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OFFICE OF WEST VIRCINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1996

ENROLLED

Com. Sub. Aca HOUSE BILL No. 40 65

(By Delegate M. Spaker, M.	1. Chambers
	Ashley) the Executive /
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Passed March 4	1996
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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 4065

(By Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chambers, and Delegate Ashley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed March 9, 1996; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section one, article one, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended; to amend and reenact section six, article two of said chapter; to further amend said article by adding thereto two new sections, designated sections six-a and thirteen-h; to amend and reenact section nineteen, article five of said chapter; to amend article nine-a of said chapter by adding thereto a new section, designated section twenty-one; to amend and reenact section one-a, article five, chapter eighteen-a of said code; and to further amend said article by adding thereto a new section, designated section one-b, all relating to definitions of "career clusters", "work-based learning", "school-age juveniles", and "student with a disability"; the state board of education's rulemaking authority for the accreditation, classification and standardization of the state's schools; the establishment of an electronic portfolio system; the sale of soft drinks in high schools, and allocation of profits; the state board of education's policy-making authority for the approval of alternative education programs for disruptive students; the state board of education's and the department of health and human resources' responsibility for the provision of educational services for school-age juveniles who have been placed in residential facilities; the county boards of education's authority

to expand school activities or to use school property for public meetings or other purposes; the state board of education's authority to distribute money to county boards of education to provide for alternative education programs; and students' expulsion or suspension from the school or school bus, the notification procedures for certain pupil transfers; and alternative procedures for expulsion hearings by county boards, and authority to employ hearing examiners.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section one, article one, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted; that section six, article two of said chapter be amended and reenacted; that said article be further amended by adding thereto two new sections, designated sections six-a and thirteen-h; that section nineteen, article five of said chapter be amended and reenacted; that article nine-a of said chapter be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section twenty-one; that section one-a, article five, chapter eighteen-a of said code be amended and reenacted; and that said article be further amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section one-b, all to read as follows:

CHAPTER 18. EDUCATION.

DEFINITIONS; LIMITATIONS OF CHAPTER; ARTICLE 1. GOALS FOR EDUCATION.

§18-1-1. Definitions.

- 1 The following words used in this chapter and in any proceedings pursuant thereto shall, unless the context
- 3 clearly indicates a different meaning, be construed as
- 4
- follows:
- 5 (a) "School" means the pupils and teacher or teachers assembled in one or more buildings, organized as a unit;
- 7 (b) "District" means county school district;
- (c) "State board" means the West Virginia board of 8 9 education:
- 10 (d) "Board" means the county board of education;
- (e) "State superintendent" means the state superinten-11
- dent of free schools; 12

- 13 (f) "Superintendent" means the county superintendent 14 of schools;
- 15 (g) "Teacher" means teacher, supervisor, principal, 16 superintendent, public school librarian; registered profes-17 sional nurse, licensed by the West Virginia board of exam-18 iners for registered professional nurses and employed by a 19 county board of education, who has a baccalaureate de-20 gree; or any other person regularly employed for instruc-19 tional purposes in a public school in this state;
- 22 (h) "Service personnel" means all nonteaching school 23 employees not included in the above definition of "teach-24 er":
 - (i) "Regular full-time employee" means any person employed by a county board of education who has a regular position or job throughout his employment term, without regard to hours or method of pay;
- (j) "Career clusters" means broad groupings of relatedoccupations;
- 31 (k) "Work-based learning" means a structured activity
 32 that correlates with and is mutually supportive of the
 33 school-based learning of the student and includes specific
 34 objectives to be learned by the student as a result of the
 35 activity;
- 36 (1) "School-age juveniles" means any individual who is 37 entitled to attend or who, if not placed in a residential 38 facility, would be entitled to attend public schools, in ac-39 cordance with: (1) section five, article two of this chapter; 40 (2) sections fifteen and eighteen, article five of this chap-41 ter; or (3) section one, article twenty of this chapter; and
- 42 (m) "Student with a disability" means an exceptional 43 child, other than gifted, pursuant to section one, article
- 44 twenty of this chapter.

