
WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 18A
ARTICLE 3

WV Legislature

§18A-3-1. Teacher preparation programs; program approval and standards; authority to issue teaching certificates.

(a) The education of professional educators in the state is under the general direction and control of the state board.

The education of professional educators in the state includes all programs leading to certification to teach or serve in the public schools. The programs include the following:

(1) Programs in all institutions of higher education, including student teaching, resident teacher clinical experience, and the clinical teacher of record programs, as provided in this section;

(2) Beginning teacher and leader induction programs;

(3) Granting West Virginia certification to persons who received their preparation to teach outside the boundaries of this state, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section;

(4) Alternative preparation programs in this state leading to certification, including programs established pursuant to the provisions of §18A-3-1a, §18A-3-1b, §18A-3-1c, §18A-3-1d, §18A-3-1e, §18A-3-1f, §18A-3-1g, §18A-3-1h, and §18A-3-1i of this code and programs which are in effect on the effective date of this section;

(5) A Troops-to-Teachers Program, to be established by the state superintendent pursuant to §18A-3-2a of this code, to attract and recruit veterans of the armed forces to be public school teachers. Veterans will be given a veterans' preference in hiring in accordance with §6-13-1 of this code; and

(6) Continuing professional education, professional development, and in-service training programs for professional educators employed in the public schools in the state. Beginning with school year 2024-2025, and every five years after, the State Board of Education shall perform periodic reviews of professional development for teachers and education staff to ensure the following:

(A) That requirements and current training regimens are necessary and truly essential; and

(B) That a distinction is made between those professional education opportunities which are required and those just encouraged.

(i) The purpose of these reviews shall be to establish a training regimen that has the minimum amount of required training so that teachers can be better focused on the classroom.

(ii) School personnel may recommend legislative changes to this section and any other requirements mandated in this code.

(b) The state board shall adopt standards for the education of professional educators in the state and for awarding certificates valid in the public schools of this state. The standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) A provision for the study of the history and philosophical foundations of western civilization and the writings of the founders of the United States of America;

(2) A provision for the study of multicultural education. As used in this section, multicultural education means the study of the pluralistic nature of American society including its values, institutions, organizations, groups, status positions, and social roles;

(3) A provision for the study of classroom management techniques, including methods of effective management of disruptive behavior including addressing societal factors and their impact on student behavior; and

(4) A teacher from another state shall be awarded a teaching certificate for a comparable grade level and subject area valid in the public schools of this state, subject to §18A-3-10 of this code if he or she has met the following requirements:

(A) Holds a valid teaching certificate or a certificate of eligibility issued by another state;

(B) Has graduated from an educator preparation program at a regionally accredited institution of higher education or from another educator preparation program;

(C) Possesses the minimum of a bachelor's degree; and

(D) Meets all of the requirements of the state for full certification except employment.

(c) The state board may enter into an agreement with county boards for the use of the public schools in order to give prospective teachers the teaching experience needed to demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the West Virginia public schools.

(d) An agreement established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall recognize student teaching or teacher residency as a joint responsibility of the educator preparation institution and the cooperating public schools. The agreement shall include the following items:

(1) The minimum qualifications for the employment of public school teachers selected as supervising teachers, including the requirement that field-based and clinical experiences be supervised by a teacher fully certified in the state in which that teacher is supervising;

(2) The remuneration to be paid to public school teachers by the state board, in addition to their contractual salaries, for supervising student teachers or residents;

(3) Minimum standards to guarantee the adequacy of the facilities and program of the public school selected for student teaching or teacher residency;

(4) Assurance that the student teacher or resident teacher, under the direction and supervision of the supervising teacher, shall exercise the authority of a substitute teacher;

(5) A provision requiring any higher education institution with an educator preparation program to document that the student or resident teacher's field-based and clinical experiences include participation and instruction with multicultural, at-risk, and exceptional children at each programmatic level for which the student teacher seeks certification; and

(6) A provision authorizing a school or school district that has implemented a comprehensive beginning teacher induction program to enter into an agreement that provides for the training and supervision of student teachers or resident teachers consistent with the educational objectives of this subsection by using an alternate structure implemented for the support, supervision, and mentoring of beginning teachers. The agreement is in lieu of any specific provisions of this subsection and is subject to the approval of the state board.

(e) Clinical teacher of record programs. —

(1) In lieu of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section and subject to approval of the state board, an institution of higher education with a program for the education of professional educators approved by the state board may enter into an agreement with county boards for the use of clinical teacher of record programs in the public schools.

(2) A "clinical teacher of record program" means an intensively supervised and mentored program for prospective teachers during their senior year that refines their professional practice skills and helps them gain the teaching experience needed to demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the West Virginia public schools.

(3) The authorization for the higher education institution and the county board to implement a clinical teacher of record program is subject to state board approval. The provisions of the agreement include, but are not limited to, the following items:

(A) A requirement that the prospective teacher in a clinical teacher of record program has completed all other preparation courses and has passed the appropriate basic skills and subject matter test or tests required by the state board for teachers to become certified in the area for which licensure is sought;

(B) A requirement that the clinical teacher of record serve only in a teaching position in the county which has been posted and for which no other teacher fully certified for the position has been employed;

(C) Specifics regarding the program of instruction for the clinical teacher of record setting forth the responsibilities for supervision and mentoring by the higher education institution's educator preparation program, the school principal, and peer teachers and mentors, and the responsibilities for the formal instruction or professional development necessary for the clinical teacher of record to perfect his or her professional practice skills. The program also

may include other instructional items as considered appropriate;

(D) A requirement that the clinical teacher of record hold a clinical teacher of record permit qualifying the individual to teach in his or her assigned position as the teacher of record;

(E) A requirement that the salary and benefit costs for the position to which the clinical teacher of record is assigned shall be used only for program support and to pay a stipend to the clinical teacher of record as specified in the agreement, subject to the following:

(i) The clinical teacher of record is a student enrolled in the teacher preparation program of the institution of higher education and is not a regularly employed employee of the county board;

(ii) The clinical teacher of record is included on the certified list of employees of the county eligible for state aid funding the same as an employee of the county at the appropriate level based on their permit and level of experience;

(iii) All state aid funding due to the county board for the clinical teacher of record shall be used only in accordance with the agreement with the institution of higher education for support of the program as provided in the agreement, including costs associated with instruction and supervision as set forth in paragraph (C) of this subdivision;

(iv) The clinical teacher of record is provided the same liability insurance coverage as other employees; and

(v) All state aid funding due to the county for the clinical teacher of record and not required for support of the program shall be paid as a stipend to the clinical teacher of record: *Provided*, That the stipend paid to the clinical teacher of record shall be no less than 65 percent of all state aid funding due the county for the clinical teacher of record;

(F) Other provisions that may be required by the state board.

(f) In lieu of the student teaching experience in a public school setting required by this section, an institution of higher education may provide an alternate student teaching or residency experience in a nonpublic school setting if the institution of higher education meets the following criteria:

(1) Complies with the provisions of this section;

(2) Has a state board-approved educator preparation program; and

(3) Enters into an agreement pursuant to subsections (g) and (h) of this section.

