# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §18-2E-8D

**§18-2E-8d. Further expressions of legislative intent with respect to this article; parental consent for substitute classes.**

(a) The Legislature finds that many school systems are improving the quality of education for their students through implementation of the goals and policies set forth in this article. The Legislature finds that local school systems have had and should continue to have substantial flexibility for implementing these improvements. The Legislature further finds that certain of the goals address legally recognized elements within the definition of a thorough and efficient education among which is the development in every child his or her capacity and knowledge to intelligently pursue his or her options. The purpose of this section is to further this progress through a greater expression of the legislative intent with respect to eliminating the general track curriculum and to insure that all students perform at high levels of academic achievement.

(b) The intent of the Legislature is to provide in an economical manner for a thorough and efficient education that:

(1) Provides information to parents and students which clearly identifies the courses a student should take to prepare fully for continuing their education in college, other post-secondary education or employment so they can intelligently choose among the many options available to them;

(2) Encourages the involvement of parents in their child's education by providing parents and students with information and opportunities to help students explore their interests and plan a program of study while they are still in high school and have greater options and flexibility;

(3) Ensures that the quality, content, and alignment of the curriculum is sufficient to prepare students fully for the transition to college, other post-secondary education or employment in areas in which they have an interest following graduation from high school; and

(4) Improves student learning by increasing the rigor of the curriculum, making it more relevant to students, and reinforcing academic instruction through applications to real life problem solving so that whatever options a student pursues following graduation from high school, the student has acquired a foundation of knowledge, skills and abilities that prepares him or her fully for success.

(c) Notwithstanding the courses specified as required major courses within a high school program of study, a student in consultation with his or her parents and school advisor, and with the written consent of his or her parents, may take a higher level course, advanced placement course, college course or other more rigorous substitute. The parental consent form shall include a certification signed by the school advisor that the parents were advised

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of the impact of the substitute course on the student's preparation for college, other post-secondary education or employment in the student's major field of study and that the student's certificate of proficiency will not indicate that the student completed a program of study major unless such substitute courses are related to the major field of study selected by the student.

(d) Notwithstanding the courses specified as recommended electives within a high school program of study, a student in consultation with his or her parents and school advisor, and with the written consent of his or her parents, may substitute other elective courses in place of those recommended to prepare the student fully for continuing his or her education in college, other post-secondary education or employment. The parental consent form shall include a certification signed by the school advisor that the parents were advised of the impact of the substitute course on the student's preparation for college, other post-secondary education or employment in the student's major field of study and that the student's certificate of proficiency will not indicate that the student completed a program of study major unless such substitute courses are related to the major field of study selected by the student.

(e) On or before July 1, 1999, the state board shall establish a uniform parental consent form to be maintained in the students permanent record for the purposes of subsections (c) and (d) of this section which shall contain:

(1) A statement to be signed and dated by the parents to consent to their child's substitution of another course for a required major course as provided in subsection (c) of this section and the course titles of the required major course and the substitute course;

(2) A statement to be signed and dated by the parents to consent to their child's substitution of another course for a recommended elective course as provided in subsection (d) of this section and the course titles of the recommended elective course and the substitute course; and

(3) A statement to be signed and dated by the school advisor certifying that the school advisor advised the parents of the impact of the substitute course on the student's preparation for college, other post-secondary education or employment in the student's major field of study and the student's certificate of proficiency.

(f) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a county board from establishing high school graduation requirements which exceed the minimum high school graduation requirements established by the state board.

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