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ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-6. Classification and standardization of schools; standards for degrees and diploma; establishment of alternative education programs.

1 The state board shall make rules for the accreditation,

classification and standardization of all schools in the state,
except institutions of higher education, and shall determine the minimum standards for the granting of diplomas
and certificates of proficiency by those schools. Not later
than the school year one thousand nine hundred ninety—
ninety-one, certificates of proficiency including specific
information regarding the graduate's skills, competence
and readiness for employment or honors and advanced
education shall be granted, along with the diploma, to
every eligible high school graduate.

No institution of less than collegiate or university status may grant any diploma or certificate of proficiency on any basis of work or merit below the minimum standards prescribed by the state board.

No charter or other instrument containing the right to issue diplomas or certificates of proficiency shall be granted by the state of West Virginia to any institution or other associations or organizations of less than collegiate or university status within the state until the condition of granting or issuing such diplomas or other certificates of proficiency has first been approved in writing by the state board.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, the requirement for granting certificates of proficiency shall be replaced by the requirement that information be provided on an electronic portfolio system established by the state board pursuant to section eight, article two-e of this chapter and issued to every high school graduate by the appropriate county board: *Provided*, That the requirements for granting certificates of proficiency shall be continued until such time as the electronic portfolio system has been made available to the county boards.

The state board also may establish policies and procedures for the approval of alternative education programs for disruptive students who are at risk of not succeeding in the traditional school structure. These policies and procedures may provide for the waiver of other policies of the state board, the establishment and delivery of a nontraditional curriculum, establishment of licensure requirements

- 42 for alternative education program teachers, and the estab-
- 43 lishment of performance measures for school accredita-
- 44 tion.

§18-2-6a. Sale of soft drinks.

1 In order to generate funding for necessary programs 2 and supplies, county boards may permit the sale of soft 3 drinks in county high schools except during breakfast and lunch periods. The sale of such soft drinks shall be in 4 5 compliance with the rules of the national school lunch 6 program and the school breakfast program of the state 7 board and the nutrition service of the United States department of agriculture, which became effective on the seventeenth day of June, one thousand nine hundred eighty-9 five: Provided, That, if under such rules, the sale of soft 10 11 drinks shall become prohibited, such rules shall not prohibit the sale of soft drinks in high schools in the state of 12 13 West Virginia. Seventy-five percent of the profits from the sale of soft drinks shall be allocated by a majority vote 14 15 of the faculty senate of each school and twenty-five percent of the profits from the sale of soft drinks shall be 16 allocated to the purchase of necessary supplies by the 17 18 principal of the school.

§18-2-13h. Provision of educational services for school-age juveniles placed in residential facilities for custody and treatment.

- (a) The state board of education and the department 1 2 of health and human resources are authorized to provide for adequate and appropriate education opportunities for 4 school-age juveniles placed in the following residential facilities as a result of proceedings commenced under the 5 provisions of chapters twenty-seven and forty-nine of this 6 code: Davis-Stuart, Inc., located in Lewisburg, West Vir-7 8 ginia; the Elkins Mountain School, located in Elkins, West Virginia; the Abraxas Foundation of West Virginia, locat-9 ed in Waverly, West Virginia; and the Barboursville 10 11 School, located in Barboursville, West Virginia.
- 12 (b) Subject to appropriations by the Legislature, the 13 state board shall have the following authority: (1) To pro-14 vide education programs and services for school-age juve-

- 15 niles on the grounds of residential facilities, pursuant to
- 16 agreements with the department of health and human
- 17 resources and the licensed child-care agencies of such
- 18 department; (2) To hire classroom teachers and other
- 19 school personnel necessary to provide adequate and ap-
- 2.0 propriate education opportunities to these juveniles; and
- 21 (3) To provide education services for school-age juveniles
- 2.2 in residential facilities on a twelve-month basis.
- 23 (c) The department of health and human resources
- 24 shall cooperate with the state board and the state superin-
- 25 tendent in the establishment and maintenance of education
- 26 programs authorized under this section. Subject to appro-
- 27 priations by the Legislature, the department of health and
- 28 human resources shall provide, or cause to be provided,
- 29 adequate space and facilities for such education programs.
- 30 The state board shall not be required to construct, improve
- 31 or maintain any building, other improvement to real estate
- 32 or fixtures attached thereto at any residential facility for
- 33 the purpose of establishing and maintaining an education
- 34 program.
- 35 (d) The state board of education and the department
- 36 of health and human resources are authorized to enter into
- 37 agreements to provide adequate and appropriate education
- 38 opportunities for school-age juveniles who are placed in
- 39 residential facilities other than the facilities identified in
- 40 this section.

