potential safety concerns for visitors and staff. Physical education spaces, playfields, and play courts are in good condition, although walkways require improvement to ensure safe access throughout the campus.

Educational Programs and Related Student Services

Evaluation of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools that the county designates to receive the students in regard to the school(s) adaptability to the present and proposed educational programs, and the provisions of related student services.

The most recent Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) was used to guide and plan necessary improvements at French Creek Elementary. Rock Cave Elementary serves students in grades K–5. Both Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary have sufficient space to accommodate classrooms for Pre-K through grade 5.

The instructional programs at Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary align with WVBOE Policy 2510. Both schools are equipped with a wireless network to support daily technology use by students, staff, and other stakeholders. The planning phase for the merger considers the need for appropriate staff to support students with a whole-child focus. However, staff reductions and the potential for larger class sizes may shift attention away from individualized student support, potentially impacting the quality of instruction and student engagement.

Currently, Rock Cave Elementary receives counseling support from a Community Care counselor once a week, with additional services provided weekly by Mr. Larry Lance. Another counselor is scheduled to begin once a week to provide grade-level counseling classes. Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary also share an Art and Music educator, with the Wellness teacher dividing time with Buckhannon-Upshur High School.

Following the merger, Rock Cave students will gain access to a full-time counselor as well as full-time Art, Music, and Wellness instruction at French Creek Elementary. However, the assigned counselor will have a caseload approaching 300 students, raising concerns about how much individualized time each student will receive for counseling services.

School Enrollments, Capacities, and Utilizations

<i>School</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Building Capacity</i>	<i>Utilization %</i>
Closing School - Rock Cave	71	171	42%
Receiving School French Creek (Projected #)	292	328	89.02%

Facilities Table 2

Required Services and Barrier-free Environments

Comparison of the school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) which the county has designated to receive the students in regard to providing the required services and barrier-free environments to students with disabilities.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary were constructed to meet ADA compliance standards at the time of their original occupancy. Since then, both schools have implemented upgrades and modifications to enhance accessibility, ensuring continued compliance with current accessibility guidelines and providing equitable access for all students, staff, and visitors.

Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

Elaboration on the effect the proposed school closing or consolidation will have on the school system's future plans regarding grade configuration, educational programs, and facility requirements.

Closing Rock Cave Elementary and merging it with French Creek Elementary is expected to allow for improvements such as secure entrances for all schools, as identified in the 2020–2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP). However, it is unclear whether the original CEFP specifically planned for the merger of these two schools, or if this consolidation is a more recent proposal outside the scope of the original facilities plan.

Rock Cave Elementary currently serves grades K–5, while French Creek Elementary serves Pre-K through grade 5, providing families the opportunity for students to remain in the same school for all seven years of early learning. Pre-K was removed from Rock Cave Elementary this year, which led some families to opt out of Pre-K or enroll their children elsewhere. Pre-K has been successfully offered at Rock Cave Elementary for over 20 years. Reinstating the Pre-K program at Rock Cave Elementary would allow families to have their children attend the same school for seven consecutive years, supporting continuity in learning and community engagement.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary are both Title I schools. While the merger may affect enrollment and resource allocation, the budget structure for each school should remain independent, ensuring that Title I funds continue to support students' learning needs without being contingent on consolidation.

Construction Work Required for the Proposed Action

Elaboration on the planned facility for additions, renovations, or replacements that are required by the county to accommodate the proposed closing and consolidation.

Rock Cave Elementary does not currently require, nor are there any proposed additions, renovations, or replacements. The building is considered structurally sound and adequately meets the needs of its students and staff.

Additions, renovations, or replacements are not currently required for French Creek Elementary. However, with the proposed merger, the construction of secure entryways could be considered to enhance safety. Additionally, an increase in student enrollment may necessitate additional teachers, which could create a need for more classrooms. At present, French Creek Elementary does not have sufficient space to accommodate additional classrooms without new construction.

The Future of Closed Facilities

Elaboration on the future use or disposal of facilities designated by the county for closure.

Rock Cave Elementary will be closed and offered for sale in accordance with state statute and West Virginia Board of Education (WVBOE) policy regarding the disposal of surplus property. However, the Upshur County Board of Education currently owns 50 properties, some of which are not used for educational purposes. It is unclear why these surplus properties have not been sold or repurposed, raising questions about the district's approach to managing its real estate assets.

This situation highlights the need for transparency and strategic planning in managing district-owned properties. Selling or repurposing unused properties could provide additional revenue or resources to support educational programs, rather than relying solely on school closures to achieve budgetary savings.

The proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary is presented as a cost-saving measure; however, the Upshur County Board of Education owns multiple unused properties that have not been sold or repurposed. Strategic management or disposal of these surplus properties could generate revenue to offset maintenance and operational costs, potentially reducing the financial pressure that is being used to justify the RCES closure. Without leveraging these existing assets, the district may be overlooking alternative solutions that do not require disrupting students, staff, and the community.

School Building Authority of WV (SBA)

Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation is contingent upon

receiving funding from the SBA.

The closure of Rock Cave Elementary and its merger with French Creek Elementary is not contingent upon receiving funding from the School Building Authority (SBA).

SBA facility Condition Documentation

Attachment of the most recent SBA facility evaluation form for each school affected and an updated form if the most recent SBA facility evaluation form is five years old or older.

See Appendix for this Documentation- This is included in the original impact statement binder provided by the county.

The original impact statement binder contains information that appears contradictory. In some sections, the schools are described as being in "average" or "above-average" condition, yet other sections list costly repairs and upgrades as necessary. Additionally, over the past several years, summer work crews at Rock Cave Elementary have not completed major projects, which raises questions about the urgency or necessity of these repairs. This inconsistency may lead stakeholders to question whether some of the listed projects are truly required.

Supporting Photographs and other Documentation

Provide relevant facility photos, and any supporting documentation the county determines would be helpful. Examples of supporting documentation may include reports from architects, engineers, Fire Marshall, and insurance companies.

See Appendix for this Documentation

3.2.c. Finance

County Procedures

Itemization of Anticipated Cost and Savings

Itemization of the anticipated cost or savings the county will experience in all areas as a result of the proposed school closure or consolidation. Such itemization shall be in the form of a table indicating the following:

Closing School(s) Annual Current Cost

The current annual cost at the school(s) to be closed for:

Rock Cave

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$31,375.90
Personnel	\$784,242.07
Maintenance	\$33,517.85
Transportation	\$137,480.76
Other	\$145,360.37
Total	1,174,238.98

Finance Table 1

Other items include non-tech repairs, food expense, supplies and transfers for Faculty Senate and grant funds

Receiving School(s) Annual Current Cost

The current annual cost at the school(s) to be receiving for:

French Creek Elementary

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$67,627.05
Personnel	\$2,138,069.52
Maintenance	\$61,869.94
Transportation	\$284,085.56
Other	\$216,343.14
Total	\$2,767,995.31

Finance Table 2

Other items include non-tech repairs, food expense, supplies and transfers for Faculty Senate and grant funds

Anticipated Annual Cost after Action

The anticipated annual cost at the school(s) to be receiving for:

French Creek Elementary

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$25,229.26
Personnel	\$749,216.38
Maintenance	\$21,324.02
Transportation	\$873.24
Other	\$98,639.90
Total	+\$980,177.92

Finance Table 3

Net Cost or Savings

the net cost or savings of the school(s) to be closed and the school(s) designated by the county to be receiving students for:

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

Item	Cost or Savings	Amount
Utilities	Savings	\$25,229.26
Personnel	Savings	\$749,216.38 (671,903.75 difference)
Maintenance	Savings	\$21,324.02
Transportation	Savings	\$873.24
Other	Savings	\$98,339.90
Total	Savings	-\$190,079.06

Finance Table 4

With the merger, personnel will still be employed and paid, and students will continue to require food and transportation. Many expenses categorized under "other" will remain regardless of the students' location. Additionally, utilities and maintenance costs for Rock Cave Elementary will continue until the property is sold. Given these ongoing expenses, it is unclear how much, if any, actual savings will be realized by closing the school.

Anticipated Construction Cost to Accommodate Action

Cost of any renovation or addition resulting from the proposed school closure or consolidation, including all proposed funding sources.

There are no renovation or construction costs associated with this proposed closure or merger.

County Expense Fund History

Five-year history of the county's unrestricted general current expense fund balance and that balance as a percentage of the county's approved levy estimate.

Year	Unrestricted General Current Expense Fund Balance	Approved Levy Estimate	Percentage of Approved Levy Estimate
2024	\$25,229.26	\$25,229.26	100%
2023	\$25,229.26	\$25,229.26	100%

Finance Table 5

3.2.d. Personnel

The Upshur County Board of Education is currently under state control. However, the current leadership has kept the board informed and has worked to minimize the impact on personnel during this period of declining student enrollment. Although previous efforts have been made to reduce staff, the past two years have seen increases in personnel despite the continued decline in student population.

The consolidation of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary will result in the reduction of nine (9) professional personnel positions and seven (7) service personnel positions. This consolidation may increase the likelihood that students across the county will be taught by certified teachers, provided those teachers choose to remain within the Upshur County School system. Upshur County Schools will continue to follow the West Virginia Department of Education's recommended guidelines regarding the number of staff required to deliver educational programs to students. Reductions in personnel may occur due to the duplication of positions following the merger.

Analysis of Anticipated Personnel Changes

An analysis of the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on professional and service personnel. The analysis shall include, at a minimum, the following data regarding the anticipated increases or decreases in employment because of this proposed closure or consolidation:

Rock Cave Elementary - Current School Personnel Data Chart				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);		7.5	0	0.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	1	5		

Personnel Table 1

French Creek Elementary- Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);		18		

Services Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	2	12	2	1

Personnel Table 2

Current Affected School Total - Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>		25.5		1

	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>		17		

Personnel Table 3

French Creek Elementary - Anticipated After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school (s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>				
Services Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>				

Personnel Table 4

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary - Anticipated Net Change After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>the anticipated net change in professional personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>		7.5		
Services Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>the anticipated net change in service personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>	1	5		

Personnel Table 5

(Post Merger) French Creek Elementary -Attrition and Reduction in Force Summary - Professional				
	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>				

decrease that will occur through a reduction in force		3.5		
	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary

decrease that will occur through attrition				
decrease that will occur through reduction in force				

Personnel Table 6

3.2.e. Student Transportation

French Creek Elementary is located 4.7 miles from Rock Cave Elementary. Existing bus routes transport students to French Creek Elementary and Rock Cave Elementary. The routes currently exceed the 45-minute recommended guideline as outlined in policy 6200.

Analysis of Anticipated Transportation Time Changes

Explain any variances of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Regulations, Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses (Policy 4336), section 15, Guidelines for Bus Routing, and the effects the variances may have on transportation. Provide the following bus route data and travel times:

Current and Differences of Travel Times

List the current travel time by bus route for students in the communities of the schools planned for closure or consolidation and the estimated increase or decrease in travel time as a result of the closure; and

Rock Cave

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Route 29	Rock Cave/Deale/Winchester	42 minutes	50 minutes	8 minutes
Route 33	Galnes-Corson/Goshen	43 minutes	51 minutes	8 minutes
Route 88	Rock Cave	52 minutes	64 minutes	12 minutes
Route 90	Rock Cave/Riviera Hill/Randolph	37 minutes	47 minutes	10 minutes
Route 94	Rock Cave/Selwyn/Newton	40 minutes	58 minutes	18 minutes

French Creek

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Route 17	French Creek	37 minutes	37 minutes	0 minutes
Route 18 Run #1	Adrian/French Creek	16 minutes	16 minutes	0 minutes
Route 18 Run #2	Hinkleville/ Adrian	25 minutes	25 minutes	0 minutes
Route 98	Alton	47 minutes	47 minutes	0 minutes
Route 238	Abbott/Adrian	32 minutes	32 minutes	0 minutes
Route 239	Frenchton/ Cantaryville	36 minutes	36 minutes	0 minutes
Route 240	Beech Town/ Frenchton	34 minutes	34 minutes	0 minutes

Transportation Table 1

Anticipated Routes and Waiver Requests

List all anticipated bus routes after the proposed closure or consolidation with the estimated total one-way travel time for each route. Clearly identify any bus routes that exceed the recommended travel times and any routes which will require a waiver of Policy 4336.

