

AGENDA

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

April 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. Recognition(s) – (Information)
Kelly Massinople and Stacey Losh

Exemplary Practice Schools (Academic Achievement)

Crum PK-8 (Wayne County)
George Washington Middle School (Putnam County)
Guyandotte Elementary School (Cabell County)

Exemplary Practice Schools (Attendance)

Jayenne Elementary School (Marion County)
Huff Consolidated Elementary and Middle School (Wyoming County)
Huntington High School (Cabell County)

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

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 March 11, 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)

[Attachment B](#)

Kelli Talbott

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

2. Employment of Substitute Teachers in Areas of Critical Need and Shortage Affidavits - (Action)

[Attachment C](#)

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 WVBE 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.**

3. **Approval of the Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board's (ACEPPRB) recommendation to approve the Boone County Schools' Launchpad alternative certification program for special education, in partnership with the WVDE and Marshall University – (Action)**
Traci Gregory

[Attachment D](#)

The ACEPPRB members voted to recommend approval of the Boone County Schools' Launchpad alternative certification program for special education, in partnership with the WVDE and Marshall University, for the following endorsements: Multi-Categorical (E/BD, MI, SLD, excluding Autism) K-6 and 5-AD and Autism K-6 and 5-AD. The main function of the ACEPPRB is to review and make recommendations regarding the approval of alternative certification educator preparation programs of study leading to teacher certification. The ACEPPRB structure supports the intended collaborative process to ascertain effective alternative certification educator preparation programs in West Virginia school districts, filling critical need and shortage vacancies with educators who are appropriately prepared and qualified. 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 the **Boone County Schools' Launchpad alternative certification program for special education, in partnership with the WVDE and Marshall University, be approved.**

4. **Approval of ACEPPRB's recommendation to approve the Boone County Schools' Launchpad alternative certification program for general education, in partnership with the WVDE – (Action)**
Traci Gregory

[Attachment E](#)

The ACEPPRB members voted to recommend for approval the Boone County Schools' Launchpad alternative certification program for general education, in partnership with the WVDE, for the following endorsements: Mathematics (Comprehensive) 5-Adult, General Mathematics through Algebra I 5-9, General Science 5-Adult, Chemistry 9-Adult, and Biology 9-Adult. The main function of the ACEPPRB is to review and make recommendations regarding the approval of alternative certification educator preparation programs of study leading to teacher certification. The ACEPPRB structure supports the intended collaborative process to ascertain effective alternative certification educator preparation programs in West Virginia school districts, filling critical need and shortage vacancies with educators who are appropriately prepared and qualified. Policy 5901 provides guidelines and procedures for the approval of alternative certification educator preparation programs leading to licensure in West Virginia, and Policy 5202 provides guidelines and procedures for the issuance of licensure, including the Alternative Teaching Certificate.

It is recommended that the **Boone County Schools' Launchpad alternative certification program for general education, in partnership with the WVDE, be approved.**

5. **Approval of Concord University Partnership Agreement with Logan County Schools for Certified Teacher of Record (CTR) Positions – (Action)**
Traci Gregory

[Attachment F](#)

The EPPRB members agreed on a recommendation of approval to the WVBE of Concord University's addition of a CTR Program with Logan 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 for CTR Agreements with county school systems. WVBE 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 **the Concord University Partnership Agreement with Logan County Schools for CTR Positions be approved.**

6. Amendment of Mingo County's 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) – (Action)
Micah Whitlow

[Attachment G](#)

WVBE Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) for approval. Michele Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools, in her acting capacity as the Board of Education in Mingo County, requests approval to revise Mingo County's CEFP to include multiple wastewater treatment plant repairs and replacements. Schools scheduled to receive these upgrades are Dingess Elementary School, Lenore PreK-8, Gilbert PreK-8, Kermit PreK-8, and Tug Valley High School. The projects are planned to be funded through local funds and SBA grants.

It is recommended that **Mingo County's amendment to its 2020-2030 CEFP be approved.**

7. Amendment of Wetzel County's 2020-2030 CEFP – (Action)
Micah Whitlow

[Attachment H](#)

WVBE Policy 6200 requires all local boards of education to submit amendments to CEFPs to the WVBE and the SBA for approval. The Wetzel County Board of Education requests approval to revise its CEFP to reflect a change in the grade configuration of Paden City Elementary School. Under this revision, Paden City Elementary would shift from serving students in grades PreK–6 to serving students in grades PreK-5. The 6th-grade students from Paden City Elementary would transition to New Martinsville School PreK-8, the school they naturally progress to. The proposed change would take effect beginning with the 2026–2027 school year.

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

8. West Virginia School Board Association End-of-Year Regional Training Approval – (Action)
Howard O'Cull

[Attachment I](#)

The Training Standards Review Committee (TSRC) recommends that the 2026 End-of-Year Statewide Training scheduled for May 2, 2026, be approved. The training will be conducted at the Roanoke Event Center, Roanoke, WV. The training relates to actions taken during the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, including salaries and related discussions relating to declining public school enrollments, given a special emphasis on implications for county board policies and school district administrative rules necessary for effective and successful implementation of legislation enactments. Participants will receive 5 training hours as required by

the provisions of W. Va. Code §18-5-1a (Eligibility of members; training requirements) and corresponding West Virginia Board of Education policies.

It is recommended that **the School Board Association's training, as included in the attachment, be approved.**

VIII. New Business

A. **Common Ground Partnership updates, expansion of Purple Star Awards for Post-Secondary Education, and an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) statement of support from the WVDE – (Information)** **Robert Mellace**

The Office of Educator Development would like to provide updates on achievements of the Common Ground Partnership, including Dr. Rikki McCormick announcing the expansion of Purple Star Awards for Post-Secondary Education from the Office of Veterans Education and Training (OVET) at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. In honor of Purple Up Month, State Superintendent Blatt will execute an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) statement of support and assist employees serving in the United States Armed Forces whenever they are called to serve our state and nation and return to their employment at the WVDE. The West Virginia ESGR Employer Outreach Director, Johnnie Ross, and West Virginia's Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, Nickolas Lambruno, will address board members on the significance of encouraging county school systems to focus on meeting the needs of military families.

B. **West Virginia University – (Information)** Michael T. Benson, President

C. **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.; Notice of Litigation in Dan Enich II v. West Virginia Board of Education, et al.; Discussion of real property at 505 Watkins Street, Grafton, West Virginia, deeded to the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind – (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 J](#)

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

[Attachment K](#)

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 May 13, 2026, in Charleston, West Virginia.

XI. Adjournment - (Action)