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-19. Night schools and other school extension activities; use of school property for public meetings, etc.

- County boards shall have authority to establish and maintain evening classes or night schools, continuation or
- part-time day schools, alternative schools, and vocational
- 4 schools, wherever practicable to do so, and shall admit
- 5 thereto adult persons and all other persons, including
- persons of foreign birth. County boards may admit 6 7 school-age children and youth to these classes or schools
- 8 under the circumstances prescribed by a state board of
- education policy governing alternative education pro-
- grams. County boards shall have authority to use school

- 11 funds for the financial support of such schools and to use
- 12 the schoolhouses and their equipment for such purposes.
- 13 Any such classes of schools shall be conducted in accor-
- 14 dance with the rules of the state board.
- 15 County boards shall have authority to provide for the
- 16 free, comfortable and convenient use of any school prop-
- 17 erty to promote and facilitate frequent meetings and asso-
- 18 ciations of the people for discussion, study, recreation and
- 19 other community activities, and may secure, assemble and
- 20 house material for use in the study of farm, home and
- 21 community problems, and may provide facilities for the
- 22 dissemination of information useful on the farm, in the
- 23 home or in the community.

ARTICLE 9A. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT.

§18-9A-21. Funding for alternative education programs.

- 1 For the fiscal year beginning the first day of July, one
 - 2 thousand nine hundred ninety-six, an appropriation may
 - 3 be made to the state department to be distributed to coun-
 - 4 ty boards for the operation of alternative education pro-
 - 5 grams established in accordance with policies and proce-
 - 6 dures adopted by the state board under section six, article
 - 7 two of this chapter: Provided, That nothing in this section
 - 8 shall be construed to require any specific level of funding
 - 9 by the Legislature: Provided, however, That ninety percent
 - 10 of any appropriation which may be made for the purposes
 - 11 set forth in this section shall be distributed to county
 - 12 boards on the basis of net enrollment and ten percent of
 - 13 this appropriation shall be distributed on a competitive
- 14 basis to county boards for the operation of pilot or inno-
- 15 vative alternative education programs. Each county board
- 16 shall apply to the state superintendent for receipt of its
- share of the distribution in the manner set forth by the
- 18 state superintendent which is consistent with the policies
- 19 and procedures adopted by the state board for the estab-
- 20 lishment and maintenance of alternative education pro-
- 21 grams.

CHAPTER 18A. SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

ARTICLE 5. AUTHORITY; RIGHTS; RESPONSIBILITY.

§18A-5-1a. Possessing deadly weapons on premises of educa-

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33 34 tional facilities; possessing a controlled substance on premises of educational facilities; assaults and batteries committed by pupils upon teachers or other school personnel; temporary suspension, hearing; procedure, notice and formal hearing; extended suspension; sale of narcotic; expulsion; exception.

- (a) A principal shall suspend a pupil from school or from transportation to or from the school on any school bus if the pupil, in the determination of the principal, after an informal hearing pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, has: (i) Violated the provisions of subsection (b), section fifteen, article two, chapter sixty-one of this code; (ii) violated the provisions of subsection (b), section eleven-a, article seven, chapter sixty-one of this code; or (iii) sold a narcotic drug, as defined in section one hundred one, article one, chapter sixty-a of this code, on the premises of an educational facility, at a school-sponsored function or on a school bus. If a student has been suspended pursuant to this subsection, the principal shall, within twenty-four hours, request that the county superintendent recommend to the county board that the student be expelled. Upon such a request by a principal, the county superintendent shall recommend to the county board that the student be expelled. Upon such recommendation, the county board shall conduct a hearing in accordance with subsections (e) and (f) of this section to determine if the student committed the alleged violation. If the county board of education finds that the student did commit the alleged violation, the county board of education shall expel the student.
- (b) A principal shall suspend a pupil from school, or from transportation to or from the school on any school bus, if the pupil, in the determination of the principal after an informal hearing pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, has: (i) Committed an act or engaged in conduct that would constitute a felony under the laws of this state if committed by an adult; or (ii) unlawfully possessed on the premises of an educational facility or at a school-sponsored function a controlled substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Substances Act as described in chap-