Rock Cave Elementary

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes /no)*
Route 23	Rock Cave	50 Min	5 Min	YES
Route 33	Rock Cave	53Min	8 Min	YES
Route 88	Rock Cave	64 Min	19 Min	YES
Route 93	Rock Cave	37 Min	0 Min	No
Route 94	Rock Cave	56 Min	9 Min	Yes

French Creek

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes / no)*
Route 17	French Creek	37 Min	0 Min	No
Route 18 Run #1	Adrian/ French Creek	16 Min	0 Min	No
Route 18 Run#2	Hinkleville/ Adrian	25 Min	0 Min	No
Route 238	Abbot/Adrian	36 Min	0 Min	No
Route 239	Frenchton/Centerville	36 Min	0 Min	No
Route 240	Beech Town/Frenchton	34 Min	0 Min	No

Transportation Table 2

*A waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 is only required for elementary school routes that have a one-way transportation time greater than 45 minutes.

Travel Time to Neighboring County Public School

Identify and provide the travel time to any neighboring county public schools that could serve the population of the closing school(s) where travel time to the identified out-of-county school is less than or equal to the schools(s) designated by the county to receive students.

3.2.f. Student Educational Program

Analysis and Assurance of Consideration

Complete a projected educational program improvement analysis which includes a statement of assurance that the following have been considered:

Upshur County Schools continuously monitors the academic growth of both Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary. The district is committed to ensuring that student learning remains the primary focus, and that educational programming supports academic progress for all students.

On the General Summative Assessment (GSA) administered during the 2024–2025 school year, Rock Cave Elementary students achieved proficiency rates of 61.78% in Mathematics, 57.78% in English Language Arts, and 26% in Science. These results represent a marked improvement and have resulted in Rock Cave Elementary being removed from identification as one of the lowest-performing Title I schools, previously

designated for Comprehensive School Improvement.

During the same assessment period, French Creek Elementary students scored 66.81% proficient in Mathematics, 66.81% proficient in English Language Arts, and 26% proficient in Science.

Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary are both Title I schools and rank as the second and third highest-need schools in Upshur County. Rock Cave has 61.68% of students identified as low income, and French Creek has 58.54%, both above the county average of 51.92%.

Each school determines its annual Title I budget based on student needs, as identified in collaboration with the County Federal Programs Director. In the past, portions of the budget were allocated to county-wide interventionists who served as instructional coaches, supporting classroom teachers through agreed-upon impact cycles to improve student learning outcomes. Even without the merger of Rock Cave and French Creek Elementary Schools, students will continue to benefit from the support of county-wide interventionists and a county-hired instructional coach.

Rock Cave Elementary does not currently have a full-time counselor or a Communities in Schools Coordinator due to county budget constraints. Community Care does provide counseling services at RCES, and Mr. Larry Lance works with the fifth-grade class. In contrast, French Creek Elementary has a full-time counselor but does not have a Communities in Schools Coordinator. With the proposed merger, Rock Cave students will gain access to a full-time counselor, though the counselor's caseload is expected to approach 300 students.

Both Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary currently share an Art and Music educator, with the Wellness teacher splitting time with Buckhannon-Upshur High School. Following the merger, Rock Cave students will have increased access to a full-time counselor, as well as dedicated Art, Music, and Wellness instruction at French Creek Elementary. This additional support will enhance academic and social-emotional programs for students.

RCES students currently receive the state-required amount of instructional time for Art, Music, and Physical Education. For three years, Hannah Lively filled a dual role as Art and PE teacher to ensure all students had access to these classes. She was later reassigned to another school, taking this role out of the school.

Rock Cave Elementary does not currently have a Pre-K classroom, while French Creek Elementary does. The availability of a Pre-K program at French Creek will be a valuable option for Rock Cave families who wish to enroll their children in this early learning opportunity. Rock Cave Elementary previously operated a successful Pre-K program for more than 20 years, up until the current school year.

In earlier years, French Creek students attended the Pre-K program at Rock Cave Elementary until French Creek established its own program. During that time, the Rock Cave Pre-K program consistently operated at full capacity. However, due to low initial enrollment this year, the Pre-K program was not offered at Rock Cave Elementary. As a result, some families chose to send their children to French Creek Elementary, while others opted not to enroll their children in Pre-K because it was not available at their home school. In several cases, families relocated their older children to French Creek to keep siblings together.

In accordance with West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2419, special education students will have access to programs including multi-categorical, autism, speech, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, as prescribed in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Following the proposed merger, with an estimated 33 special education students, how will the schedule ensure that each student receives the required minutes of services, including instruction in small groups, as outlined in their IEPs?

3.2.g. Community

An impact statement regarding the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on the affected communities and their students. Where schools and their respective communities are all defined by their own unique relationships, each proposed action will result in varying types and degrees of community impact. To better understand this diverse relational dynamic, the impact statement shall describe:

1. *The known relationships that exist among the affected schools and their communities.*

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

The communities of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary share a longstanding history of collaboration, mutual support, and shared values centered around student success and community pride. Even though these existing relationships may form a strong foundation for which consolidated schools could thrive, each school would blend into one- losing their individually. Both schools are deeply rooted in their own local communities with families, educators, and leaders who prioritize close-knit relationships and student-centered learning. Although consolidation offers an opportunity to unify these values, it will create a school culture where students are competing for adult attention and the approval of newly found classmates. In turn, it leads to more behavioral issues.

Educators and staff across both schools have often worked together through district initiatives, professional development, and community events. These established professional relationships should be strengthened in a consolidated setting, fostering deeper collaboration, shared expertise, and a supportive work environment. However, if teachers are bumped out of their positions at French Creek Elementary by more qualified teachers from Rock Cave Elementary, animosity may occur. Three staff members from Rock Cave Elementary have already moved to French Creek Elementary due to staffing and previous administration issues. Several positions have been open through the last few years at French Creek Elementary and no one else from Rock Cave Elementary took the opportunity to transfer.

Many families have connections across both schools through extended family ties, community organizations, and extracurricular activities. Consolidation will allow these relationships to flourish in a single school environment, enhancing social bonds and

creating a more inclusive and dynamic student experience. How will this be possible when French Creek Elementary cannot hold all the families for them to attend their students' events? How are social bonds going to be enhanced? How is having more students making learning and experiences more inclusive and dynamic?

Both Rock Cave and French Creek communities have demonstrated strong support for their schools through volunteerism, fundraising, and active participation in school events. Each school is self-sufficient and manages its own resources.

2. How the existing known relationships could be impacted by the proposed action.

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

With the closure of Rock Cave Elementary, there will be opportunities for new relationships to be developed with the breaking of already made relationships. The existing ties between families, staff, and students across both schools will be battling to find shared goals and a unified school culture. Consolidation provides a platform for schools to blend into one common value and tradition while creating new opportunities for joint community events, volunteer efforts, and parent engagement. Both schools lose their individuality when they blend, and their efforts are limited in the process.

Many educators and support staff already know one another through district-wide initiatives or professional development. Consolidation will not allow these relationships to flourish in a shared environment, encouraging teamwork mentorship and the exchange of best practices that benefit students and staff alike. Again, animosity and the stressful feelings of additional students will soon bring resentment in the French Creek Elementary teachers. A benefit of working at both schools is the small, intimate class sizes. They are more manageable and successful. Successful students lead to proud teachers!

Students from both schools already interact through extracurricular activities and community programs. Although some students may get along outside school and make stronger relationships, others may bring rivalry to school. Thus, causing more behavior outbursts.

Families who have collaborated across schools, whether through district committees, shared transportation routes, or community events, will now have a single point of engagement. These activities include youth sports, Stockert Youth Center, faith-based activities, and 4-H. This can simplify communication, increase participation, and create a more cohesive parent community that advocates for all children. Both schools have had these opportunities for many years; having a single point of engagement will have no impact.

Both schools are rooted in a commitment to quality education. Consolidation or no consolidation stakeholders can still align their efforts toward a shared vision,

leveraging existing relationships to support strategic planning, resource allocation, and continuous improvement.

- 3. The potential for new relationships that could be developed under the proposed action.*

Identify School(s): Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary

The consolidation of Rock Cave Elementary and French Creek Elementary into a single school presents a powerful opportunity to cultivate new relationships that in hindsight will enrich the educational experience and strengthen the broader community. But long-standing relationships that students developed at a young age will be destroyed. Many students from Rock Cave Elementary have been subjected to traumatic events within their lives. Rock Cave Elementary and the staff have been their "safe place" and their comfort. Removing these adults from their lives will be a traumatic experience.

Students from both schools will have the chance to form new friendships and peer networks, expand their social circles, and learn from one another's diverse experiences. These new connections can foster empathy, collaboration, and a stronger sense of belonging. With the goods also comes the bad. There are behavior issues at both schools that will escalate if consolidated.

Families who may not have previously interacted will not come together in support of a shared school community. This does not open the door for new partnerships, increased volunteerism, and a more dynamic and inclusive environment for parent engagement and involvement. It makes them more reluctant to interact with the school community.

Educators and staff will not benefit from new professional relationships, bringing together varied expertise, teaching styles, and perspectives. Educators and staff have worked previously together, so nothing new will come out of what there already is.

The consolidation encourages broader community engagement, as local organizations, businesses, and leaders will not unite to support a single, larger school. Small businesses provide small schools. Adding on a large number of students will make the donations and community engagement less due to the cost. As the two schools merge, there is an opportunity to create new traditions that do not honor the legacy of both while building a shared identity. These new experiences can weaken relationships across generations and suppress pride in a unified school culture.

3.3 County Board Meeting Speeches

- **Sara Collins**
- **Abigail Jeffries (2)**
- **Amber Anderson (2)**

- Cheyenne Troxell (4)
- Tim Troxell
- Natasha Davis
- Petition to Keep Rock Cave Elementary Open By Angel Moss
- Impact Statement from Community Members (2)
- Gary Bonnett II
- Andrew Pinkney
- Samantha Ribeiro Matos
- Rodney Rolenson
- Pam Hissam
- Shanah Carpenter
- Austin Carpenter
- Delora Brown
- Kelly Bowyer

Appendix of Supporting Data

- WV Property Search
- July 8, 2025 meeting highlighting PREK – shows what RCES missed by not having a PREK this year
- Assessment Achievement
- Statement of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2026 (highlighted central office salaries)
- Attendance data County wide vs. School break down
- 8/13/24 Highlighted cost for Virtual School and funds allocated for RCES highlighted
- Building Program Utilization Worksheets from County Impact Book
- Rock Cave History of the Rocket
- Bus Routes

Property Search

Search Options: Hide Basic Appraisal/Sales Advanced Prior Ownership (Hover over input fields to view help)

County: All District: All Full Parcel ID:
 Owner Name: Upshur County Board of Ed Map Number: Property Class: All
 Street Name: Parcel: Tax Class: All
 Sub-Parcel: Land Use: All

Lines per page: 50 Display legal description Display GIS parcel ID

Total matching records: 49

Page 1 of 1 Unsorted

Query URL: [https://www.mapwv.gov/assessment/Assessment?OwnerName=Upshur County Board of Ed](https://www.mapwv.gov/assessment/Assessment?OwnerName=Upshur%20County%20Board%20of%20Ed)

View in Property Viewer: [https://mapwv.gov/parcel/?OwnerName=Upshur County Board of Ed](https://mapwv.gov/parcel/?OwnerName=Upshur%20County%20Board%20of%20Ed)

CSV Results: [Click here](#)

Root Parcel ID	Current Owner	Property Address	County	District	Map	Parcel	Ma
49030001001400000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	MORTON AVE BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	1	14.0	GIS
49030007032400000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	SMITHFIELD ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	7	324.0	GIS
49030007032000000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	15 17 EAST VICTORIA ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	7	320.0	GIS
49030010010600000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	5 RICHIE ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	10	106.0	GIS
49030010004100000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	7 EAST VICTORIA ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	10	41.0	GIS
49020002008200000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	TALLMANSVILLE RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	82.0	GIS
49020002008400000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	141 TALLMANSVILLE RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	84.0	GIS
49020002008600000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	86.0	GIS
49020002009500000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	95.0	GIS
49020002009800000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	98.0	GIS
49020002010100000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	TALLMANSVILLE RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	101.0	GIS
49020002007700000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	77.0	GIS
49020002007900000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	558 ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	79.0	GIS
49020002008100000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	81.0	GIS
490600N000MP00020000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	6-Warren District	NQ	MP2	GIS
490100N000MP00170000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	1-Banks District	NQ	MP17	GIS
4901004T000900000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	1-Banks District	4T	9.0	GIS
490700N000MP00440000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	7-Washington District	NQ	MP44	GIS
4902005H007100000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	270 B U DR	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	5H	71.0	GIS
4904004L0094000050000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	4-Meade District	4L	94.5	GIS
490100N000MP00710000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	1-Banks District	NQ	MP71	GIS
490400N000MP00550000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	4-Meade District	NQ	MP55	GIS