(g) At the discretion of the higher education institution, an agreement for an alternate student teaching or residency experience between an institution of higher education and a nonpublic school shall require one of the following:

- (1) The prospective teacher shall complete at least one half of the clinical experience in a public school; or
- (2) The educator preparation program shall include a requirement that any student performing student teaching or residency in a nonpublic school shall complete the following:
 - (A) At least 200 clock hours of field-based training in a public school; and
 - (B) A course, which is a component of the institution's state board-approved educator preparation program, that provides information to prospective teachers equivalent to the teaching experience needed to demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the public schools in West Virginia. The course also shall include instruction on at least the following elements:
 - (i) State board policy and provisions of this code governing public education;
 - (ii) Requirements for federal and state accountability, including the mandatory reporting of child abuse;
 - (iii) Federal- and state-mandated curriculum and assessment requirements, including multicultural education, safe schools, and student code of conduct;
 - (iv) Federal and state regulations for the instruction of exceptional students as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*; and
 - (v) Varied approaches for effective instruction for students who are at-risk.
 - (h) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (g) of this section, an agreement for an alternate student teaching or residency experience between an institution of higher education and a nonpublic school shall include the following:
 - (1) A requirement that the higher education institution with an educator preparation program shall document that the student or resident teacher's field-based and clinical experiences include participation and instruction with multicultural, at-risk, and exceptional children at each programmatic level for which the student teacher seeks certification; and
 - (2) The minimum qualifications for the employment of school teachers selected as supervising teachers, including the requirement that field-based and clinical experiences be supervised by a teacher fully certified in the state in which that teacher is supervising.
 - (i) The state superintendent may issue certificates as provided in §18A-3-2a of this code to graduates of educator preparation programs and alternative educator preparation programs approved by the state board. The certificates are issued in accordance with this section and rules adopted by the state board.
- (1) A certificate to teach may be granted only to a person who meets the following criteria:

(A) Is a citizen of the United States, except as provided in subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection;

(B) Is of good moral character;

(C) Is physically, mentally, and emotionally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher; and

(D) Is at least 18 years of age on or before October 1 of the year in which his or her certificate is issued.

(2) A permit to teach in the public schools of this state may be granted to a person who is an exchange teacher from a foreign country or an alien person who meets the requirements to teach.

(3) A certificate to teach may be granted to a noncitizen of the United States who holds a valid Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document, or work permit issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(j) Institutions of higher education approved for educator preparation may cooperate with each other and with one or more county boards to organize and operate centers to provide selected phases of the educator preparation program. The phases include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Student teaching and resident teacher clinical experience programs;

(2) Clinical teacher of record programs;

(3) Beginning teacher and leader induction programs;

(4) Instruction in methodology; and

(5) Seminar programs for college students, teachers with provisional certification, professional support team members, and supervising teachers.

By mutual agreement, the institutions of higher education and county boards may budget and expend funds to operate the centers through payments to the appropriate fiscal office of the participating institutions and the county boards.

(k) The provisions of this section do not require discontinuation of an existing student teacher training center or school which meets the standards of the state board.

(l) All institutions of higher education approved for educator preparation in the 1962-1963 school year continue to hold that distinction so long as they meet the minimum standards for educator preparation. Nothing in this section infringes upon the rights granted to any institution by charter given according to law previous to the adoption of this code.

(m) Definitions. — For the purposes of this section, the following words have the meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(1) "Nonpublic school" means a private school, parochial school, church school, school operated by a religious order, or other nonpublic school that elects to meet the following conditions:

(A) Comply with the provisions of §18-28-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(B) Participate on a voluntary basis in a state-operated or state-sponsored program provided to this type of school pursuant to this section; and

(C) Comply with the provisions of this section;

(2) "At-risk" means a student who has the potential for academic failure including, but not limited to, the risk of dropping out of school, involvement in delinquent activity, or poverty as indicated by free or reduced lunch status; and

(3) "Exceptional child" or "exceptional children" has the meaning ascribed to these terms pursuant to §18-20-1 of this code but, as used in this section, the terms do not include gifted students.

§18A-3-1a. Alternative programs for the education of teachers; purpose; definitions.

(a) Purpose. - Sections one-a, one-b, one-c, one-d, one-e, one-f, one-g, one-h and one-i of this article create an alternative means for a qualified person to earn a professional teaching certificate. These sections authorize a school or a school district to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board.

(b) Definitions. -- For the purposes of this section and sections one-b, one-c, one-d, one-e, one-f, one-g, one-h and one-i of this article, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them, unless the context in which a term is used clearly requires a different meaning:

(1) "Alternative program" means a program for teacher education that is offered as an alternative to the standard college or university programs for the education of teachers;

(2) "Alternative program teacher" means a teacher who holds an alternative program teacher certificate and who participates in an alternative program;

(3) "Area of critical need and shortage" means an opening in an established, existing or newly-created position which has been posted at least two times in accordance with section seven-a, article four of this chapter and for which no fully-qualified applicant has been employed;

(4) "Alternative program teacher certificate" means a temporary teacher certificate that authorizes a person to teach while participating in an alternative program;

(5) "Approved alternative program" means an alternative program that is approved by the State Board in accordance with section one-e of this article;

(6) "Approved education provider" means a partnership that the State Board has approved to provide an alternative program;

(7) "Partnership" means a partnership formed pursuant to section one-b of this article to provide an alternative program;

(8) "Partnership agreement" means an agreement adopted by a partnership pursuant to section one-b of this article; and

(9) "Professional support team" means the group of persons that an approved education provider has selected to train and supervise alternative program teachers.

§18A-3-1b. Alternative program partnerships; formation; necessary partners; partnership agreements; single-provider programs.

(a) Formation. - One or more schools or school districts, or any combination of these, may form a partnership with one or more institutions of higher education, one or more entities affiliated with an institution of higher education, the West Virginia Department of Education, a regional education service agency, or any combination of these, to provide an alternative program.

(b) Necessary partners. - Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a partnership shall include at least one of the following:

(1) An institution of higher education with an accredited program for the education of professional educators that has been approved by the State Board;

(2) An entity affiliated with an institution of higher education that has an accredited program for the education of professional educators that has been approved by the State Board;

(3) The West Virginia Department of Education; or

(4) A regional education service agency.

(c) Partnership agreement contents. - A partnership shall adopt a written partnership agreement that governs how the partnership will conduct its alternative program and that identifies the rights and responsibilities of each partner. The partnership agreement shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(1) Procedures and criteria for determining whether a person is eligible to enroll in the alternative program;

(2) A requirement that a vacancy has to be advertised for a ten day period, and if no qualified traditional certified teacher applies, only then may the partnership consider enrolling as person in the alternative program;

(3) Procedures and criteria for making a formal offer of employment to a person who is eligible to enroll in the alternative program;

(4) A detailed list, with descriptions, of the categories, methods and sources of instruction that the alternative program will provide;

(5) A detailed description of the phases of on-the-job training and supervision that the alternative program will provide;

(6) A detailed description of the academic and performance standards that an alternative program teacher shall satisfy to receive the partnership's recommendation that the State Superintendent issue to him or her a professional teaching certificate;

(7) Procedures for selecting and training the professional support team who will instruct, mentor or supervise alternative program teachers;

(8) Provisions for determining tuition or other charges, if any, relating to an alternative program;

(9) A requirement, subject to the provisions of subsection (e), subsection one-f of this article, that the hiring authority for any school or school district that hires an alternative program teacher will renew the alternative program teacher's contract from year to year as long as he or she makes satisfactory progress in the alternative education program and until he or she completes the alternative program; and

(10) Any other provisions that the partners consider necessary or helpful to ensure that the alternative program operates in accordance with this chapter.

