

AGENDA
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Capitol Building 6, Suite 600
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia
September 10, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

I. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions – Call-to-Order
L. Paul Hardesty, President

II. Approval of Agenda - (Action)
L. Paul Hardesty

III. Recognition(s) – (Information)

**2026 West Virginia Teacher of the Year and the School Service Personnel
Employee of the Year**
Traci Gregory

IV. Delegation(s) - (Information)
Christy Day

V. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Reports
Superintendent Michele L. Blatt

VI. Consent Agenda - (Action)

A. Approval of Minutes - (Action)

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the **minutes of the August 13, 2025, meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE)** be approved.

B. Routine Business

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

[Attachment B](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Boone, Lincoln, Mingo, Monongalia, Morgan, Putnam and Raleigh counties** be approved.

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

[Attachment C](#)

It is recommended that the **Employment of Retired Bus Operators as Substitutes in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage policies for Boone, Lincoln, Putnam and Raleigh counties** be approved.

3. Logan County Schools requests a waiver of Policy 4336 for creating bus routes that will exceed the recommended duration of transportation time for elementary students - (Action)
Micah Whitlow

Due to the emergency closure of Verdunville Elementary School, the Logan County Board of Education requests a waiver of Policy 4336, School Closings and Consolidations, to create bus routes that will exceed the recommended duration of transportation time for elementary students. This waiver is for the 2025-2026 school year and will only apply to new routes that exceed the recommended limit of forty-five minutes but below the maximum allowable sixty minutes. Long-term waivers may be considered as part of the full school closure procedure outlined in Policy 6204.

It is recommended that the **request for an emergency waiver of Policy 4336 for Logan County Schools be approved.**

4. Statewide waiver request of Policy 4336 for transporting students to alternative education sites.

[Attachment D](#)

Jimmy Lacy

A statewide waiver of Policy 4336 is requested to allow counties staffing flexibility when transporting students to alternative education sites. For the purposes of this waiver, the term "alternate educational site" encompasses a variety of educational placements based on student circumstances, including, but not limited to, behavior, credit recovery, specialized programs, and disciplinary actions.

It is recommended that the **request for a statewide waiver of Policy 4336 for transporting students to alternative education sites be approved.**

5. Amendment of Mingo County's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) - (Action)

[Attachment E](#)

Micah Whitlow

Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the West Virginia Board of Education and the School Building Authority of West Virginia for approval. The Mingo County Board of Education requests approval to amend its CEFP to more accurately reflect current enrollment trends, facility needs, and safety concerns. Key areas of focus include a slip repair, an eight-classroom addition, safety and security upgrades, HVAC system improvements, roof replacements, paving, door and window replacements, and enhancements to the athletic facilities. This focused approach ensures resources are directed toward the most critical needs, supporting safe and effective learning environments across the district. The projects are planned to be funded through local funds and grants from the SBA.

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

6. 2024-2025 West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (WVACEEC) Annual Report – (Information)

[Attachment F](#)

Margaret Williamson and Dawn Embrey-King, Executive Director, WVACEEC

The WVACEEC is a state-level committee mandated by state and federal law. Members include parents, administrators, and representatives from a variety of related agencies. The WVACEEC is interested in the quality of education received by exceptional children and youth. The 2024-2025 Annual Report identifies the unmet needs of children with exceptionalities in West Virginia and supports ongoing WVDE initiatives.

It is recommended that the **2024-2025 WVACEEC annual report be accepted.**

VII. New Business

A. Appointment to the West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority- (Action)

L. Paul Hardesty

A motion is requested to **appoint Debra Sullivan to the West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority.**

B. Approval of the WVBE's meeting schedule (September 2025 through August 2026) as established in the attachment.

[Attachment G](#)

L. Paul Hardesty

A motion is requested to **approve the WVBE meeting schedule for September 2025 through August 2026.**

C. Discussion of Legal Matters – House Bill No. 2755 (*To provide that the West Virginia Board of Education may promulgate rules or policies to be submitted to the Legislature for review*); Civil Action No. CC-41-2025-C-230, *Miranda Guzman v. West Virginia Board of Education, et. al.*; Civil Action No. CC-02-2025-C-470, *M. E.-P, et.al. v. West Virginia Board of Education, et al.*; and, *Discussion of Religious Exemptions from Compulsory School Vaccination Requirements – (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.

D. 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 H](#)

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

[Attachment I](#)

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

L. Paul Hardesty

IX. Future Meetings - (Information)

L. Paul Hardesty

The next regular meeting will be held on October 8, 2025, in Charleston, West Virginia.

X. Adjournment - (Action)