

Logan County Schools Update



Background

In September 2022, the Office of Support and Accountability conducted a special circumstance review of Logan County Schools, at the specific request of the West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools. The Team investigated documentation submitted during a routine Federal Programs Review and official complaints regarding board governance and central office leadership submitted to the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). On October 27, 2022, the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) determined an immediate Intervention was necessary to address the non-compliance and deficiencies outlined in the Special Circumstance Review Report. At that time, Mr. Jeff Huffman was appointed Interim Superintendent of Logan County Schools by State Superintendent Roach. Outlined below are specific actions taken to improve Logan County Schools after the immediate intervention ordered by the WVBE.

Students

- » Communication was provided to school leaders to prioritize which programs they wanted to continue using to reach their strategic plan goals for the current school year.
- » Principals and teachers were directed to focus on teaching the WV College- and Career-Readiness Standards.
- » The county is currently in the process of evaluating all purchased programs to determine which will remain in use countywide to provide necessary services and curriculum to meet students' needs.
- » The enrollment application was updated for Virtual School to reflect the requirement to participate in the West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA), West Virginia Alternative Summative Assessment (WVASA), and the SAT School Day in high school.

Staff

- » Significant efforts are underway to improve the culture and climate.
- » School visits are being conducted to become familiar with school leaders and staff.
- » Staff from the WVDE Special Education Office have been onsite in Logan County to provide technical assistance to the Logan County Special Education Office to assure students are receiving accurate special education services.
- » Central office staff members have been assigned to collaborate with Heritage Educational Services to assure all virtual students are actively engaged with the WV Virtual School platform and receiving intervention as needed. Additionally, IEP committees were reconvened for every student with disabilities and processes are being monitored to assure students are receiving services outlined in their individual IEPs.
- » Work is underway to utilize the evaluation process as a professional growth process.
- » The use of electronic monitoring of video surveillance for employee reprimands or evaluation has ceased completely. Regular monitoring of those who have access to the system is on-going.
- » Many school leaders have met with central office staff to discuss school specific improvement efforts while reviewing data and using it to facilitate school improvement. All other school leaders have been scheduled for said meetings. Assistance is being provided to principals to build autonomy and to provide them with tools and processes to use with their staffs.

Board

- » Prior to local board meetings, central office staff collaborates with WVDE staff monthly to assure board agendas and personnel schedules are accurate prior to public posting.
- » All board meeting agendas are posted in accordance to specified timelines. All attachments and supporting documents associated with actions are included with the posted meeting notices.
- » All meetings, discussion, and business have been conducted in open session.
- » Specific efforts have been made to assure all contracts appearing on board agendas contain the associated services and cost outlined in the contract.
- » The local board of education has been made aware of the point of contact and the chain of command regarding specific complaints and concerns that are brought forward to board members from school staff and community members.
- » Multiple communications have been provided to board members regarding processes, protocols, and procedures to be followed during the state intervention period.

Facilities

- » A prioritized list of facilities' needs, beginning with the electrical updates at Logan High School, is being developed. Similar efforts will be needed at Man High School in the near future.
- » Plans are in place to complete renovations at Man Middle School to provide a secure entrance at the school.
- » Plans are in place to complete renovations at Holden Elementary School whereby interior classroom doors and sidelights will be replaced providing a safer learning environment.