§18A-3-1c. Alternative program instruction for classroom teachers; methods; training and evaluation phases; professional support team; tuition.

(a) Alternative program instruction. -- An alternative program for classroom teachers shall provide, at a minimum, either six credit hours or six staff development hours of instruction in one or more of the following subjects:

- (1) Early literacy (if an alternative program teacher will be teaching elementary school children);
- (2) Student assessment;
- (3) Development and learning;
- (4) Curriculum;
- (5) Classroom management;
- (6) Use of educational computers and other technology; and
- (7) Special education and diversity.

(b) Methods of instruction. - An alternative program may provide instruction through nontraditional methods, including, but not limited to, methods such as a series of modules covering the various topics, electronically delivered instruction, summer sessions, professional development and job-embedded mentoring.(c) Professional support team. - If the State Board approves, an alternative program may provide a professional support team whose structure is consistent with the structure that the partnership's participating school or schools use for supporting, supervising, inducting and mentoring a beginning teacher or teacher-in-residence. If the State Board approves, an alternative program's professional support team may be trained by and in coordination with the Center for Professional Development.

(d) Professional support team evaluation for classroom teachers. - The professional support team shall submit a written evaluation of the alternative program teacher to the approved education provider. This evaluation shall be submitted on a form specified by the approved education provider and shall be submitted before the first Monday in May on a date set by the approved education provider. The evaluation shall report the alternative program teacher's progress toward meeting the alternative program's academic and performance standards: Provided, That all final decisions on the progress of an alternative program teacher shall rest with the principal.(e) Tuition. - A partnership may not charge tuition, or impose any other charge for participation in an alternative program, unless the tuition or other charge is necessary to offset the partnership's cost of providing the alternative program: Provided, That a partner that is an institution of higher education with an accredited program for the education of professional educators may charge tuition for academic credit that an alternative education teacher receives in the alternative program if:

- (1) The institution of higher education is the entity that grants the academic credit; and
- (2) The charge does not exceed the per credit rate charged for students enrolled in its standard program for the education of professional educators.

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§18A-3-1d. Alternative program rules; necessary contents.

(a) Alternative program rules. (

(1) The state board shall promulgate a legislative rule or rules in accordance with §29A-3B-1 et seq. of this code containing procedures for the approval and operation of alternative teacher education programs as provided in this article. The State Board shall promulgate separate procedures for alternative programs for classroom teachers, alternative programs for highly qualified special education teachers, and additional alternative programs to prepare highly qualified special education teachers. These procedures shall be separate from the state board's other procedures for approving standard teacher education programs.

(2) Before adopting a rule or rules, the state board shall submit its proposed rule or rules to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for review.

(b) Necessary contents. (The state board's rule or rules shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(1) An orderly set of deadlines, forms, and guidance to govern:

(A) A partnership's process for applying to become an approved education provider;

(B) The state board's process for reviewing and acting on a partnership's application;

(C) An approved education provider's process for seeking persons to enroll in an alternative program; and

(D) A person's process for enrolling in an approved education provider's alternative program;

(2) Procedures for determining whether a partnership agreement complies with §18A-3-1b and §18A-3-1c of this code;

(3) Procedures for determining whether a partnership agreement complies with any additional requirements contained in the state board's rule or rules;

(4) Standards for how often and for what lengths of time an alternative program teacher must observe in a mentor's classroom;

(5) Guidelines for determining what tuition or other charges an approved education provider may impose relating to an alternative program;

(6) A list of the test or tests that a person must pass if he or she seeks a certification to teach American Sign Language; and

(7) A list of the test or tests that a person must pass if he or she seeks a certification to teach

in selected vocational and technical areas.

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§18A-3-1e. State Board approval; prohibited acts.

(a) State Board approval. -

(1) The State Board shall approve a partnership's application to operate an alternative program for classroom teachers if the State Board determines that the proposed alternative program, in all material respects, complies or will comply with the State Board's applicable alternative program rules and with the requirements of sections one-b, one-c of this article.

(2) The State Board shall approve a partnership's application to operate an alternative program for a highly qualified special education teacher if the State Board determines that the proposed alternative program, in all material respects, complies or will comply with the State Board's applicable alternative program rules and with the requirements of section one-g of this article.

(3) The State Board shall approve a partnership's application to operate an alternative program to prepare highly qualified special education teachers if the State Board determines that the proposed alternative program, in all material respects, complies or will comply with the State Board's applicable alternative program rules and with the requirements of section one-h of this article.

(b) Prohibited acts. -

(1) A partnership may not implement an alternative program until the partnership's alternative program has been approved by the State Board.

(2) A school or school district may not employ, or make a formal offer of employment to, any person for the purpose of his or her participation in an alternative program unless the alternative program is approved by the State Board and the school or school district is a member of the partnership that is operating the alternative program.

(3) A school or school district may not continue to employ an alternative program teacher unless he or she makes satisfactory progress in the alternative program for which he or she is employed.

§18A-3-1f. Alternative program participation; eligibility for alternative program certificate; contract renewals; hiring preference.

(a) Alternative program participation. — A person may not participate in an alternative program unless he or she holds an alternative program teacher certificate issue by the state superintendent for the alternative program position in which he or she will be teaching. An alternative program teacher certificate is the same as a professional teaching certificate for the purpose of issuing a continuing contract.

(b) *Eligibility for alternative program teacher certificate.* — To be eligible for an alternative program teacher certificate, a person shall:

- (1) Possess at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- (2) Pass the same basic skills and subject matter test or tests required by the state board for traditional program candidates to become certified in the area for which he or she is seeking licensure;
- (3) Hold United States citizenship or, if a noncitizen of the United States, hold a valid Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or work permit issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS);
- (4) Be of good moral character;
- (5) Be physically, mentally, and emotionally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher;
- (6) Attain the age of 18 years on or before October 1 of the year in which the alternative program teacher certificate is issued;
- (7) Receive from a county superintendent a formal offer of employment in an area of critical need and shortage and by a school or school district that is a member of an approved educational provider;
- (8) Have relevant academic or occupational qualifications that reasonably indicate that the person will be competent to fill the teaching position in which he or she would be employed. For the purposes of this section, "reasonably indicate" means an academic major or occupational area the same as or similar to the subject matter to which the alternative program teacher is being hired to teach; and
- (9) Qualify for employment after a criminal history check made pursuant to §18A-3-10 of this code.

(c) *Eligibility for alternative program certificate: American Sign Language.* — If a person seeks certification to teach American Sign Language, in lieu of subdivisions (1) and (2), subsection (b) of this section, he or she shall pass one or more appropriate state board-

approved tests demonstrating his or her proficiency in American Sign Language.

(d) *Eligibility for alternative program certificate: selected vocational and technical areas.* — If a person seeks certification to teach in selected vocational and technical areas, in lieu of subdivisions (1) and (2), subsection (b) of this section, he or she shall pass one or more appropriate state board-approved tests demonstrating his or her proficiency in the basic skills and occupational content areas.