4907006K005400000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	5078 TALLMANVILLE RD	49-Upshur	7-Washington District	6K	54.0	GIS
4902005H002900010000	UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2069 ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	5H	29.1	GIS
49030007032300010000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	SMITHFIELD ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	7	323.1	GIS
49030007031900000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	13 EAST VICTORIA ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	7	319.0	GIS
49030007032100000000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	19 EAST VICTORIA ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	7	321.0	GIS
4902005H007200010000	BOARD OF EDUC OF UPSHUR COUNTY	222 B U DR	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	5H	72.1	GIS
4902005H007700000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	167 GAWTHROP RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	5H	77.0	GIS
49020002008300000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	TALLMANVILLE RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	83.0	GIS
49020002008500000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	TALLMANVILLE RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	85.0	GIS
49020002008700000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	87.0	GIS
49020002009600000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SSOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	96.0	GIS
49020002009900000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	141 TALLMANVILLE RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	99.0	GIS
49020002007600000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	553 ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	76.0	GIS
49020002007800000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	78.0	GIS
49020002008000000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	2	80.0	GIS
4907006P000100030000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	CUTRIGHT CHAPEL RD	49-Upshur	7-Washington District	6P	1.3	GIS
490700NO00MP00420000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	7-Washington District	NO	MP42	GIS
4906007C000600010000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	918 TETER RD	49-Upshur	6-Warren District	7C	6.1	GIS
490700NO00MP00430000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	7-Washington District	NO	MP43	GIS
490700NO00MP00450000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	7-Washington District	NO	MP45	GIS
4902005H007200040000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20 SOUTH RD	49-Upshur	2-Buckhannon District	5H	72.4	GIS
49010030003400010000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	ROUTE 20	49-Upshur	1-Banks District	3O	34.1	GIS
490400NO00MP00540000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY		49-Upshur	4-Meade District	NO	MP54	GIS
49030010004300000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	11 EAST VICTORIA ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	1O	43.0	GIS
4907008K003600000000	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UPSHUR COUNTY	3459 MOUNT UNION RD	49-Upshur	7-Washington District	8K	36.0	GIS
49030007032200000000	UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	21 EAST VICTORIA ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	7	322.0	GIS
49030010004200000000	UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9 EAST VICTORIA ST BUCKHANNON 26201	49-Upshur	3-Buckhannon Corp	1O	42.0	GIS

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Buckhannon-Upshur High School
Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. MISSION STATEMENT - Upshur County Schools is committed to creating a united community for educational excellence.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND/OR AGENDA ADDENDUM

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the agenda as presented.

Recommendation: _____ *2nd:* _____ *Yeas* ___ *Nays* ___

VI. INFORMATION

DELEGATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES

VII. MINUTES – POLICIES – CONTRACTS – AGREEMENTS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting June 10, 2025.

Recommendation: _____ *2nd:* _____ *Yeas* ___ *Nays* ___

POLICIES - Second Reading

0100 Revised Bylaw – Special Update

2264 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex In Education Programs or Activities (Rescind)

2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex In Education Programs or Activities (Revised)

2340 Field (co-Curricular) and Other (Extra-Curricular) County-Sponsored Trips (Revised)

2413 AID Education Program (Revised)

3160.01 Tuberculosis Examination (Revised)

4160.01 Tuberculosis Examination (Revised)

5112 Entrance Requirements (Revised)

5310 Health Services (Revised)

5320 Immunization (Revised)

5321 Tuberculin Skin Test (Revised)

5460 Graduation Requirements (Revised)

5505 Academic Honesty (New)

5511 Dress and Appearance (Revised)

5600 Student Discipline (Revised)

6151 Bad Checks (Revised)

6320 Purchases (Technical Correction)

7440.05 Smart Monitoring Equipment (New)
7455 Accounting System for Capital Assets (Revised)
7540.03 Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)
7540.04 Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised)
8330 Student Records (Revised)
8390 Animals on School Property (Revised)
8450 Control of Casual Contact Communicable Diseases (Revised)
8453 Control of Noncasual-Contact Communicable Diseases (Revised)
8640 Transportation for Curricular/Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular County-Sponsored Trips (Rescinded)
5136 Personal Electronic Devices Replacement Policy

AGREEMENTS -

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and **K12 Management Inc. Online Educational Products and Services** for the period of July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026. Funding Source: General Funds - See Agreement for appropriate costs.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and **Creative Beginnings Child Development Center, Mountain CAP, Inc.** for Pre-K Services for up to 20 Children for the period of August, 2025 - June, 2026. Funding Source: General Funds \$148,448.00.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and the **Child Development Center of West Virginia, Inc.** for Pre-K Services for up to 20 Children, August, 2025 - June, 2026. Funding Source: General Funds \$131,286.78.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and **Instructure, Inc.** for the Learning Management System for school year 2025-2026. Funding Source: Title I and Title II - \$75,272.00.

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agreement between the Upshur County Board of Education and the **KEV Group, Inc.** for acceptance of online payments. This is a continuation of a previous agreement. Funding Source: General Funds \$4,500.00.

REQUEST FOR BIDS –

Petroleum Products

The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the bid received from **Woodford Oil Company** for diesel and other products used by transportation for FY26. Please see bid specifications and total for prices to be paid during the bid period. Funding Source: General Funds – See bid documents for price related to fuels used by transportation including other fluids required for diesel bus operation.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

PURCHASE ORDERS -

AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation, Inc., in the amount of \$46,925.00 for the purchase of the new Pre-K Curriculum. Funding Source: General Funds.

Encova Insurance, in the amount of \$104,474.00 for renewal of Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance Policy. Funding Source: General Funds.

IX. FINANCIAL -

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

Budget Journal Entries – May 1-29, 2025
June 1-7, 2025

Check Registers
Monthly Financials – May 2025

X. STUDENT MATTERS/PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

(See attached)

XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

July 22, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
August 12, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
August 26, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
September 9, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS

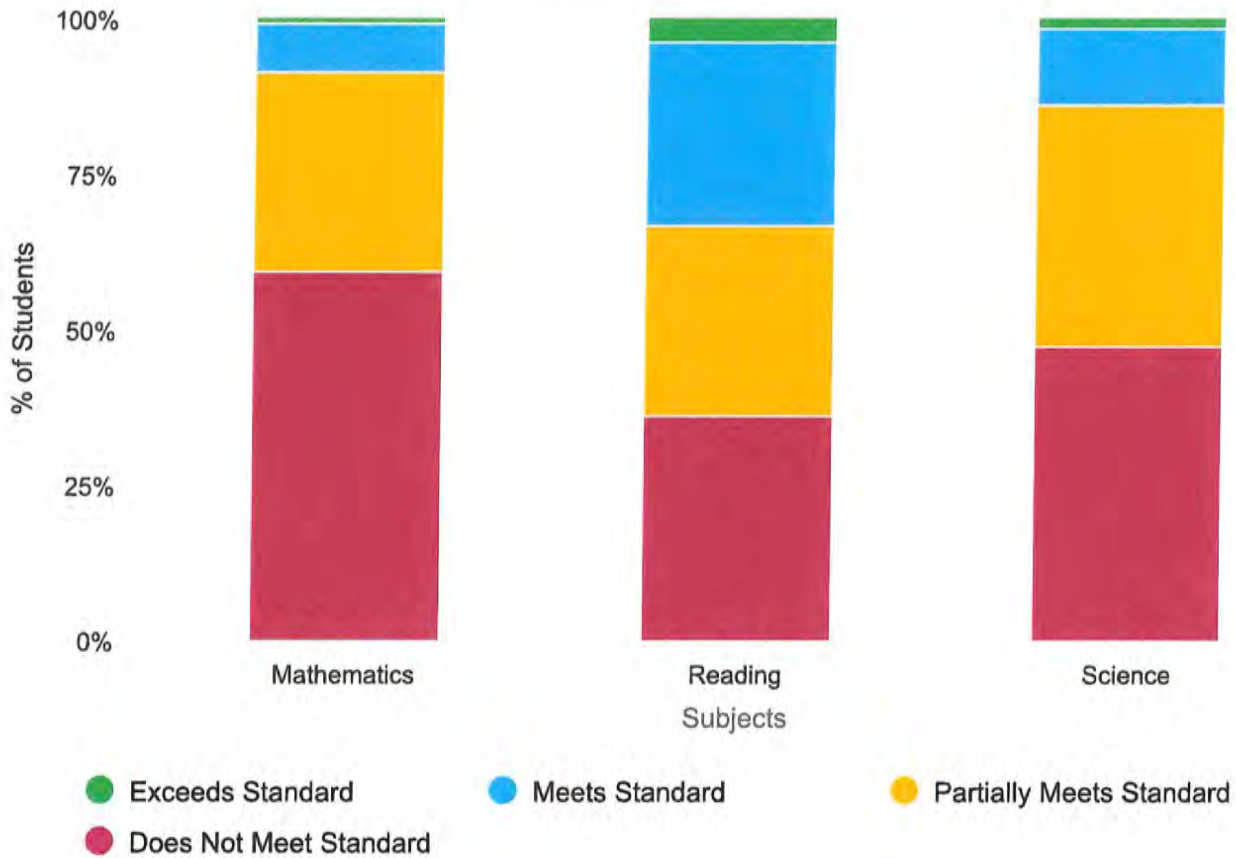
ADJOURNMENT: Motion: _____ **2nd:** _____ to adjourn the meeting, all members concurring therein, the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

Assessment Achievement

Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2021-2022 District/County (087) - Upshur
 School (501) - Buckhannon Upshur High School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	57.02%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	.80%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	7.58%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	30.70%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	34.69%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	3.59%
Reading	Meets Standard	28.31%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	29.51%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	45.45%
Science	Exceeds Standard	1.59%

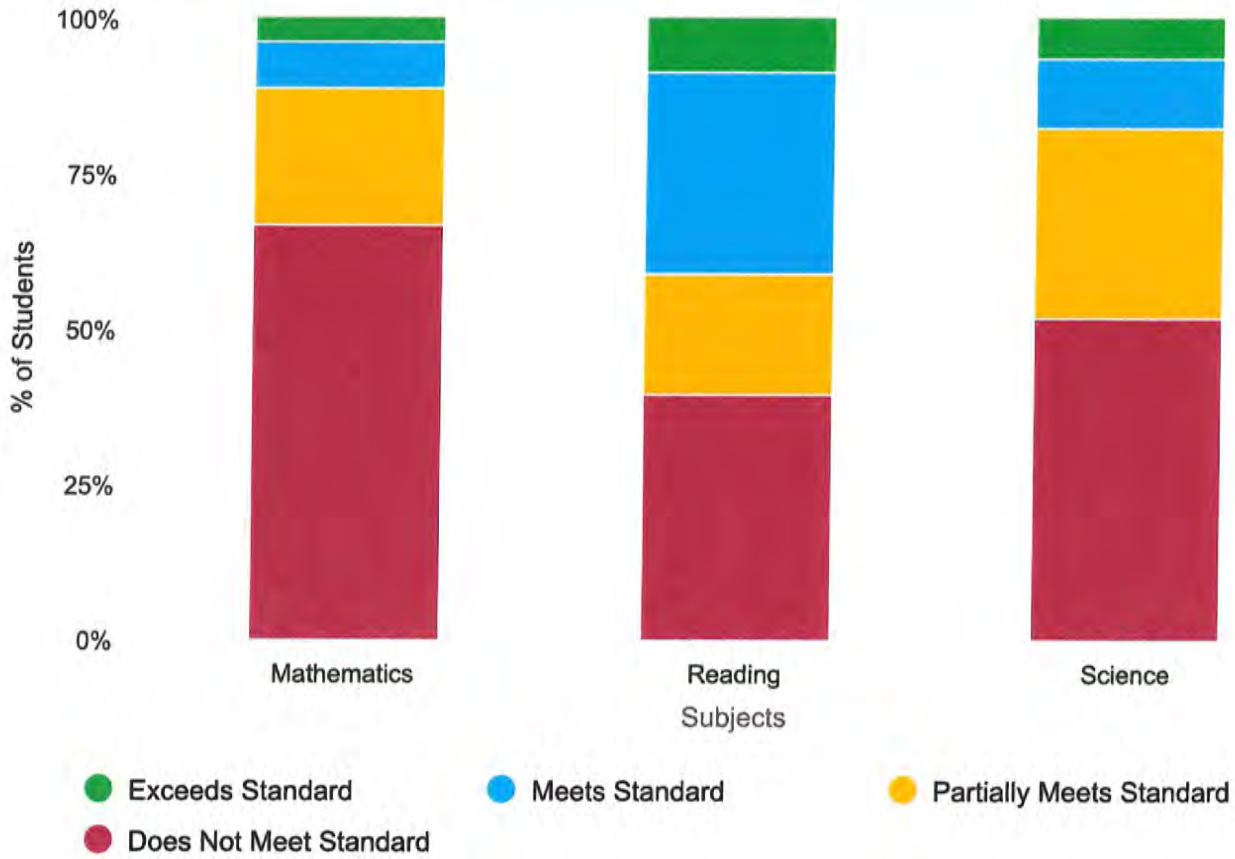
Science	Meets Standard	11.56%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	37.48%

