

AGENDA

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

July 8, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

- I. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions – Call-to-Order**
L. Paul Hardesty, President
- II. Approval of Agenda – (Action)**
President Hardesty
- III. Delegation(s) – (Information)**
Christy Day
- IV. Presentation “I Love WV Public Schools”**
West Virginia Association of School Administrators Executive Committee
- V. School Safety Update – (Information)**
Micah Whitlow and James Agee
- VI. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Reports – (Information)**
Superintendent Michele L. Blatt

VII. Consent Agenda - (Action)

A. Approval of Minutes - (Action)

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the **minutes of the June 3, 2026, meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE)** be approved.

B. Routine Business

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

[Attachment B](#)

It is recommended that **the Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policy for Calhoun County** be approved.

- 2. Employment of Substitute Bus Operators in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage - (Action)**
Kelli Talbott

[Attachment C](#)

It is recommended that **the Employment of Bus Operators in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policy for Calhoun County** be approved.

- 3. Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB) recommendation to place 22 state-approved alternative certification programs and their providers on Continuing Approval Status.**
Traci Gregory

[Attachment D](#)

West Virginia ACEPPRB members voted to recommend Continuing Approval Status for 22 state-approved alternative certification programs. All aspects of these written alternative certification programs, including the providers' identified partners, will remain the same. All program providers have provided certified assurances that they have acted in accordance with their written program documentation, all applicable WVBE policies, and statutes. WVBE Policy 5901

provides guidelines and procedures for the approval of alternative certification educator preparation programs leading to licensure in West Virginia, and WVBE Policy 5202 provides guidelines and procedures for the issuance of licensure, including the Alternative Teaching Certificate.

It is recommended that **Continuing Approval Status for the 22 state-approved alternative certification programs and their providers, included in Attachment D, be approved.**

**4. Appointment of State Superintendent's Designee to the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Review Board – (Action)
Kelli Talbott**

The Constitution of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC), 127 W. Va. C.S.R. 1, establishes a Review Board consisting of seven members serving five-year terms. The Review Board hears appeals of decisions of the WVSSAC Board of Directors involving a penalty, protest, or interpretation of the rules and regulations of the WVSSAC governing interscholastic athletic or band activities. One of the seven members of the Review Board is established as the "State Superintendent's Designee." As a result of the June 30, 2026, expiration of the prior State Superintendent's Designee's term, there is a current vacancy on the Review Board for that position. The WVSSAC's Constitution requires the WVBE to fill any vacancy which occurs in the membership of the Review Board. Superintendent Blatt recommends that David Price be appointed to fill the position of the State Superintendent's Designee for a five-year term ending on June 30, 2031. Mr. Price is a former executive director of the WVSSAC and a former superintendent of Raleigh County Schools.

It is recommended that **the appointment of David Price to serve as the State Superintendent's Designee on the Review Board be approved.**

**5. Approval of edTPA Essentials as a Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) – (Action)
Robert Hagerman**

[Attachment E](#)

edTPA is transitioning to edTPA Essentials. As one of West Virginia's approved teacher performance assessments, West Virginia will begin transitioning to the revised assessment in August 2026 and will continue to accept the current TPA until edTPA officially sunsets in August 2027. During the transition period, educator preparation programs are required to accept either the current edTPA or edTPA Essentials for program completion since both meet the state certification requirements. Under edTPA Essentials, candidates shall be required to earn a minimum composite score of 24 across the two required tasks to demonstrate proficiency and shall not receive a score of 1 on any individual rubric during initial implementation, ensuring a structured and consistent transition while maintaining rigorous expectations for candidate readiness for licensure.

It is recommended that **the transition from the current edTPA to edTPA Essentials, effective August 2026, with a dual acceptance period extending through December 2027, be approved.**

**6. Approval to Continue the Statewide Waiver of §11.9.d, Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications, for Grow Your Own (GYO) WV Teaching Pathway participants.
Traci Gregory**

The GYO WV Teaching Pathway was initially implemented during the 2021-22 school year. Students who were participants in the GYO program from the initial implementation have now graduated high school with experiences in classrooms, college credits towards a Bachelor of Education Degree, and in some cases, an associate degree. As these students with associate degrees continue to pursue their Bachelor of Education Degree, they have obtained sufficient knowledge and skill to be able to substitute in elementary and middle schools. The current policy indicates that a Restricted Short-Term Substitute Permit “has attained the age of 21” which these students have not.

It is recommended that **the request to continue the Statewide Waiver of §11.9.d, Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/ Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications, for Grow Your Own (GYO) WV Teaching Pathway participants be approved.**

VIII. New Business

A. Middle School Initiative – (Information) Amon Gilliam and Kelly Massinople

[Attachment F](#)

The Division of Instruction and Support will provide information on the new middle school initiative, including supports for implementing effective middle-level practices that address the unique academic and development needs of students in Grades 6-8.

B. Randolph County Schools State of Emergency Update – (Action) Alexandra Criner

The Office of Accountability will provide an update on the intervention in Randolph County Schools.

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

C. Roane County Schools State of Emergency Update – (Action) Alexandra Criner

The Office of Accountability will provide an update on the intervention in Roane County Schools.

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

D. Harrison County Schools Review Report – (Action) Alexandra Criner

The Office of Accountability will provide information relating to the review of Harrison County Schools.

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

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

E. State Superintendent Goals for School Year 2026-2027– (Action) Victor Gabriel, Vice President

Vice-President Gabriel, Chair, Subcommittee on State Superintendent Goals, will provide a report on the meeting held on June 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Robert H. Mollohan Research Center, 1000 Galliher Drive, Fairmont, West Virginia.

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

F. Discussion of Legal Matters – Supreme Court No. 25-642, West Virginia Board of Education v. Warner; United States Supreme Court 24-43, State of West Virginia v. B. P. J., by next friend and mother, Heather Jackson; and, Discussion of School Fund – (Information and/or Action)

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

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

G. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters – (Action)

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

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

[Attachment G](#)

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

[Attachment H](#)

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

**X. Future Meetings - (Information)
President Hardesty**

The next regular meeting will be held on August 12, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

**XI. Election of WVBE Officers – (Action)
President Hardesty**

**XII. WVBE Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027 Approval– (Action)
President Hardesty**

[Attachment I](#)

The WVBE adopts a tentative meeting schedule annually. Additional meetings, including emergency meetings and special meetings, will be called by the President as necessary and publicly noticed in accordance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §6-9A-1 *et. seq.*

It is recommended that **the WVBE Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027 be approved.**

XIII. Adjournment - (Action)