(e) *Contract renewals.* —

(1) A county board shall renew an alternative program teacher's contract from year to year as long as he or she makes satisfactory progress in the applicable alternative education program and until he or she completes the alternative program, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) If the school or school district that employs the alternative program teacher reduces its overall number of teachers, the alternative program teacher is subject to the same force reduction rules and procedures as any other employee, except those that relate to seniority. In no event will an alternative program teacher displace a professional educator as defined in §18A-1-1 of this code.

§18A-3-1g. Alternative program for highly qualified special education teachers.

- (a) An alternative program for highly qualified special education teachers are separate from the programs established under sections one-b and one-h of this article and are applicable only to teachers who have at least a bachelor's degree in a program for the preparation of teachers from an accredited institution of higher education.
- (b) These programs are subject to the other provisions of sections one-b, one-c, one-e and one-f of this article only to the extent specifically provided in State Board rule.
- (c) These programs may be an alternative to the standard college and university programs for the education of special education teachers and also may address the content area preparation of certified special education teachers.
- (d) The programs shall incorporate professional development to the maximum extent possible to help teachers who are currently certified in special education to obtain the required content area preparation.
- (e) Participation in an alternative education program pursuant to this section may not affect any rights, privileges or benefits to which the participant otherwise would be entitled as a regular employee and may not alter any rights, privileges or benefits of participants on continuing contract status.

§18A-3-1h. Additional alternative program to prepare highly qualified special education teachers.

(a) An additional alternative program to prepare highly qualified special education teachers are separate from the programs established under sections one-b and one-g of this article and are applicable only to persons who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

(b) These programs are subject to the other provisions of sections one-b, one-c, one-e and one-f of this article only to the extent specifically provided in State Board rule.

(c) These programs may be an alternative to the standard college and university programs for the education of special education teachers and also may address the content area preparation of these persons.

§18A-3-1i. Recommendation for certification of alternative program teachers; report forms to be prepared by State Superintendent; appeal.

(a) At the conclusion of an approved alternative program, the approved education provider shall prepare a comprehensive evaluation report on the alternative program teacher's performance.

(b) This report shall be submitted directly to the State Superintendent and shall contain a recommendation as to whether or not a professional teaching certificate should be issued to the alternative program teacher. The State Superintendent shall develop standard forms for this report, and the report shall be made on one or more of the State Superintendent's forms.

(c) The comprehensive evaluation report shall include one of the following recommendations:

(1) Approved: Recommends issuance of a professional teaching certificate;

(2) Insufficient: Recommends that a professional teaching certificate not be issued but that the candidate be allowed to seek reentry on one or more occasions in the future to an approved alternative program; or

(3) Disapproved: Recommends that a professional teaching certificate not be issued and that the candidate not be allowed to enter into another approved alternative program in this state but not be prohibited from pursuing teacher certification through other approved programs for the education of teachers in this state.

(d) The approved education provider shall provide the alternative program teacher with a copy of the alternative program teacher's written evaluation report and certification recommendation before the approved education provider submits them to the State Superintendent. If the alternative program teacher disagrees with the provider's recommendation, the alternative program teacher may, within fifteen days of receipt, request an appeal in accordance with the certification appeals process established by the State Board.

§18A-3-1j. Additional alternative preparation programs administered by the Department of Education.

(a) Additional alternative programs to prepare teachers established or adopted solely by the State Board of Education are separate from the programs established under §18A-3-1b, §18A-3-1g, and §18A-3-1h of this code, do not required any partner, and are applicable only to persons who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

(b) These programs are subject to other provisions of this article only to the extent specifically provided in state board rules.

(c) These programs may be an alternative to the standard college and university programs for the education of teacher and also may address the content area preparation of these persons.

§18A-3-2. Teacher certification; required; expiration;

qualifications; certification of aliens.

Any professional educator, as defined in article one of this chapter, who is employed within the public school system of the state shall hold a valid teaching certificate licensing him or her to teach in the specializations and grade levels as shown on the certificate for the period of his or her employment. If a teacher is employed in good faith on the anticipation that he or she is eligible for a certificate and it is later determined that the teacher was not eligible, the state Superintendent of Schools may authorize payment by the county board of education to the teacher for a time not exceeding three school months or the date of notification of his or her ineligibility, whichever shall occur first. All certificates shall expire on June 30 of the last year of their validity irrespective of the date of issuance.

§18A-3-2a. Certificates valid in the public schools that may be issued by the State Superintendent.

In accordance with state board rules for the education of professional educators adopted pursuant to §18A-3-1 of this code and subject to the limitations and conditions of that section, the State Superintendent may issue the following certificates valid in the public schools of the state:

(a) Professional teaching certificates. —

(1) A professional teaching certificate for teaching in the public schools may be issued to a person who meets the following conditions: (A) Holds at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, and:

(i) Has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests in the area for which licensure is being sought; and

(ii) Has completed a program for the education of teachers which meets the requirements approved by the state board; or

(iii) Has met equivalent standards at institutions in other states; or

(iv) Has completed three years of successful teaching experience within the last seven years under a license issued by another state in the area for which licensure is being sought; or

(v) Has completed an alternative program approved by another state; or

(B) Holds at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, and:

(i) Has passed appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter tests; and

(ii) Has completed an alternative program for teacher education as provided in this article; and

(iii) Is recommended for a certificate in accordance with the provisions of §18A-3-1i of this code relating to the program; and

(iv) Is recommended by the State Superintendent based on documentation submitted; or

(C) Holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, and:

(i) Submits to a criminal history check pursuant to §18A-3-10 of this code: *Provided*, That information discovered during the criminal history check may form the basis for the denial of a certificate for just cause; and

(ii) Successfully completes pedagogical training or a pedagogical course or courses in

substantive alignment with nationally recognized pedagogical standards, or approved or established by the state board; and

(iii) Passes the same subject matter and competency test or tests required by the state board for traditional program applicants for licensure or;

(D) Is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces who:

(i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education that is related to the available position which the veteran has applied to; and

(ii) Has passed the basic skills and subject matter test or tests required by the state board for teachers to become certified in the area for which the licensure is sought; and

(iii) Is exempt from any additional teacher certification requirements except the criminal history check required by §18A-3-10 of this code.

(2) The certificate shall be endorsed to indicate the grade level or levels or areas of specialization in which the person is certified to teach or to serve in the public schools.

(3) The initial professional certificate is issued provisionally for a period of three years from the date of issuance:

(A) The certificate may be converted to a professional certificate valid for five years subject to successful completion of a beginning teacher induction program, if applicable; or

(B) The certificate may be renewed subject to rules adopted by the state board.

(4) Teaching certificates granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C) of this code shall be equivalent to certificates granted to graduates of teacher preparation programs at public higher education institutions.

(b) Alternative program teacher certificate. — An alternative program teacher certificate may be issued to a candidate who is enrolled in an alternative program for teacher education approved by the state board.

(1) The certificate is valid only for the alternative program position in which the candidate is employed and is subject to enrollment in the program.

(2) The certificate is valid while the candidate is enrolled in the alternative program, up to a maximum of three years, and may not be renewed.