Assessment Achievement

Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2024-2025 **District/County** (087) - Upshur
School (501) - Buckhannon Upshur High School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	66.67%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	3.60%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	7.66%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	22.07%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	39.64%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	8.56%
Reading	Meets Standard	32.43%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	19.37%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	51.80%
Science	Exceeds Standard	6.31%

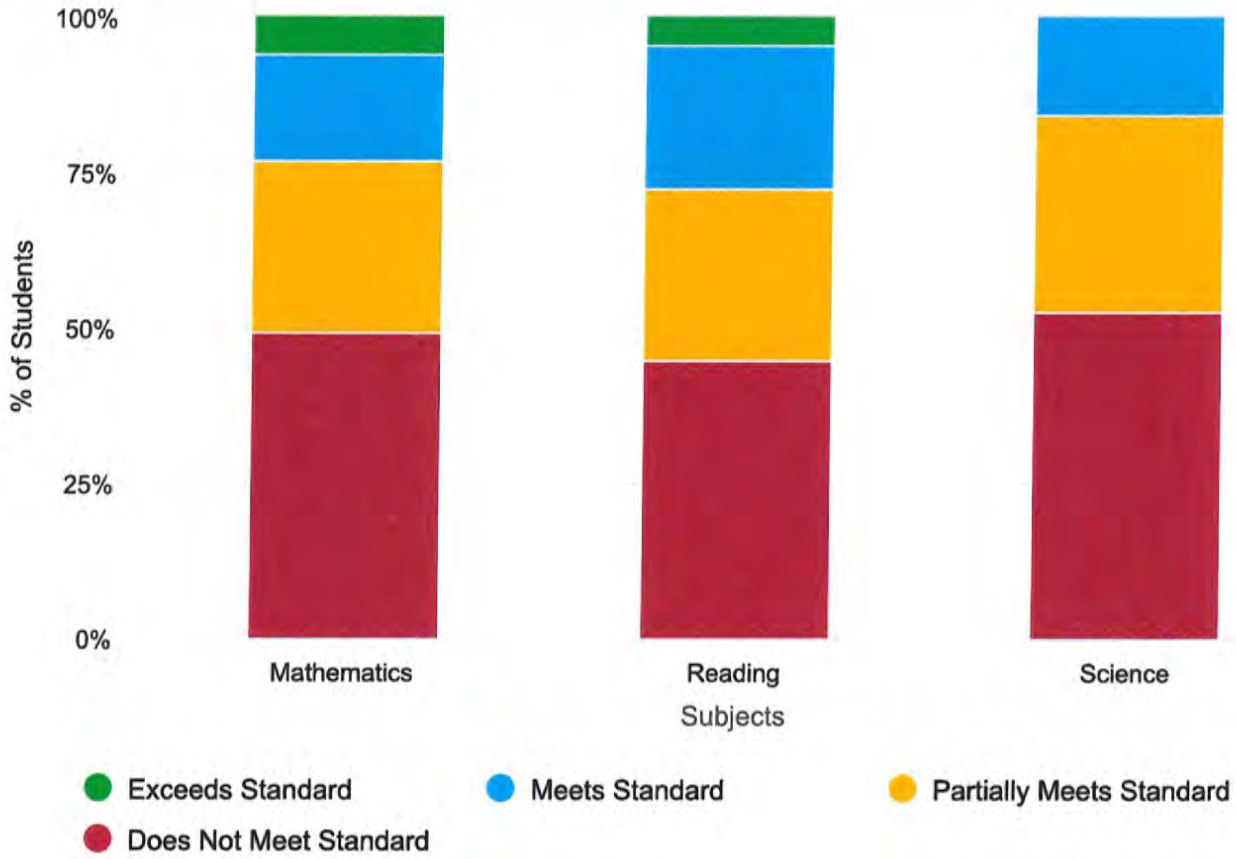
Science	Meets Standard	11.26%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	30.63%

Assessment Achievement

Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2024-2025 District/County (087) - Upshur
 School (206) - Hodgesville Elementary



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	49.23%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	6.15%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	16.92%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	27.69%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	44.62%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	4.62%
Reading	Meets Standard	23.08%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	27.69%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	52.63%
Science	Exceeds Standard	.00%

Science	Meets Standard	15.79%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	31.58%

Assessment Achievement

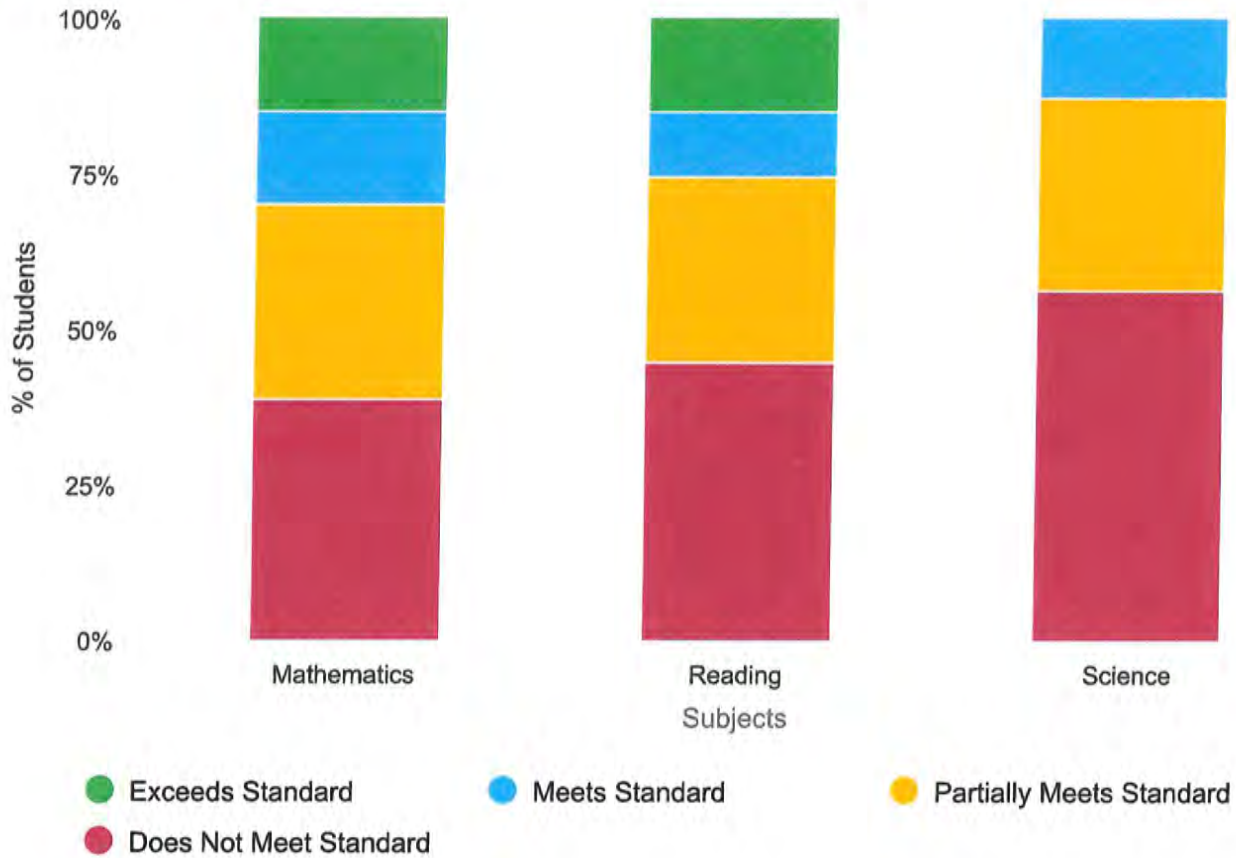
Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2021-2022

District/County (087) - Upshur

School (206) - Hodgesville Elementary



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	38.81%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	14.93%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	14.93%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	31.34%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	44.78%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	14.93%
Reading	Meets Standard	10.45%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	29.85%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	56.25%
Science	Exceeds Standard	.00%

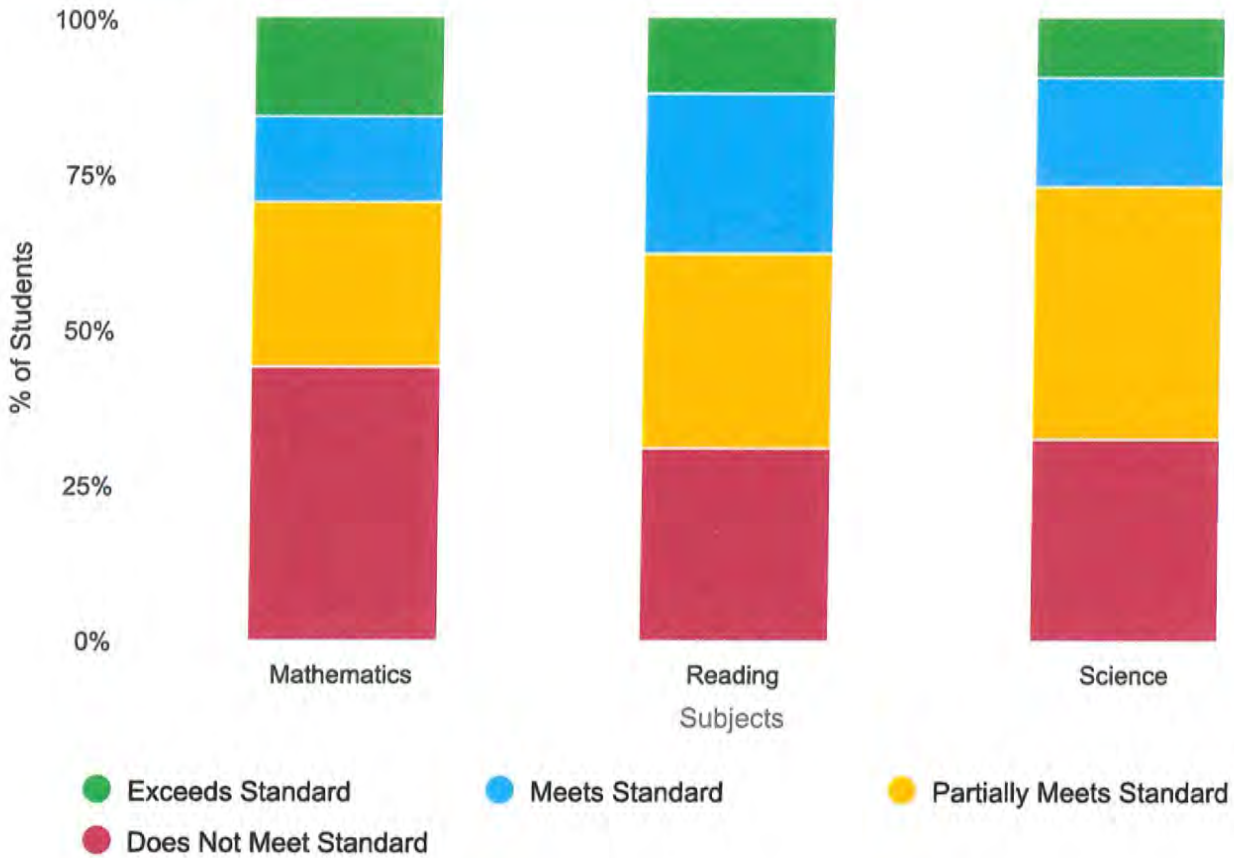
Science	Meets Standard	12.50%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	31.25%

