

AGENDA

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

- I. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions – Call-to-Order**
L. Paul Hardesty, President
- II. Approval of Agenda – (Action)**
President Hardesty
- III. Recognition(s) – 2026 West Virginia Teacher of the Year and School Service Personnel of the Year – (Information)**
Michele L. Blatt, Superintendent

Please note that the Board will take a brief break to participate in a special presentation in the Capitol Courtyard.

- IV. Delegation(s) – (Information)**
Christy Day
- V. School Safety Report – (Information)**
Micah Whitlow
- VI. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Reports – (Information)**
Superintendent Blatt
- VII. West Virginia University**
Michael T. Benson, President
- VII. Consent Agenda - (Action)**

A. Approval of Minutes - (Action)

[Attachment A](#)

It is recommended that the **minutes of the December 10, 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 Berkeley and Jefferson 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 Berkeley and Jefferson counties** be approved.

- 3. Employment of Substitute Teachers and/or Bus Drivers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage Affidavits - (Action)**

[Attachment D](#)

Kelli Talbott

Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A-2-3(c)(2)(G) and §18A-4-15a(b)(2)(F), affidavits from counties must be received and approved by the West Virginia Board of Education for submission to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

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

4. Appointment to the Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB) – (Action)

Traci Gregory

[Attachment E](#)

The ACEPPRB makes recommendations to the WVBE regarding the approval of initial and continuing alternative certification programs for the education of teachers. Such programs make it possible for qualified individuals to earn a teacher certification that will help fill staff vacancies within areas of critical need and shortage. According to Policy 5901, the ACEPPRB is comprised of nine members who may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms: Two members represent higher education; three members (one who was alternatively prepared) represent public education, one at each programmatic level for elementary, middle and high school; two members represent county offices; one member is a principal appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools; and one member is from the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards. The current vacancy is for one county office representative to be appointed by the WVBE. Heather Scarberry is the Manager of Professional Personnel for Cabell County Schools.

It is recommended that **Heather Scarberry be appointed to serve on the ACEPPRB.**

5. West Virginia University Partnership Agreement with Berkeley County Schools for Certified Teacher of Record (CTR) Positions – (Action)

Traci Gregory

[Attachment F](#)

In December the West Virginia Educator Preparation Program Review Board (EPPRB) members agreed on a recommendation of approval to the WVBE of West Virginia University's addition of a CTR Program with Berkeley County Schools. WVBE Policy 5100 provides guidelines and procedures for the approval of new and continuing educator preparation programs of study leading to licensure in West Virginia and also for CTR Agreements with county school systems. Policy 5100 supports the intended collaborative process to improve educator preparation programs and potential educators by incorporating program guidelines based on research and best practices. Support of continuous improvement and clear and consistent guidelines for West Virginia educator preparation programs will produce more effective educators in schools, resulting in increased student learning in the classroom.

It is recommended that **West Virginia University's addition of a CTR - Berkeley County Schools be approved.**

6. EPPRB Request Approval of Davis & Elkins College CTR Agreement with Tucker County Schools – (Action)

Traci Gregory

[Attachment G](#)

The EPPRB is seeking approval for Davis & Elkins College to maintain a Certified Teacher of Record (CTR) Agreement with Tucker County Schools. This agreement permits the county school system to employ Residency 2 Candidates from Davis & Elkins College to become a certified teacher of record in the Tucker County school system in a position of need or shortage.

It is recommended that the **request for Davis & Elkins College to maintain a CTR Agreement with Tucker County Schools be approved.**

VIII. New Business

A. Boone County Schools Update – (Action)
Alexandra Criner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Discussion of Legal Matters – Supreme Court No. 25-642, West Virginia Board of Education v. Warner; 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.; Civil Action No. 25-P-19, Allegra v. Gilmer County Board of Education; Civil Action No. CC-19-2025-C-247, Dyson v. West Virginia Board of Education; Civil Action No. CC-20-2025-C-1112, K.J., III v. Kanawha County Board of Education; Civil Action No. 2:25-cv-00588 International Association of Color Manufacturers v. Singh, et al.; Notice of Claim from Jared and Amanda McCray; Civil Action No. CC-29-2025-C-48; Hansford v. Ravenscroft, et al.; United States Supreme Court No. 24-43, State of West Virginia v. B. P. J., by next friend and mother, Heather Jackson; 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.

E. WVBE and WVDE Personnel Matters – (Action)

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

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

[Attachment H](#)

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

[Attachment I](#)

**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 February 11, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XI. Adjournment - (Action)