(c) Professional administrative certificate. —

(1) A professional administrative certificate, endorsed for serving in the public schools, with specific endorsement as a principal, vocational administrator, supervisor of instructions, or

superintendent, may be issued to a person who has completed requirements all to be approved by the state board as follows:

(A) Holds at least a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited to offer a master's degree, and:

(i) Has successfully completed an approved program for administrative certification developed by the state board in cooperation with the chancellor for higher education; and

(ii) Has successfully completed education and training in evaluation skills through the Center for Professional Development, or equivalent education and training in evaluation skills approved by the state board; and

(iii) Possesses three years of management level experience.

(2) Any person serving in the position of dean of students on June 4, 1992, is not required to hold a professional administrative certificate.

(3) The initial professional administrative certificate is issued provisionally for a period of five years. This certificate may be converted to a professional administrative certificate valid for five years or renewed, subject to the regulations of the state board.

(d) Paraprofessional certificate. — A paraprofessional certificate may be issued to a person who meets the following conditions:

(1) Has completed 36 semester hours of post-secondary education or its equivalent in subjects directly related to performance of the job, all approved by the state board; and

(2) Demonstrates the proficiencies to perform duties as required of a paraprofessional as defined in §18A-4-8 of this code.

(e) Other certificates; permits. —

(1) Other certificates and permits may be issued, subject to the approval of the state board, to persons who do not qualify for the professional or paraprofessional certificate.

(2) A certificate or permit may not be given permanent status and a person holding one of these credentials shall meet renewal requirements provided by law and by regulation, unless the state board declares certain of these certificates to be the equivalent of the professional certificate.

(3) Within the category of other certificates and permits, the State Superintendent may issue certificates for persons to serve in the public schools as athletic coaches or coaches of other extracurricular activities, whose duties may include the supervision of students, subject to the following limitations:

(A) The person is employed under a contract with the county board of education.

(i) The contract specifies the duties to be performed, specifies a rate of pay that is equivalent to the rate of pay for professional educators in the district who accept similar duties as extra duty assignments, and provides for liability insurance associated with the activity; and

(ii) The person holding this certificate is not considered an employee of the board for salary and benefit purposes other than as specified in the contract.

(B) The person completes an orientation program designed and approved in accordance with state board rules.

(f) Clinical Teacher of Record Permit. —

(1) A clinical teacher of record permit may be issued to a candidate who is enrolled in a clinical teacher of record program in accordance with an agreement between an institution of higher education and a county board. The agreement is developed pursuant to §18A-3-1(e) of this code and requires approval by the state board.

(2) The permit is valid only for the clinical teacher of record program position in which the candidate is enrolled and is subject to enrollment in the program. The permit is valid for no more than one school year and may not be renewed.

(g) Temporary teaching certificates for armed forces spouses. —

(1) A temporary teaching certificate for an armed forces spouse may be issued to an individual who meets the following criteria:

(A) He or she is married to a member of the armed forces of the United States who is on active duty;

(B) He or she holds a current unencumbered teaching certificate or license issued by an equivalent credentialing department, board, or authority, as determined by the State Superintendent, in another state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, another territory or protectorate of the United States or a foreign country; and

(C) He or she provides proof acceptable to the State Superintendent that his or her spouse is assigned to a duty station in this state or at a military installation within 50 air miles of the West Virginia border and that he or she is also assigned to a duty station in this state or at a military installation within 50 air miles of the West Virginia border under his or her spouse's official active duty military orders.

(2) The State Superintendent shall deny a temporary teaching certificate to an individual described in paragraph (1) of this subdivision for fraud, material misrepresentation or concealment in the person's application for a temporary teaching certificate or for a

conviction for which an individual's teaching certificate may be revoked under §18A-3-6 of this code.

(3) A temporary teaching certificate issued under paragraph (1) of this subdivision is valid for one year and may be renewed for additional one-year terms if the State Superintendent determines the individual holding the temporary teaching certificate continues to meet the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subdivision. The State Superintendent may revoke a temporary teaching certificate for a conviction for which an individual's teaching certificate may be revoked under §18A-3-6 of this code.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(3)(B) of this section, teachers with a bachelor's degree and 10 years teaching experience, with a valid teaching certificate, in good standing, without any unsatisfactory evaluations will be able to apply for and receive a permanent teaching certificate in West Virginia without having to take any additional course work. This subsection shall be effective from passage.

§18A-3-2b.

Repealed.

Acts, 2013 Reg. Sess., Ch. 56.

WV Legislature

§18A-3-2c. Minimum qualities, proficiencies and skills required of principals; state board rule.

On or before October 1, 2018, the state board shall promulgate rules in accordance with §29A-3B-1 et seq. of this code regarding the minimum qualities, proficiencies and skills that will be required of principals after July 1, 2019. The state board shall promulgate and may, from time to time, amend such rules. The rules promulgated by the state board shall address at least the following:

- (1) Instructional leadership and management techniques, including, but not limited to, the standards for high quality schools, the school accreditation process, and strategic planning for continuous improvement;
- (2) Staff relations, including, but not limited to, the development and use of skills necessary to make a positive use of faculty senates, manage faculty and staff with courtesy and mutual respect, coach and motivate employees, and build consensus as a means of management;
- (3) School community leadership qualities, including, but not limited to, the ability to organize and leverage community initiative, communicate effectively, work effectively with local school improvement councils, manage change, resolve conflict, and reflect the highest personal values;
- (4) Educational proficiencies, including, but not limited to, knowledge of curriculum, instructional techniques, student learning styles, student assessment criteria, school personnel performance, evaluation skills, and family issues; and
- (5) Administrative skills, including, but not limited to, organizational, fiscal, public policy, and total quality management skills and techniques.

§18A-3-2d

Repealed

Acts, 2018 Reg. Sess., Ch. 105.

WV Legislature

§18A-3-3. Renewal of certificates; permanent certification.

(a) Until the person qualifies for a permanent certificate, any professional or first class certificate based upon a bachelor's degree shall be renewable provided the holder within five years from the date the certificate became valid:

- (1) Files application on a prescribed form with the state Department of Education;
- (2) Presents an official transcript of six semester hours of approved credit as may be prescribed by the state board;
- (3) Successfully completes a beginning teacher internship program, if applicable; and
- (4) Submits a recommendation based on successful teaching experience from the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the holder last taught or resides.

(b) The holder of a professional certificate, valid for five years, shall have the certificate made permanent upon meeting any of the following requirements:

- (1) Completion of the second renewal, in accordance with the provisions set forth in subsection (a) of this section; or
- (2) After five years of service in the public schools, presentation of a transcript showing the completion of requirements for a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited to offer the master's degree and in a program relevant to the public school program or completes the fifth year of training leading to a bachelor's degree in library science from a school fully approved by the American Library Association; or
- (3) Receives certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

(c) To satisfy any of the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the person must file application on a prescribed form with the state Department of Education and must submit a recommendation from the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the person last taught or resides.

(d) All certificates and permits, other than the professional certificate, shall be renewed in accordance with state board regulations.

(e) If the applicant seeking renewal has cause to believe that the county superintendent refuses to give a recommendation without just cause, the applicant shall have the right, in such case, to appeal to the state Superintendent of Schools whose responsibility it shall be to investigate the matter and issue a certificate if, in the opinion of the state superintendent, the county superintendent's recommendation was withheld arbitrarily.

(f) A person who has reached the age of sixty and holds a renewable certificate, as provided in this section, need not present renewal credit but shall meet all other renewal

requirements.