Assessment Achievement

Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2024-2025 **District/County** (087) - Upshur
School (301) - B-U Middle School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	43.94%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	15.77%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	13.87%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	26.42%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	31.14%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	11.99%
Reading	Meets Standard	25.73%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	31.14%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	32.52%
Science	Exceeds Standard	9.22%

Science	Meets Standard	17.48%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	40.78%

Assessment Achievement

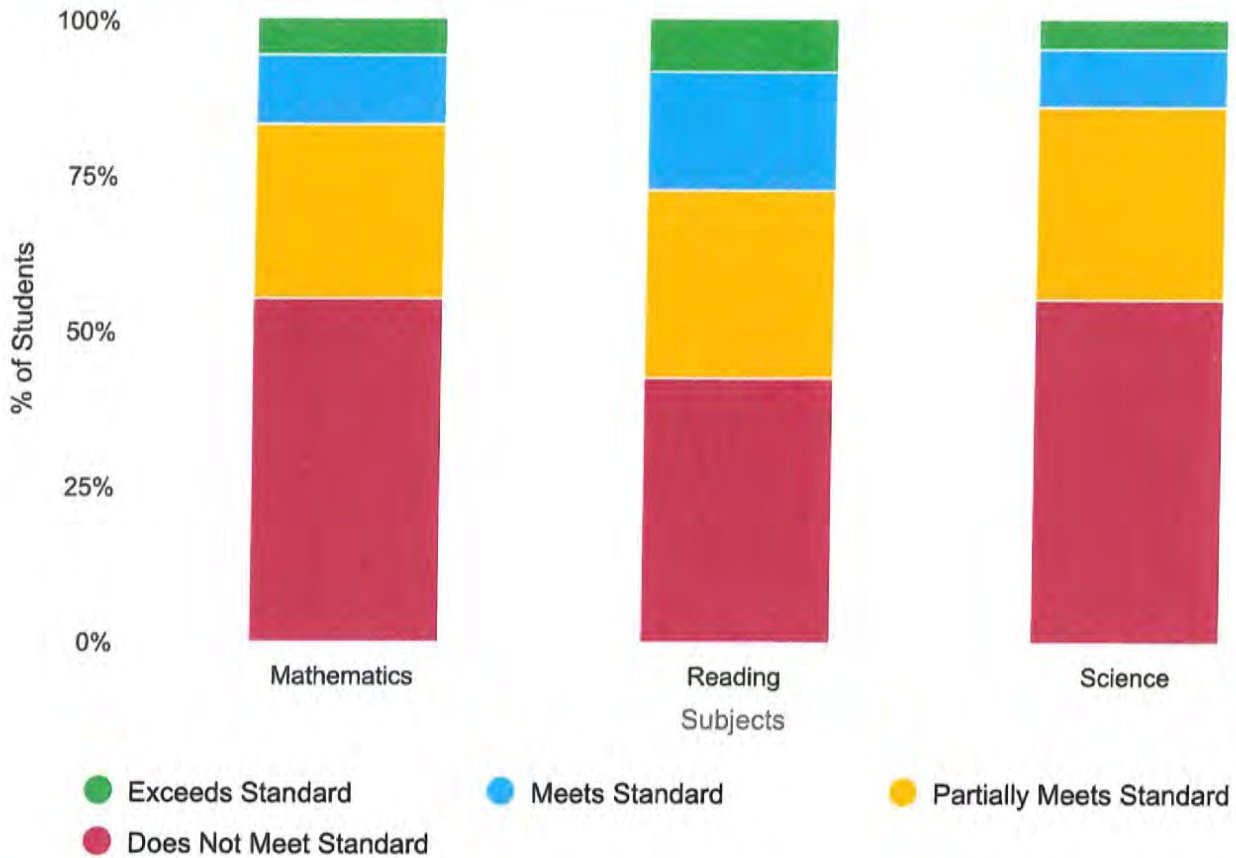
Note: Performance at "Meets Standard" and "Exceeds Standard" is proficient.
 Performance at "Does Not Meet Standard" and "Partially Meets Standard" is not proficient.

Filter Criteria:

School Year 2021-2022

District/County (087) - Upshur

School (301) - B-U Middle School



Total of 12 row(s) with 10000 Row Limit

Subject	Mastery	Mastery Pct
Mathematics	Does Not Meet Standard	55.23%
Mathematics	Exceeds Standard	5.43%
Mathematics	Meets Standard	11.52%
Mathematics	Partially Meets Standard	27.81%
Reading	Does Not Meet Standard	42.54%
Reading	Exceeds Standard	8.32%
Reading	Meets Standard	18.76%
Reading	Partially Meets Standard	30.38%
Science	Does Not Meet Standard	53.87%
Science	Exceeds Standard	4.52%

Science	Meets Standard	9.05%
Science	Partially Meets Standard	30.43%

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

UPSHUR COUNTY, to wit:

In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12 as amended, the Upshur County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the 2026 fiscal year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources:	
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	\$ 6,926,174
Other local sources	<u>670,000</u>
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	20,927,201
Other unrestricted	<u>9,774,016</u>
Federal sources:	
Unrestricted	<u>350,000</u>
Miscellaneous sources	<u>15,000</u>
Total estimated revenues	<u>38,662,391</u>
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	<u>27,303</u>
Estimated beginning balance	<u>2,100,000</u>
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	<u>\$ 40,789,694</u>

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	\$ <u>24,050,378</u>
Supporting services:	
Students	<u>2,588,220</u>
Instructional staff	<u>609,453</u>
Central administration	<u>901,706</u>
School administration	<u>2,425,539</u>
Central services	<u>924,183</u>
Operation and maintenance of facilities	<u>3,763,620</u>
Student transportation	<u>3,985,957</u>
Food services	<u>181,462</u>
Community services	<u>119,300</u>
Capital outlay	<u>250,000</u>
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	<u>494,999</u>
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>-</u>
Total estimated expenditures	<u>40,294,817</u>
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	<u>367,877</u>
Estimated budgetary reserves	<u>127,000</u>
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	<u>\$ 40,789,694</u>

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources	\$ <u>12,098</u>
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	<u>-</u>
Other	<u>1,195,014</u>
Federal sources	<u>5,521,541</u>
Miscellaneous sources	<u>-</u>
 Total estimated revenues	 <u>6,728,652</u>
 Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	 <u>367,877</u>
 Estimated beginning balance	 <u>-</u>
 Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	 <u>\$ 7,096,529</u>

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	\$ <u>2,425,507</u>
Supporting services:	
Students	<u>544,540</u>
Instructional staff	<u>1,034,892</u>
Central administration	<u>-</u>
School administration	<u>-</u>
Central Services	<u>5,734</u>
Operation and maintenance of facilities	<u>77,763</u>
Student transportation	<u>-</u>
Food services	<u>2,980,791</u>
Community services	<u>-</u>
Capital outlay	<u>-</u>
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	<u>-</u>
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>-</u>
 Total estimated expenditures	 <u>7,069,226</u>
 Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	 <u>27,303</u>
 Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	 <u>\$ 7,096,529</u>

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

Upshur County, to wit:

I, Christine Miller, Secretary of the Upshur County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget being considered for adoption by the board of education on the 27th day of May, 2025.

Christine Miller
Secretary of the Board of Education

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the Upshur County Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the FY 25-26 budget at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at B-U High School, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201. Given under my hand this 25th day of April, 2025. Jan Craig, President Upshur County Board of Education Christine Miller, Secretary

Jan Craig
President of the Board of Education

Christine Miller
Secretary of the Board of Education



District - Upshur - School Year 2024 - 2025

Elementary Schools 7
Enrollment 1,532

Middle Schools 1
Enrollment 718

High Schools 1
Enrollment 0

Total Schools 9
Enrollment 3,376

State Overview

Choose School Year

State / District Summary

Choose District



Personnel Report

Per Pupil by School

Per Pupil Data

On-Site Reports

Identified Schools

ESSA Plan

FAQs

Fact Sheet

Cannot Be Reported

Does Not Meet Standard

Partially Meets Standard

Meets Standard

Exceeds Standard

✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle Schools	Academic Achievement		Academic Progress		English Learners	Student Success	
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
Buckhannon Academy Elementary School	✓	✓					
French Creek Elementary		✓					
Hodgesville Elementary							
Rock Cave Elementary	✓	✓					
Tennerton Elementary	✓	✓					
Union Elementary School	✓	✓					
Washington District Elementary							
B-U Middle School	✓	✓					

High Schools	Academic Achievement		Graduation Rate/Cohort		English Learners	Student Success		
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	4 Year	5 Year	English Learner Progress	Attendance	On-Track to Graduation	Post-Secondary Achievement
Buckhannon Upshur High School								

Notes

Cell Size: Colors on the balanced scorecard indicate items having a minimum of 20 students reported.

Color fill represents the proximity to the next higher level.

Data populating the scorecard has been reviewed and/or certified by districts during the past year utilizing certified collections and similar processes.

The methodology for calculating each indicator is available under "Methodology" on the left-hand side of the dashboard.

Pre K-2 Schools are not included in Accountability results. Alternative School students are reported at their home school.

Michele L. Blatt

State Superintendent of Schools

L. Paul Hardesty

President, West Virginia Board of Education

CONTACT

West Virginia Department of Education

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone: 304-558-0200



State / District
Schools / Rock Cave
Elementary

Upshur



School Information

	Total Enrollment (October FY25)	111
	Total Enrollment - Full Academic Year (FY25)	99
	Attendance Rate (FY25)	93.2 %
	Title I Status	Yes
	Per Pupil School - Federal \$	\$1,432.62
	Per Pupil School - State/Local \$	\$8,800.51
	Per Pupil District - Federal \$	\$994.66
	Per Pupil District - State/Local \$	\$3,891.11
	Per Pupil Grand Total - Federal and State/Local \$	\$15,118.90
	Per Pupil Expenditures reflect unaudited FY2024 financial data	

State Overview

Choose School Year

Choose District

Personnel Report

Per Pupil Data

On-Site Reports

Identified Schools

ESSA Plan

FAQs

Fact Sheet

Methodology

West Virginia Schools
Balanced Scorecard

Upshur - Rock Cave Elementary

Cannot Be Reported

Does Not Meet Standard

Partially Meets Standard

Meets Standard

Exceeds Standard

✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#)

Sub Groups	Academic Achievement		Academic Progress		English Learners	Student Success	
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
American Indian or Alaska Native							
Asian							
Black or African American							
Hispanic or Latino							
Multi-Racial							
Pacific Islander							
White	✓	✓					

Economically Disadvantaged	✓	✓						
Children With Disabilities								
English Learners								
Homeless								
Military Connected								
Foster Care								

Notes

Cell Size: Colors on the balanced scorecard indicate items having a minimum of 20 students reported.

Color fill represents the proximity to the next higher level.

Data populating the scorecard has been reviewed and/or certified by districts during the past year utilizing certified collections and similar processes.

The methodology for calculating each indicator is available under "Methodology" on the left-hand side of the dashboard.

Michele L. Blatt
State Superintendent of Schools

L. Paul Hardesty
President, West Virginia Board of Education

CONTACT
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Phone: 304-558-0200

**UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Buckhannon Upshur High School
Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND/OR AGENDA ADJUSTMENT

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the agenda as presented.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

VI. INFORMATION

DELEGATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES

VII. MINUTES – POLICIES – CONTRACTS – AGREEMENTS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting July 23, 2024, and the Special Meeting August 6, 2024.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

AGREEMENTS –

Pre-K Meal Contracts – Mountain Cap of West Virginia, Upshur Human Resources, and Child Development Center of Central West Virginia

Marshall University Counseling - For Completion of Practicum

MOUs –

WWEIS Technical Support Services – for various WWEIS functions
Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program

BIDS - HVAC SERVICES/PARTS

Leggett Refrigeration for the 2024/2025 School Year

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

BOARD GOALS -

Goal 1:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools by prioritizing academic achievement including areas such as, but not limited to, benchmark assessments, instructional leadership, multi-tiered systems of support and the Science of Reading.