WV Legislature

§18A-3-3a. Payment of tuition, registration and other fees for teachers; maximum payment per teacher.

(a) The West Virginia Department of Education shall promulgate rules to administer the reimbursement of tuition, registration and other required fees for coursework completed by teachers in accordance with the provisions of this section. The rules shall provide for reimbursement for courses completed toward both certification renewal and additional endorsement in a shortage area.

(b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases have the meanings ascribed to them:

(1) "Teacher" has the meaning provided in section one, article one, chapter eighteen of this code.

(2) "Shortage area" shall be defined by state board policy to indicate the subject areas for which an insufficient number of teachers are available.

(3) "Certification" and "certificate" mean a valid West Virginia:

(A) Professional teaching, service or administrative certificate, or its equivalent; or

(B) Provisional professional teaching, service or administrative certificate, or its equivalent.

(4) "Requirements for certification renewal" are those requirements of the state Department of Education as provided in section three of this article.

(5) "Requirements for additional endorsement" are those requirements of the state Department of Education as provided in section three of this article.

(6) "State institution of higher education" has the meaning provided in section two, article one, chapter eighteen-b of this code.

(c) To the extent of funds appropriated for the purposes specified in this section, payment shall be made to any teacher who:

(1) Holds either a valid West Virginia:

(A) Certificate; or

(B) First class permit for full-time employment; and

(2) Is seeking:

(A) An additional endorsement in a shortage area, and either resides in the state or is employed regularly for instructional purposes in a public school in the state; or

(B) Certification renewal, and has a continuing contract with a county board.

(d) The payment shall be made as reimbursement for the tuition, registration and other required fees for any course completed at:

(1) Any college or university within the state; or

(2) A college or university outside the state if prior approval is granted by the department.

(e) A course is eligible for reimbursement if it meets the requirements for:

(1) An additional endorsement in a shortage area; or

(2) Certification renewal.

(f) If funds appropriated for the purposes specified in this section are insufficient for the reimbursement of all eligible courses within the limits provided in this section, the West Virginia Department of Education shall make the reimbursements for courses for additional endorsement in a shortage area and certification renewal in a shortage area first.

(g) Payment made for any single fee may not exceed the amount of the highest corresponding fee charged at a state institution of higher education.

(h) Reimbursement for courses completed toward certification renewal is limited to fifteen semester hours of courses for any teacher. Reimbursement for courses completed toward additional endorsement in a shortage area is limited to fifteen semester hours of courses for any teacher.

(i) The West Virginia Department of Education shall seek funding from sources other than general revenue appropriation, including, but not limited to, workforce investment funds.

(j) No provision of this section may be construed to require any appropriation or any specific amount of appropriation for the purposes specified in this section, or to require the department to expend funds for those purposes from any other amounts appropriated for expenditure by the department.

§18A-3-4. Validity of present certificates.

Nothing in this article shall be construed or interpreted in such way as to invalidate or in any manner change or shorten the validity period of certificates, including grade-level teaching rights, in force on the effective date of this act, nor the right to renew or make permanent such certificates, notwithstanding the provisions set forth in §18A-3-2a of this code.

WV Legislature

§18A-3-5. Validity of certificates held by members of Armed Forces.

A certificate held by a member of the Armed Forces of the United States shall have the period of validity extended to June thirtieth of the year following his or her separation from active duty or honorable discharge provided the certificate was valid at the time of entry into the Armed Forces.

WV Legislature

§18A-3-6. Grounds for revocation or suspension of certificates; other authorized actions by state superintendent; required reporting by county superintendents; and recalling certificates for correction.

(a) The state superintendent may, after 10 days' notice and upon proper evidence, revoke or suspend the certificates of any teacher for any of the following causes: Intemperance; untruthfulness; cruelty; immorality; the conviction of a felony or a guilty plea or a plea of no contest to a felony charge; the conviction, guilty plea, or plea of no contest to any charge involving sexual misconduct with a minor or a student; or for using fraudulent, unapproved, or insufficient credit to obtain the certificates: *Provided*, That in order for any conduct of a teacher involving intemperance; cruelty; immorality; or using fraudulent, unapproved, or insufficient credit to obtain the certificates to constitute grounds for the revocation of the certificates of the teacher, there must be a rational nexus between the conduct of the teacher and the performance of his or her job. The state superintendent shall also have the authority to limit certificates, issue letters of admonishment, or enter into consent agreements requiring specific training in order for a teacher to maintain a certificate. The state superintendent may designate the West Virginia Commission for Professional Teaching Standards or members thereof to conduct hearings on revocations or certificate denials and make recommendations for action by the state superintendent. The state superintendent may issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum to obtain testimony and documents to aid in the investigation of allegations against any person subject to licensure by the state superintendent.

(b) The state superintendent may automatically suspend the certificate held by a teacher, as defined by §18-1-1(g) of this code, or any individual holding a certificate granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a of this code, in any of the following circumstances:

(1) The teacher or certificate holder is charged or indicted for an offense under §61-8D-3 or §61-8D-5 of this code or comparable statute in any other state;

(2) The teacher or certificate holder is charged or indicted with any criminal offense that requires the teacher to register as a sex offender;

(3) The teacher or certificate holder is charged or indicted with any criminal offense which has as an element delivery or distribution of a controlled substance; (4) The teacher or certificate holder is charged or indicted for any offense under the provisions of §61-2-1 of this code or under any law of the United States or any other state for an offense which has the same elements as those offenses described in §61-2-1 of this code; or

(5) A petition has been filed pursuant to §49-4-601 of this code alleging that the teacher or certificate holder has committed abuse of a child.

(c) If any such charge or indictment resulting in suspension pursuant to subsection (b) of this section is dismissed by the court in which it is pending, if the teacher or certificate holder is acquitted of such charge, or if a petition filed pursuant to §49-4-601 and resulting in

suspension pursuant to subsection (b) of this section is dismissed by the court in which it is pending, the teacher's or certificate holder's certification shall be reinstated unless otherwise prohibited by law.

(d) The state superintendent shall automatically revoke the certificate held by a teacher, as defined by §18-1-1(g) of this code, or any individual holding a certificate granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a of this code, in any of the following circumstances:

(1) The teacher or certificate holder pleads guilty to or is convicted under §61-8D-3 or §61-8D-5 of this code or comparable statute in any other state;

(2) The teacher or certificate holder pleads guilty to or is convicted of any criminal offense that requires the teacher to register as a sex offender;

(3) The teacher or certificate holder pleads guilty to or is convicted of any criminal offense which has as an element delivery or distribution of a controlled substance;

(4) The teacher or certificate holder pleads guilty to or is convicted under the provisions of §61-2-1 of this code or has been so convicted under any law of the United States or any other state for an offense which has the same elements as those offenses described in §61-2-1 of this code; or

(5) A court of competent jurisdiction has adjudicated the teacher or certificate holder as having committed abuse of a child under §49-4-601 of this code.

(e) If any conviction resulting in automatic revocation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section is overturned by any court of this state or the United States, or if such adjudication of abuse of a child pursuant to §49-4-601 of this code and resulting in automatic revocation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section is overturned by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, the teacher's or certificate holder's certification shall be reinstated unless otherwise prohibited by law.

(f) A teacher, as defined by §18-1-1(g) of this code, and including any individual holding a certificate granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a of this code, shall maintain a professional relationship with all students at all times, both in and out of the classroom. Following a hearing as provided in subsection (a) of this section, any teacher found to have committed any act of sexual abuse of a student or minor, or to have engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct with a student or minor; committed an act of cruelty to children or an act of child endangerment or solicited, encouraged, engaged in or consummated an inappropriate relationship with any student, minor, or individual; exploited a student by engaging in any of the aforementioned illegal or inappropriate conduct which then escalated into a relationship with the exploited student within 12 months of that student's graduation; or engaged in grooming a student or minor shall have his or her certificate revoked for a period of time not less than five years. For the purposes of this subsection, "grooming a student or minor" means befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a student or minor, which

may include the family of the student or minor, to lower the student's or minor's inhibitions with the objective of committing sexual abuse, child trafficking, child prostitution, the production of child pornography, or any other offense for which a certificate shall be revoked under this subsection.

(g) Any county superintendent, public school principal, or public charter school administrator who knows of any acts on the part of any teacher for which a certificate may be revoked or for which other action may be taken in accordance with this section shall report this, together with all the facts and evidence, to the state superintendent for such action as in the state superintendent's judgment may be proper.

(h) If a certificate has been granted through an error, oversight, or misinformation, the state superintendent may recall the certificate and make such corrections as will conform to the requirements of law and the state board.

(i) The state superintendent shall maintain a public database of individuals who have had adverse action taken against their teaching certificate by the state superintendent. Individuals whose certificate has been revoked by the state superintendent are not eligible to be employed by a county board unless the individual's certificate is subsequently reinstated by the state superintendent.

(j) This section applies to all public school teachers whether employed by a county board or the governing board of a public charter school.

(k) The state superintendent shall periodically ensure that county boards are acting in compliance with this section.

(l) The state board may propose legislative rules pursuant to §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code that are necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

§18A-3-7. Certificate fees.

The fee for the issuance or renewal of any certificate, if applicable, shall be established by the state Board of Education.

WV Legislature

§18A-3-8. County professional staff development councils.

The Legislature finds the professional expertise and insight of the classroom teacher to be an invaluable ingredient in the development and delivery of staff development programs which meet the needs of classroom teachers.

Therefore, a professional staff development council comprised of proportional representation from the major school levels and from vocational, special education and other specialties in proportion to their employment numbers in the county shall be established in each school district in the state in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education. Nominations of instructional personnel to serve on the county staff development council may be submitted by the faculty senates of the district to the county superintendent who shall prepare and distribute ballots and tabulate the votes of the counties instructional personnel voting on the persons nominated. Each county staff development council shall consist of between nine and fifteen members at the discretion of the county superintendent based on the size of the county. The councils have final authority to propose staff development programs for their peers based upon an analysis of the individual and collective needs of the schools of the county as indicated by their strategic plans.

The county superintendent or a designee has an advisory, nonvoting role on the council. The county board shall make available an amount equal to one tenth of one percent of the amounts provided in accordance with §18-9A-4 of this code and credit the funds to an account to be used by the council to fulfill its objectives. The local board has final approval of all proposed disbursements.

Any funds credited to the council during a fiscal year, but not used by the council, shall be carried over in the council account for use in the next fiscal year. These funds are separate and apart from, and in addition to, those funds to be credited to the council pursuant to this section. At the end of each fiscal year, the council shall report to each faculty senate chairperson the amount of funds carried over into the next fiscal year.

§18A-3-9. County service personnel staff development councils.

(a) The Legislature finds the professional expertise and insight of service personnel to be an invaluable ingredient in the development and delivery of staff development programs which meet the needs of service personnel.

(b) Therefore, a service personnel staff development council comprised of representation from the various categories of service personnel employment shall be established in each school district in the state in accordance with rules adopted by the state Board of Education. Nominations of service personnel to serve on the county service personnel staff development council may be submitted by the six groups, as defined in subsection (e), section one, article one of this chapter, of the district to the county superintendent who shall prepare and distribute ballots and tabulate the votes of the counties service personnel voting on the persons nominated. Each county staff service personnel development council shall consist of two employees from each category of employment one of whom shall be elected as chairperson by the staff development council members. The councils have final authority to propose staff development programs for their peers based upon rules established by statute and the council on service personnel education. The county superintendent or a designee has an advisory, nonvoting role on the council. The county board shall make available an amount equal to one tenth of one percent of the amounts provided in accordance with section five, article nine-a, chapter eighteen of this code and credit the funds to an account to be used by the council to fulfill its objectives. The local board has the final approval of all proposed disbursements. Any funds credited to the council during a fiscal year, but not used by the council, shall be carried over in the council account for use in the next fiscal year. Any carried-over funds shall be separate and apart from, and in addition to, the funds to be credited to the council pursuant to this section.

(c) At the end of each fiscal year, the county board of education shall report to the staff development chairperson the total amount and balance of the staff development council account, the amount appropriated for the recent fiscal year, the amount of funds requested and used by the staff development council, and the amount of funds carried over into the next fiscal year. The county board of education shall further provide to the state Superintendent of Schools at the end of each fiscal year the names of the service personnel staff development council members, the name of the chairperson, the number of meetings the service personnel staff development council held to plan staff development programs and the number of hours service employees were provided during their employment terms to implement their staff development programs.

**§18A-3-10. Criminal history check of applicants for licensure by the state
Department of Education.**

(a) Any applicant for an initial license issued by the West Virginia Department of Education shall be fingerprinted by the West Virginia State Police in accordance with state board policy in order to determine the applicant's suitability for licensure. The fingerprints shall be analyzed by the State Police for a state criminal history record check through the central abuse registry and then forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.

(b) Information contained in either the central abuse registry record or the Federal Bureau of Investigation record may form the basis for the denial of a certificate for just cause.

(c) The applicant for initial certification pays for the cost of obtaining the central abuse registry record and the Federal Bureau of Investigation record.

(d) Upon written consent to the state department by the applicant and within ninety days of the state fingerprint analysis, the results of a state analysis may be provided to a county board with which the applicant is applying for employment without further cost to the applicant.

(e) Information maintained by the state department or a county board which was obtained for the purpose of this section is exempt from the disclosure provisions of chapter twenty-nine-b of this code. Nothing in this section prohibits disclosure or publication of information in a statistical or other form which does not identify the individuals involved or provide personal information.

(f) After an initial license has been issued by the West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Department of Education may require any licensee to be fingerprinted by the West Virginia State Police in accordance with state board policy: Provided, That the licensee lived outside of the State of West Virginia for a period of one year or more since his or her licensure, or the West Virginia Department of Education or the school administrator has a reasonable belief that the licensee has not notified the school administrator of any felony conviction, conviction of any offense under chapter sixty-one, article eight-b of this code, or offenses of similar nature to those in chapter sixty-one, article eight-b of this code that have been established under any other state or the United States. The fingerprints may be analyzed by the West Virginia State Police for a state criminal history record check through the central abuse registry and then forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.

§18A-3-11. Fellowship for 21st Century Learners.