Goal 2:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools in improving Special Education services to all students which promote positive academic outcomes and compliance with federal and state code and policy.

Goal 3:

Identify and participate in training opportunities provided by the West Virginia School Board Association which further enhance understanding of county board members' roles and responsibilities.

Goal 4:

Support the Superintendent of Upshur County Schools in improving upon deficiencies within the areas of operations including:

- Items identified within reports from the West Virginia Department of Education.
- Additional areas identified through internal control processes since intervention and those discovered moving forward.

BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS -

Upshur County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

4-H Foundation Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

Extension Services Board

The Superintendent respectfully requests the approval of the Board Committee Assignments as presented.

Recommendation: _____ 2nd: _____ Yeas ___ Nays ___

PURCHASE ORDERS –

Matheny Motor Truck Company – Purchase of School Buses, \$457,557.00
K12 Management, Inc. – Purchase of Upshur County Virtual School, \$900,000.00
McGraw Hill, LLC – Purchase of Textbooks for New Math Curriculum, \$99,253.00
OperationShero, Inc. – Purchase of Maintenance Inventory System, \$11,074.72
Signlasses, LLC – Purchase of Sign support, \$10,000.00
Stanton Lawn Service – Purchase of Mowing Services, \$18,990.00
Kristen Thompson – Purchase of Psychological Evaluation/Reports Services, \$15,000.00
Alpha Technologies, Inc. – Purchase of Voice Mail System for Upshur County Schools, \$13,642.24
Napa Auto & Truck Parts – Purchase of Transportation Parts, \$25,000.00
Benefit Assistance Company, LLC – Purchase of Dental/Vision Insurance for Upshur County Employees, \$23,000.00
Encova Insurance, - Purchase of Worker's Compensation Policy Renewal, \$115,132.00
Casaslwp, LLC – Purchase of Rock Cave Professional Leadership Coaching, \$61,100.00
Casaslwp, LLC – Purchase of Professional Leadership Coaching for all schools, except Rock Cave, and all Directors at the Central Office, \$164,900.00
CDW, LLC – Purchase of Google Workspace for Education Plus (students), \$10,500.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of I-Ready Curriculum, New Math Adoption, \$111,664.20
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Toolbox to support Teacher Resources for the Implementation of I-Ready Diagnostics, \$19,805.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Benchmark Diagnostics, \$20,877.04
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Professional Learning, \$52,800.00
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Support for Personalized Learning Paths, \$91,637.22
Curriculum Associates, LLC – Purchase of Math and Reading Assessments for Students, \$17,914.00
Imagine Learning, LLC – Purchase of Odysseyware for Credit Recovery, \$34,040.00
Hand2Mind, Inc. – Purchase of Math Manipulatives to supplement newly adopted Math Curriculum for Grades K – 8, \$29,485.66

REQUEST TO USE FACILITIES -

WV Lady Pioneers Softball – BUMS
Buckhannon-Upshur Archery and Air Rifle Teams – BUMS

IX. FINANCIAL -

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED CHECKS – July, 2024

X. STUDENT MATTERS/PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

All items have been approved through the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools.

STUDENT MATTERS –

Out of County Requests -

Stephanie Ibarra requests that her daughter in 6th grade currently attending Randolph County Schools attend BUMS for the 2024/2025 school year.

PERSONNEL -

(See attached)

XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

September 10, 2024	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
October 8, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Rock Cave Elementary
November 12, 2024	6:00 p.m.	BUHS

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: _____ 2nd: _____ to adjourn the meeting, all members concurring therein, the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur School: Rock Cave Elementary Current Enrollment: 71

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
Kindergarten	1	x	23	=	23
First Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Second Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Third Grade	1	x	25	=	25
Fourth Grade	1	x	28	=	28
Fifth Grade	1	x	28	=	28
TOTALS:	6	x	154	=	154

Program Utilization (71 divided by 154) times 100 = 46.10 %
 Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 46.10 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur

School: French Creek

Current Enrollment: 221

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PK	1	x	20	=	20
Kindergarten	2	x	23	=	46
First Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Second Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Third Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Fourth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
Fifth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
TOTALS:	13	x	174	=	328

Program Utilization (221 divided by 328) times 100 = 67.37 %
Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 67.37 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET

Worksheet #3
SBA FORM 301-C

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Upshur School: Merged French Creek Elementary Current Enrollment: 292

Classroom Types	Number Of Classroom Types	x	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PK	1	x	20	=	20
Kindergarten	2	x	23	=	46
First Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Second Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Third Grade	2	x	25	=	50
Fourth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
Fifth Grade	2	x	28	=	56
TOTALS:	13	x	174	=	328

Program Utilization (292 divided by 328) times 100 = 89.02 %
Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 89.02 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%



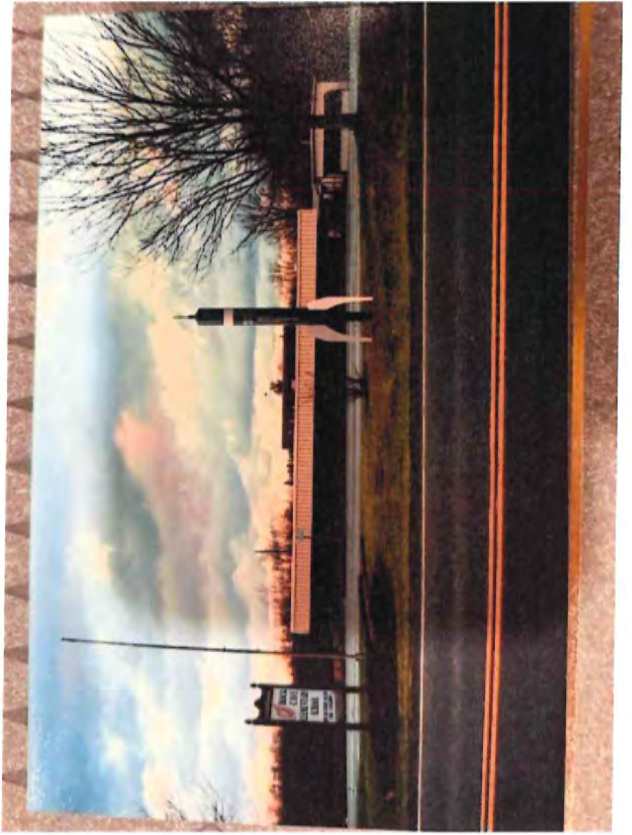
Rock Cave Elementary School PTO, Inc 4d · 🌐

🌟 🚀 Rock Cave History 🚀 🌟

How did the large metal rocket in front of our school come into being? In 2007, Jason Williams, a parent of one of our students, designed and planned the rocket, with the help of CB Phillips, who welded it together, and Melissa Williams, who gave it its original paint job. The rocket was installed at its current location approximately 18 years ago around Thanksgiving Break and has been a prominent feature ever since. However, few people know that it holds a secret: a Time Capsule. Each student at the school at the time contributed an item to the Time Capsule. If you were a student then, what did you put in?

We would like to thank the Williams family for allowing us to share this story, providing photographs that showcase the history of Rock Cave Elementary (taken by Mellissa Williams), and leaving a lasting legacy at our school.







BUS: # 33 AM
 DRIVER: Lee Pappas
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

33 PM
 Lee Pappas
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

STOP **STOP LOCATION/DESC.**

0	Storage - Residence	5:45
1	27 Goshen/Frazier Rd-T/A	6:30
2	4352 Canaan Rd	6:43
3	3759 Canaan Rd.	6:44
4	1414 Canaan Rd.	6:44
5	1370 Canaan Rd	6:45
6	1011 Canaan Rd	6:52
7	703 Canaan Rd	6:53
8	568 Canaan Rd	6:54
9	2328 Gaines Rd	6:54
10	703 Cannann Rd	6:56
11	568 Canaan Rd	6:57
12	2328 Gaines Rd	7:00
13	2423 Gaines Rd- T/A	7:01
14	978 Gaines Rd	7:05
15	530 Gaines Rd	7:07
16	528 Gaines Rd	7:07
17	510 Gaines Rd	7:07
18	225 Gaines Rd	7:09
19	Canaan Rd/Gougerville	7:10
20	14299 Rt. 20 S	7:11
21	13595 Route 20	7:12
22	13217 Route 20 S	7:12
23	Rte 20 Diner	7:12
24	12372 Route 20/Fish Hawk	7:19
25	Rock Cave School	7:20
26	High School	7:40
27	Middle School	7:45
28	Bus Garage	7:47

STOP **STOP LOCATION/DESC.**

0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	Middle School	3:21
2	High School	3:24
3	French Creek School	3:34
4	Rock Cave School	3:42
5	12372 Rte 20 S/Fish Hawk	3:43
6	Centerville Rd/Browning Rd-T/	3:45
7	Rte 20 Diner	3:49
8	13217 Rte 20 S	3:51
9	13595 Rte 20 S	3:52
10	14299 Rte 20 S	3:54
11	Canaan Rd/Gougerville	3:56
12	225 Gaines Rd	3:57
13	510 Gaines Rd	3:58
14	528 Gaines Rd	3:59
15	530 Gaines Rd	3:59
16	978 Gaines Rd	4:00
17	2423 Gaines Rd- T/A	4:05
18	2328 Gaines Rd	4:06
19	568 Canaan Rd	4:09
20	703 Cannann Rd	4:10
21	1011 Canaan Rd	4:11
22	1370 Canaan Rd	4:13
23	1414 Canaan Rd	4:13
24	3759 Canaan Rd	4:21
25	4352 Canaan Rd	4:23
26	27 Goshen/Frazier Rd-T/A	4:29
27	Storage - Residence	5:18

BUS: #93 AM
 DRIVER: Steve McIe
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

#93 PM
 Steve McIe
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Bus Storage - Bethlehem Rd	6:20	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	4500 Alexander Rd- T/A	6:35	1	Middle School	3:22
2	13743 Alexander Rd.	6:37	2	High School	3:28
3	31717 Alexander Rd-	6:38	3	Sis's Diner / Rte 20 S	3:45
4	Reger Run/Alexander Rd. Inter	6:45	4	Rock Cave School	3:48
5	Alexander / French Reeder - Inter	6:46	5	Mt View Rental- Rte 20 S	3:51
6	9447 Alexander Rd	6:47	6	1000 Alexander Rd	3:55
7	Ellis Creek rd/Alexander Rd.	6:50	7	1405 Alexander Rd	3:56
8	6584 Alexander Rd	6:54	8	1452 Alexander Rd	3:57
9	Holly Grove Rd/Alexander Rd.	6:57	9	Kanawha Run/Alexander Rd.	3:58
10	4829 Alexander Rd	6:59	10	1599 Alexander Rd	3:59
11	66 Lucky Thirteen Dr	7:00	11	1818 Alexander Rd	4:00
12	Carter Rd/Alexander Rd.	7:05	12	1888 Alexander Rd	4:01
13	Carter Hill Dr / Alexander Rd	7:07	13	1713 Alexander Rd	4:02
14	2298 Alexander Rd	7:09	14	2034 Alexander Rd	4:03
15	2103 Alexander Rd	7:09	15	2103 Alexander Rd	4:03
16	2034 Alexander Rd.	7:10	16	2298 Alexander Rd	4:04
17	810 Harvey Gold Rd	7:10	17	Alexander Rd / Carter Hill Dr.	4:05
18	1713 Alexander Rd	7:11	18	Carter Rd/Alexander Rd.	4:07
19	1888 Alexander Rd	7:12	19	Lucky thirteen Dr	4:10
20	1818 Alexander Rd	7:12	20	4829 Alexander Rd	4:11
21	1599 Alexander Rd	7:13	21	Holly Grove Rd/, Alexander Rd.	4:12
22	Kanawha Run Rd/Alexander Rd.	7:13	22	6584 Alexander Rd	4:15
23	1452 Alexander Rd	7:14	23	Ellis Creek Rd/Alexander Rd.	4:18
24	1405 Alexander Rd	7:15	24	9447 Alexander Rd	4:21
25	1000 Alexander Rd	7:16	25	French Reeder Rd-Intersection	4:21
26	Mt View App-Rt 20	7:20	26	Reger Run/Alexander Rd. Inter	4:24
27	Sis's Diner Rte 20	7:21	28	13717 Alexander Rd	4:30
28	Rock Cave School	7:25	29	13743 Alexander Rd.	4:32
29	BUHS	7:40	30	14500 Alexander Brooks Hill -T/A	4:35
30	BUMS	7:45	31	Bus Storage - Bethlehem Rd	4:50
31	Bus Garage	7:58			

Steve McIe confirmed on 11/13/25
 that he begins route at 6:35am.

updated 6-19-25

BUS: #23 AM
 DRIVER: Tommie Loudin
 2024-2025

77
 #REF!