(a) The Legislature finds that:

(1) There are instances, especially for the purpose of professional development, where it would be beneficial for persons who are members of the Teachers' Retirement System or the Teachers' Defined Contribution System to be employed by state institutions of higher education or research corporations;

(2) Members of the Teachers' Retirement System are discouraged from terminating their membership to that system because their annuity is based on their final average salary and their total service credit;

(3) A member of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System may be discouraged from terminating his or her membership to that system because the member may be completely vested in that system or have made substantial progress toward being vested;

(4) These members also are discouraged from leaving employment that allows them to participate in the Public Employees Insurance Program pursuant to article sixteen, chapter five of this code; and

(5) An example of this beneficial arrangement would be the employment of a member of the Teachers' Retirement System or a member of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System by an entity that otherwise would not be considered an employer under article seven-a, chapter eighteen of this code or article seven-b, chapter eighteen of this code for the purpose of working on a joint professional development project between higher education and public education.

(b) For the purposes of this section only, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Employer" means either the state institution of higher education or the research corporation employing a 21st Century Learner Fellow;

(2) "Research corporation" means a corporation meeting the description set forth in section three, article twelve, chapter eighteen-b of this code; and

(3) "State institution of higher education" means the same as defined in section two, article one, chapter eighteen-b of this code.

(c) The State Superintendent is authorized to designate up to twenty-five professional educators who are currently employed and who are members of either the Teachers' Retirement System set forth in article seven-a, chapter eighteen of this code or the Teachers' Defined Contribution System set forth in article seven-b, chapter eighteen of this code as 21st Century Learner Fellows, subject to the following:

(1) Before designating a person as a 21st Century Learner Fellow, the state Superintendent

shall consult with the state institution of higher education or the research corporation that would employ the member if designated;

(2) In determining whether or not to designate a person as a 21st Century Learner Fellow, the state Superintendent shall give preference to a person who:

(A) Is certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

(B) Demonstrates leadership within his or her content field in the county, regional education service agency area or the state;

(3) The duration of the person's designation as a 21st Century Learner Fellow shall be for the period in which the specific project to be undertaken by the person will last as determined by the state Superintendent at the time he or she designates the person; and

(4) Only the employer may terminate the employment of a person designated as a 21st Century Learner Fellow prior to the end of the duration of the person's designation as set forth in subsection (3) of this subsection.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of the code to the contrary, the professional educators designated as 21st Century Learner Fellows may elect to remain a member of the retirement system in which they were a member of immediately preceding their designation while they are employed by either a state institution of higher education or a research corporation, subject to the following:

(1) This authorization to remain a member of the retirement system in which they were a member of immediately preceding their designation only applies to authorization to remain a member of either the Teachers' Retirement System set forth in article seven-a, chapter eighteen of this code or to the Teachers' Defined Contribution System set forth in article seven-b, chapter eighteen of this code, but not both;

(2) Both the employer and the member each shall contribute their share as required by article seven-a, chapter eighteen of this code or article seven-b, chapter eighteen of this code, as applicable;

(3) If a 21st Century Learner Fellow elects to remain a member of either the Teachers' Retirement System set forth in article seven-a, chapter eighteen of this code or the Teachers' Defined Contribution System set forth in article seven-b, chapter eighteen of this code, he or she may not participate in any retirement plan offered by the employer; and

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the employer does not assume any liability for benefits accrued by the 21st Century Learner Fellow while he or she was employed by any other entity.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of code to the contrary, each 21st Century Learner Fellow also qualifies as an employee for the purposes of being authorized to participate in

the Public Employees Insurance Program pursuant to article sixteen, chapter five of this code and the state institution of higher education or the research corporation, as applicable, shall be considered an employer under that program, subject to the following:

(1) The state institution of higher education or the research corporation, as applicable, is not considered an employer with respect to any employee other than a 21st Century Learner Fellow;

(2) For any employee that elects to participate in the program pursuant to this subdivision, the employer shall pay their share of the premium and the employee shall pay his or her share of the premium pursuant to article sixteen, chapter five of this code; and

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the employer does not assume any liability for benefits accrued by the 21st Century Learner Fellow while he or she was employed by any other entity.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary:

(1) The employer is not responsible for any accrued annual leave, sick leave or both that a 21st Century Learner Fellow has accumulated during any prior employment; and

(2) If a 21st Century Learner Fellow has accumulated sick leave from prior employment, and if not for this subsection that sick leave obligation or any part of that obligation otherwise would have been transferred to the employer, after expending all sick leave accrued with the employer, the 21st Century Learner may expend the sick leave accumulated with the prior employer, and the prior employer is responsible for paying the cost of the sick leave expended by the 21st Century Learner Fellow at a rate equivalent to the salary and benefits paid to the 21st Century Learner Fellow at the time his or her employment with the prior employer ended.

§18A-3-12. Technology integration specialists.

The Legislature finds that technology integration specialists are becoming more crucial as technology plays a continuously increasing role in the education of students. In order to address the need for more technology integration specialists, the teacher preparation programs in this state shall cooperate with the state board to ensure that:

- (1) A portion of the technology integration hours required to apply for the Advanced Credential endorsed for Technology Integration Specialist is offered at each teacher preparation program while students are still working toward their teaching degree;
- (2) Teacher education program students are aware of the option of attaining a Technology Integration Specialist Advanced Credential and Temporary Authorization early enough so that they can take advantage of the hours offered; and
- (3) Alternative education programs are established by the teacher preparation programs to assist teachers who have already received their teaching certification attain the required hours necessary to earn a Technology Integration Specialist Advanced Credential. These alternative education programs are separate from programs required to be established by section one-a of this article.

§18A-3-13. Training course for principals in public schools; informing teachers of due process; IEP format.

(a) *Training.* – Principals who are employed in public schools, appropriate central office personnel, superintendent, and county board of education members shall receive in-person training on the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), federal regulations and West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 2419 “Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities”. Specifically, this training must include the understanding of a students’ Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), student discipline procedures and requirements, and parental rights and due process safeguards. This training shall also include the following information:

- (1) Maximum class size for instructional periods by programmatic level and level of service needs for students with disabilities;
- (2) Extenuating circumstances for submitting a waiver request when student numbers exceed staffing ratios;
- (3) Teacher’s rights for advocating for students, procedural rights documentation, and all protections set forth under §18-20-1c;
- (4) Classroom teachers’ rights and protections that they may not be reprimanded for advocating for their student(s); and
- (5) Information related to local advocacy agencies and local United States Department of Education funded advocacy agencies.

(b) *Time period.* – This training shall be conducted for principal, appropriate central office personnel, Superintendents, and county board of education members before December 31, 2025, and following subsequent revisions to IDEA, federal regulations and/or West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 2419 “Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities”. Newly employed personnel and elected or appointed county board of education members shall receive this training within 30 days thereof.

(c) *Teacher protections and rights.* – Each principal and county board members shall inform teachers, in person, of their rights; including but not limited to:

- (1) The documentation process within a 45-day grading period for teachers;
- (2) The rights of teachers when it comes to informing parents of local advocates who can come to the Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) meetings;
- (3) Protection methods in place for teachers who advocate for student placement; and
- (4) All teacher protections and rights set forth under §18-20-1c.

(d) *Individualized Education Program meeting format.* - In every Individualized Education Program meeting, a representative of the school shall explain to the guardian of the child, verbally, the process for identifying a student, the parents or guardians due process rights, teacher protections and procedural rights as set forth under §18-20-1c and local advocacy centers information and points of contact.

WV Legislature