BUS: #23 PM
 DRIVER: Tommie Loudin
 2024-2025

77
 #REF!

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Storage - Garage	6:02	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	9114 Rte 20 S	6:15	1	BUHS	3:21
2	9832 Rte 20 S	6:17	2	BUHS	3:24
3	Davidson Sawmill	6:33	3	FRENCH CREEK ELEMENTARY	3:34
4	22038 Rt. 20 S. Rd. Kanawha Head	6:37	4	ROCK CAVE ELEMANTARY	3:42
5	Warden Lane / Rte 20 S	6:41	5	876 Hunter Ridge Rd	3:48
6	24172 Rte 20 S Kanawha Head	6:44	6	Cow Run - T/A	3:50
7	Webster Co Line- T/A	6:44	7	1855 Cow Run Rd	3:53
8	Rte 20 S / Eden Lane	6:52	8	1022 Cow Run Rd	3:56
9	Walton Rd & Rte 20 S	6:54	9	513 Cow Run Rd	3:59
10	18647 Rt.20 S. Rd	6:57	10	15801 Rt. 20 S./Arlingt. Com BLDG	4:02
11	17823 Route 20	6:57	11	17823 Route 20 S.	4:06
12	15801 Rte20/ArlingtonCom Bldg	7:01	12	18647 Route 20 S.	4:09
13	513 Cow Run Rd	7:05	13	23500 Route 20-Walton Lane	4:09
14	1022 Cow Run Rd	7:07	14	Eden Lane Rd. Kanawha Head	4:10
15	1855 Cow Run Rd	7:10	15	Webster Co. Line- T/A	4:19
16	Cow Run - T/A	7:14	16	24172 Rt. 20 S. Kanawha Head	4:20
17	876 HunterRidge Rd	7:22	17	Warden Lane Kanawha head	4:20
18	ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY	7:28	18	22038 Rt. 20 S. Rd.	4:26
19	FRENCH CREEK ELEMENT	7:36	19	Davidson Sawmill	4:29
20	BUHS	7:46	20	9832 Rte 20 S Rd	4:46
21	BUMS	7:50	21	9114 Rte 20 S Rd	4:48
22	BUS GARAGE	7:55	22	Bus Garage	5:02

BUS: #94 AM
 DRIVER: Steven Page
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

#94 PM
 Steven Page
 2025-2026

77
 #REF!

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Storage - Residence	6:20	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	Rt. 44 Newlonton Rd-TurnAround	6:35	1	BUMS	3:22
2	3948 Selbyville Rd	6:40	2	BUHS	3:28
3	3286 Selbyville Rd	6:42	3	French Creek School	3:34
4	PLEasant Dale Church	6:43	4	Rock Cave School	3:42
5	Selbyville Rd/Holly Grove Rd	6:47	5	9114 Rte 20 S Rd	3:48
6	1160 Selbyville Rd	6:48	6	9832 Rte 20 S Rd	3:52
7	450 Selbyville Rd	6:50	7	Question Mark Bar/ Rte 20 S Rd	3:53
8	230 Selbyville Rd	6:51	8	133 Kanawha Run Rd	3:56
9	9046 Alexander Rd	6:52	9	623 Kanawha Run Rd	3:58
10	7653 Alexander Rd	6:55	10	Kanawha Run Rd-turn around	3:59
11	7077 Alexander Rd	6:57	11	1066 Kanawha Run Rd	4:00
12	2887 Pleasant Ridge Rd	7:04	12	Kanawha Run Church	4:03
13	2808 Pleasant Ridge Rd	7:05	13	Jasmine Dr/Pleasant Ridge Rd	4:03
14	Jasmine Dr/Pleasant Ridge Rd	7:13	14	2808 Pleasant Ridge Rd	4:11
15	Kanawha Run Church	7:13	15	2887 Pleasant Ridge Rd	4:11
16	1066 Kanawha Run Rd	7:16	16	7077 Alexander Rd	4:18
17	Kanawha Run Rd-turn around	7:17	17	7653 Alexander Rd	4:20
18	623 Kanawha Run Rd	7:18	18	9046 Alexander Rd.	4:24
19	133 Kanawha Run Rd	7:20	19	230 Selbyville Rd	4:25
20	Rock Cave School	7:23	20	450 Selbyville Rd	4:26
21	Question Mark Bar/Rte 20 S	7:27	21	1160 Selbyville Rd	4:28
22	9832 Rte 20 20 S	7:27	22	Selbeyville Rd/ Holly Grove Rd	4:29
23	9114 Rte 20 S	7:28	23	Pleasant Dale Church	4:33
24	French Creek Elementary	7:31	24	3286 Selbyville Rd	4:34
25	BUMS	7:43	25	3948 Selbyville Rd	4:36
26	BUHS	7:47	26	Newlonton Rd-Turn around	4:39
27	Bus Garage	7:52	27	Storage - Residence	5:28

Updated 8/5/25

BUS: #88 Travis Mallett 2025-2026 #88 Travis Mallett 2025-2026 #REF! 77

STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME	STOP	STOP LOCATION/DESC.	TIME
0	Bus Garage	5:50	0	Bus Garage	3:00
1	4092s Salem Rdg Rd-Church	6:26	1	BUMS	3:22
2	Salem Ridge Rd/ KD Dr	6:26	2	BUHS	3:28
3	2149 Salem Ridge Rd	6:32	3	Rock Cave School	3:41
4	1665 SalemRidge Rd	6:33	4	1398 Rock Cave Rd	3:44
5	1573 Salem ridge	6:34	5	Rock Cave Rd/Beverage Knob Rd	3:46
6	950 Salem Ridge Rd	6:36	6	2209 Rock Cave Rd	3:46
7	5848 Heaston Ridge Rd	6:46	7	Rte 4 /Straight Fork- T/A	3:49
8	4919 Heaston Ridge Rd	6:49	8	2903 Rock Cave Rd	3:51
9	Heaston Church/Panther Fork	6:53	9	Heaston Rdg/Loudin Rd	3:56
10	1257 Cherry Fork Rd	7:02	10	Cherry Fork - T/A	4:06
11	Cherry Fork- T/A	7:03	11	1257 Cherry Fork Rd	4:07
12	Heaston Rdg Rd/ Loudin Rd	7:12	12	Heaston Churh/Panther Fork	4:15
13	2903 Rock Cave Rd	7:18	13	4918 Heaston Ridge Rd	4:20
14	Rte 4/Straight Fork Rd-T/A	7:20	14	5848 Heston Ridge Rd	4:23
15	2209 Rock Cave Rd	7:23	15	950 Salem Ridge Rd	4:33
16	Rock Cave Rd/Beverage Knob Rd	7:23	16	1573 Salem Ridge Rd	4:35
17	1398 Rock Cave Rd	7:25	17	1665 SalemRidge Rd	4:36
18	Rock Cave School	7:28	18	2149 Salem Ridge Rd	4:37
19	BUHS	7:45	19	K-D Drive Salem Ridge	4:43
20	BUMS	7:50	20	4092 Salem Ridge Rd-Church	4:43
21	Bus Garage	7:51	21	Bus Garage	5:16

TOTAL MILES

Route actually starts at 659 Larry Anderson Rd @ 6:18am.

Date: November 5, 2025

To:

Upshur County Board of Education

Subject: Opposition to the Closure of Rock Cave Elementary School

Dear Members of the Upshur County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary School. After attending the past three Board of Education meetings and reviewing the financial impact statement presented, I have serious concerns regarding the accuracy, transparency, and validity of the financial data being used to justify this decision.

It has become evident that multiple line items in the budget are already over-extended and were not properly accounted for. This raises significant questions about the fiscal management and planning processes currently in place. Furthermore, the Board has acknowledged uncertainty regarding the number of properties and acreage it owns, which is deeply troubling and suggests a lack of comprehensive asset oversight. Why can't these vacant properties be sold or timbered to pay for the alleged shortfall of funding needed for or school to remain open? How is it ethical to close a school when there are millions of dollars in unrestricted funds meaning that our school has already been budgeted for and that is your extra money? How is it ethical to continue to possess so many vacant properties and still consider the closing of a school when they can be sold? How is it ethical to show incorrect numbers and exceed multiple line items budgets on your budget when that is against rules and regulations for public entities?

Most concerning is the fact that the carryover amounts—critical to understanding the district's true financial position—were not available until the end of October according to your financial representative. This means that all figures included in the impact statement are merely estimates, not verified data. Making a decision as consequential as closing a school based on incomplete and speculative financial information is not only irresponsible but potentially harmful to our community.

Additionally, the justification for the closure includes references to a 2019 report from the School Building Authority (SBA). This report is outdated by six years and fails to reflect the current status of the school, especially considering that many of the projects listed have already been completed. Relying on obsolete data to support such a significant action undermines the credibility of the entire process.

Rock Cave Elementary is more than just a school—it is a cornerstone of our community. Its

closure would disrupt the lives of students, families, and staff, and diminish the educational opportunities available in our rural area. I urge the Board to reconsider this proposal and instead commit to a transparent, data-driven approach that includes updated financials, accurate property records, and current facility assessments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record and that the concerns raised herein be addressed before any further action is taken regarding the closure of Rock Cave Elementary.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne troxell

Scott's Story: Supporting Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students in Our Schools

Introduction

I appreciate the opportunity to address and share a matter of significant personal importance — my son Scott's experience and its implications for students with similar circumstances in our schools.

Scott's Diagnosis and Early Concerns

Scott was diagnosed with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, which means that both of his ears have a permanent reduction in hearing due to an issue with the inner ear or auditory nerve. In simpler terms, the messages between his ears and his brain don't travel as clearly or as strongly as they do for most people.

When we first heard those words — hearing loss — we were scared. Like any parent, I wondered: What will this mean for his future? Will he be able to learn, communicate, and experience school the way other children do?

Learning and Growth Beyond Hearing Loss

What we've learned over time is that hearing loss does not define him. It's simply one part of who he is. But it does require thoughtful, consistent support — support that only a strong school system can provide.

Technology and Resilience: Hearing Aids as a Superpower

Because of the severity of his hearing loss, Scott wears hearing aids in both ears. These tiny devices are remarkable. They pick up sounds, process them, and deliver them in a way he can understand. They're his bridge to sound — to learning, to connection, and to hearing us say, "We love you." Every morning when he puts them on, I'm reminded of his resilience and of the technology that helps him navigate a world that isn't always designed for him.

We even call his hearing aids his superpower. They help him engage in ways that make him strong, capable, and ready to learn — just like any other student.

The Role of Teachers and Partnership in Education

From Pre-K through today, Scott's teachers have been essential to his development. They've worked closely with him on speech and language, helping him build confidence

one sound and one word at a time. We are deeply grateful, because they didn't just teach him — they believed in him. They showed us that the heart of education is partnership.

Challenges in the Classroom

But even with excellent teachers, Scott faces real challenges in the classroom. Imagine trying to learn a lesson in a busy room — surrounded by the hum of conversations, students getting up from their desks, and the occasional burst of laughter. As the teacher moves around the room, often with their back to you, you struggle to catch fragments of their words, trying to piece together information on your own. For Scott, all that background noise and movement can make it extremely difficult to separate the sounds he needs from those he doesn't.

Minimizing unnecessary noise in the classroom — such as chatter or external distractions — can make an enormous difference. This simple step allows deaf and hard-of-hearing students to focus on the teacher's instructions and fully access communication.

Scott already works harder than most students every single day just to listen, to process sound, and to stay engaged. As class sizes grow, as environments become noisier, and as demands increase, those challenges only become tougher. He has an IEP that outlines the accommodations he needs, but as schools expand, many parents worry — understandably — that students with IEPs can fall through the cracks.

Advocating for Support and Accountability

Every child deserves to be seen, heard, and supported—especially the ones whose challenges are invisible.

Through Scott, we've discovered that hearing loss isn't a limitation. It's a different way of experiencing the world — a way that teaches patience, creativity, and genuine listening. But that opportunity is only possible when the systems around him work. And that is where your leadership matters most.

Needed Improvements in Schools

- We need classrooms where sound is manageable — not chaotic.
- We need teachers who are trained in and supported in working with deaf and hard-of-hearing students.
- We need resources dedicated to assistive technology, acoustically appropriate spaces, and manageable class sizes.
- And we need consistent accountability for fully implementing IEPs.

Conclusion: Responsibility and Hope

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of educators, parents, and administrators — guided by the decisions you make — to work toward solutions that improve the academic and social outcomes for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The choices you make here directly shape the futures of children like Scott.

And to Scott — you make us proud every single day. You've shown us that being different isn't something to hide — it's something to celebrate. Your hearing aids aren't just devices. They're your superpower.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to ensuring that every student — including students like my son — has the opportunity to thrive.

Dear Members of the West Virginia State Board of Education,

I am writing as a concerned community member, taxpayer, and advocate for the children and families of Rock CAVE. I respectfully request that you reconsider the motion to close Rock CAVE Elementary, a decision made at the recent meeting.

This decision is not only discouraging it is deeply harmful and dismissive of the community that depends on this school.

1. The School Is Thriving Under New Leadership

Despite reduced funding caused by actions of a former superintendent actions entirely outside the community's control Rock CAVE Elementary has continued to grow, improve, and serve students well under new management.

Penalizing a school that has demonstrated resilience and progress is neither fair nor reasonable.

2. The Plan Creates Overcrowding and Unnecessary Hardships

Closing Rock CAVE Elementary will overload the receiving school, creating a learning environment that is less safe, less effective, and more chaotic for students and staff.

Additionally, many children will face significantly longer bus rides, which is physically and emotionally taxing, especially for younger students.

3. The Economic and Social Impact Will Be Severe

Rock CAVE Elementary is not just a school, it is a critical part of our community's stability.

Removing it removes:

- local employment
- foot traffic that supports small businesses
- a community anchor that helps keep families rooted

This decision will harm an already financially stressed region.

4. The Community's Voice Has Been Ignored

During the nearly five-hour meeting where parents, teachers, and students passionately expressed their concerns, not one board member showed meaningful acknowledgment or empathy.

Even more troubling, throughout multiple meetings the name of our school has repeatedly been misidentified as Rock Creek Elementary.

If a board cannot correctly identify the school it is voting to close, how can we trust that the full impact and facts have been properly considered? Let alone the 7 minute meeting for the final decision.

This repeated error demonstrates a lack of familiarity, care, and respect toward our community.

5. We Ask for a Fair, Informed, Transparent Review

We are not asking for special treatment, only for a decision based on:

- accurate information
- respect for the community
- the demonstrated success of the school
- real consideration of student welfare

We urge you to delay or reverse the closure of Rock Cave Elementary and allow the new leadership and community to continue building the success already underway.

Our children deserve better. Our community deserves better. And we ask that you take the time to ensure that this decision aligns with the values and responsibilities entrusted to you by the people of West Virginia.

Thank you for your time, and I sincerely hope you will allow our voices to be GENUINELY heard at the next meeting.

From: Heidi Brady <barrelracergirl97@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 10:07 PM

I'm deeply concerned about the potential closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and the merger with French Creek Elementary. As a parent of children attending French Creek, I'm worried about the impact of larger class sizes on my child's education, especially since one of my children requires extra support due to hearing loss. The parking situation at French Creek is already dire, with parents parking in the grass down the road and walking from the post office due to lack of spaces. Adding more students would create more chaos. Rock Cave Elementary is a thriving school with good attendance and scores. I think the focus should be on ensuring student safety and providing quality education, rather than closing a successful small school. The recent threats at another local school in buckhannon should be a priority. It took the parents making a fuss for somebody to stand up and do something after the man who made the threats get out on bond and live in a shed beside the school. I urge the WV state Board of Education to consider the long-term effects on our community and prioritize our children's well-being and education. Shutting down a small country school that thrives is ridiculous. Check the scores, check the numbers you will see how great that school is. Kids lives can be jeopardized if the wrong move is made.

Good evening,

My name is Alyssa Hope, and I am a parent of a child who attends Rock Cave Elementary School in Upshur County.

I am writing to you because of the proposed closure of Rock Cave Elementary is not just a budgeting decision — it is a safety issue, an instructional issue, and a fairness issue for our children.

1. Safety at the receiving school is an immediate and serious concern.

If Rock Cave closes, our children will be sent to a school that has only 84 parking spaces yet would serve approximately 315 students after redistricting.

Parents and students are already being forced to:

- Park along a busy main road
- Walk beside traffic
- Cross the roadway without sidewalks
- Navigate unsafe conditions in the rain, snow, and darkness

This is not a one-time problem.

This happens every single day, and adding 71 more students from Rock Cave will make an already unsafe situation even more dangerous.

We have a right to expect that when we send our children to school, they can arrive and leave safely. The receiving school simply cannot support the traffic and parking load it already has.

2. The receiving school is already failing to provide proper teaching and consistent IEP support.

As a parent, this is deeply concerning.

There are ongoing issues with:

- Failure to provide proper instruction
- Gaps in educational support
- Inconsistent delivery of required IEP services

These are legally required services.

If the school cannot meet the needs of the students it already has, it is unreasonable — and harmful — to add more students to that environment.

Our children deserve instruction that meets basic standards. They deserve IEP services that are delivered consistently and correctly. They deserve a school that is capable of meeting their needs.

3. Low enrollment at Rock Cave was partially created by district decisions.

Twenty-seven Rock Cave students were previously allowed to redistrict out due to dissatisfaction with a former principal.

We now have a new principal who has completely transformed our school, yet the district continues to use the lowered enrollment — an issue they helped create — as justification for closure.

Rock Cave currently has 71 students, and enrollment would likely grow again if prior transfers were reevaluated.

4. Rock Cave Elementary is a safe, well-maintained, and stable school.

The facility is in better condition than the receiving school.

The campus is safe.

The staff is strong.

The children are thriving under supportive leadership.

It does not make educational, fiscal, or safety sense to close the safer school and move children into a more dangerous and under-resourced environment.

In closing, I respectfully ask the State Board to deny approval of this closure.

Please consider:

- The daily safety risks
- The instructional deficiencies
- The IEP inconsistencies
- The district-created enrollment decline
- And the stability and strength that Rock Cave Elementary already provides

Our children deserve a school that is safe, functional, and able to meet their needs.

Rock Cave Elementary is that school.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the children of West Virginia.

UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Buckhannon-Upshur High School
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - *Jan Craig, President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.*
- II. **ROLL CALL** - *Superintendent Christy Miller called the roll. All members were present.*
Members Present: *Jan Craig, President, Sherry Dean, Vice President, Roy Wager, Susan King and William Parker. Also present: Christy Miller, Tim Derico, April Senic and Elaine Pugh. Joining in person from the WVDE: Jeffrey Kelley, Uriah Cummings and Josh Harner. Joining in person from the Law Firm of Bowles Rice: Kim Croyle.*
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** - *President Jan Craig led the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- IV. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND/OR AGENDA ADDENDUM**
The Superintendent respectfully requests approval of the agenda as presented.
Recommendation: Mrs. Sherry Dean 2nd: Mr. Roy Wager Yeas 5 Nays 0
- V. **INFORMATION**

SUPERINTENDANT COMMENTS -

Good evening.

As Superintendent of Upshur County Schools, and in accordance with the authority delegated to me through the West Virginia Board of Education's June 14, 2023 intervention and the findings of its Special Circumstances Review, I am presenting for your consideration the recommendation that Rock Cave Elementary School be officially closed at the end of the 2025-2026 school year and merged with French Creek Elementary School, effective for the upcoming school year.

This recommendation follows a thorough review of instructional, operational, and financial conditions in our county, as well as the public hearings held on November 13, during which community members were provided the opportunity to comment and ask questions. I want to acknowledge the heartfelt testimony shared that evening and the long history Rock Cave Elementary holds for this community. In addition to those that spoke on November 13, we have heard from delegations at each of our board meetings since publishing the impact statement; and have received many emails and written statements. The transcripts of the public hearing, all written statements, and the comments made by those speaking as delegations have been sent to and reviewed by the State Superintendent of School. I have reviewed all of the information again as well. The decision to recommend closure is not made lightly. It is made out of responsibility—responsibility to our students, to the safety and integrity of our facilities, to the effective use of taxpayer resources, and to the obligation placed on Upshur County Schools by the State Board of Education to correct long-standing deficiencies and improve educational outcomes.

First, Rock Cave Elementary has faced significant and ongoing enrollment decline. Student numbers have fallen to a level that makes it increasingly difficult to deliver a full range of academic and support services. Very small class sizes, while valued by families, limit our ability to offer equitable programming compared to other elementary schools, including specialized instruction,

intervention services, and extracurricular opportunities that students in a modern educational system deserve.

Second, the facility condition of Rock Cave Elementary presents substantial concerns. Under the State Board's intervention, we are obligated to address facilities issues systematically, prioritize student safety, and ensure that our limited capital resources are used effectively and equitably.

Third, consolidation with French Creek Elementary will allow students to benefit from broader instructional supports, improved access to specialists and certified staff, and more consistent programming. French Creek has the physical capacity to receive additional students and to provide a safe, modern, and supportive learning environment that meets state expectations.

Fourth, operational and staffing challenges at Rock Cave—many of which were raised in the Special Circumstances Review—continue to place undue strain on the school system. Maintaining separate administrative, custodial, and operational structures for a very small school is not sustainable and diverts resources away from direct instruction and student needs across the county.

The State Board's intervention on June 14, 2023 placed on the Upshur County school system a duty to make difficult but necessary corrections to ensure compliance with state standards, fiscal responsibility, and improved student outcomes. This recommendation aligns with those directives. It fulfills our responsibility to use public funds wisely, to improve system-wide efficiency, and—most importantly—to provide students with access to a stronger and more comprehensive educational experience.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to the Rock Cave community. Your support for children has been evident at every step of this process. Although a school building may close, the commitment to serving the students and families of this community remains unchanged. The transition plan, should this recommendation be approved, will focus on supporting students, families, and staff every step of the way.

For these reasons, and consistent with the authority granted to the Office of the State Superintendent's designee under the West Virginia Board of Education's intervention, I formally recommend that Rock Cave Elementary School be closed at the end of the 2025-2026 school year and consolidated with French Creek Elementary School.

SCHOOL CLOSURE ACTION -

The superintendent respectfully requests the Board approve the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and its merger into French Creek Elementary School, to be effective at the end of the current 2025-2026 school year, and the Superintendent on the Board's behalf, timely request that the West Virginia Board of Education approve these actions.

Recommendation: My name is Jeff Kelley with the West Virginia Department of Ed. I'm here on behalf of Superintendent Blatt. Michelle Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Upshur County hereby approves the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and its consolidation into French Creek Elementary School. This Closure is scheduled to occur at the end of the 25/26 school year. In addition, I also respectfully request that the Board approve the amendment to the 2020-2030 Upshur County Schools Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School merging into French Creek Elementary to be effective at the end of the

current 2025-2026 school year. State Superintendent Blatt approves the corresponding amendments to the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to reflect this consolidation.

AMENDMENT COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN -

The superintendent respectfully requests the Board approve the amendment to the 2020-2030 Upshur County Schools Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan (CEFP) to include the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School merging into French Creek Elementary to be effective at the end of the current 2025-2026 school year.

Recommendation: My name is Jeff Kelley with the West Virginia Department of Ed. I'm here on behalf of Superintendent Blatt. Michelle Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Upshur County hereby approves the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School and its consolidation into French Creek Elementary School. This Closure is scheduled to occur at the end of the 25/26 school year. In addition, I also respectfully request that the Board approve the amendment to the 2020-2030 Upshur County Schools Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to include the closure of Rock Cave Elementary School merging into French Creek Elementary to be effective at the end of the current 2025-2026 school year. State Superintendent Blatt approves the corresponding amendments to the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan to reflect this consolidation

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

December 2, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
December 16, 2025	6:00 p.m.	BUHS
January 6, 2026	6:00 p.m.	BUHS

Superintendent Miller noted that the December 2, 2025 meeting will be canceled due to a conflict in scheduling.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. William Parker^{2nd}: Mrs. Sherry Dean to adjourn the meeting, all members concurring therein, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.