35 ter sixty-a of this code. If a student has been suspended pursuant to this subsection, the principal may request that 36 37 the superintendent recommend to the county board that 38 the student be expelled. Upon such recommendation by 39 the county superintendent, the county board may hold a 40 hearing in accordance with the provisions of subsections (e) and (f) of this section to determine if the student com-41 42 mitted the alleged violation. If the county board finds that 43 the student did commit the alleged violation, the county 44 board may expel the student.

- 45 (c) A principal may suspend a pupil from school, or 46 transportation to or from the school on any school bus, if 47 the pupil, in the determination of the principal after an 48 informal hearing pursuant to subsection (d) of this sec-49 tion: (i) Threatened to injure, or in any manner injured, a pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel; (ii) 50 51 willfully disobeyed a teacher; (iii) possessed alcohol in an educational facility, on school grounds, a school bus or at 52 53 any school-sponsored function; (iv) used profane lan-54 guage directed at a school employee or pupil; (v) inten-55 tionally defaced any school property; (vi) participated in any physical altercation with another person while under 56 the authority of school personnel; or (vii) habitually vio-57 lated school rules or policies. If a student has been sus-58 59 pended pursuant to this subsection, the principal may request that the superintendent recommend to the county 60 61 board that the student be expelled. Upon such recommendation by the county superintendent, the county board 62 63 may hold a hearing in accordance with the provisions of 64 subsections (e) and (f) of this section to determine if the 65 student committed the alleged violation. If the county 66 board finds that the student did commit the alleged viola-67 tion, the county board may expel the student.
- (d) The actions of any pupil which may be grounds 69 for his or her suspension or expulsion under the provi-70 sions of this section shall be reported immediately to the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled. If 72 the principal determines that the alleged actions of the 73 pupil would be grounds for suspension, he or she shall 74 conduct an informal hearing for the pupil immediately after the alleged actions have occurred. The hearing shall 75

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be held before the pupil is suspended unless the principal believes that the continued presence of the pupil in the school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, in which case the pupil shall be suspended immediately and a hearing held as soon as practicable after the suspension.

The pupil and his or her parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s), as the case may be, shall be given telephonic notice, if possible, of this informal hearing, which notice shall briefly state the grounds for suspension.

At the commencement of the informal hearing, the principal shall inquire of the pupil as to whether he or she admits or denies the charges. If the pupil does not admit the charges, he or she shall be given an explanation of the evidence possessed by the principal and an opportunity to present his or her version of the occurrence. At the conclusion of the hearing or upon the failure of the noticed student to appear, the principal may suspend the pupil for a maximum of ten school days, including the time prior to the hearing, if any, for which the pupil has been excluded from school.

The principal shall report any suspension the same day it has been decided upon, in writing, to the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the pupil by certified mail, return receipt requested: *Provided*, That certified mail is not required if one or both of the parents, guardians, or custodians of the pupil are present at the time the suspension is decided upon, or if any one of them acknowledges receipt of the report by signing and dating a copy of the report. The suspension also shall be reported to the county superintendent and to the faculty senate of the school at the next meeting after the suspension.

(e) Prior to a hearing before the county board, the county board shall cause a written notice, which states the charges and the recommended disposition, to be served upon the pupil and his or her parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s), as the case may be. Such notice shall set forth a date and time at which such hearing shall be held, which date shall be within the ten-day period of suspen-

116 sion imposed by the principal.

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- 117 (f) The county board shall hold the scheduled hear-118 ing to determine if the pupil should be reinstated or should, or under the provisions of this section, must be 119 120 expelled from school. At this hearing the pupil may be 121 represented by counsel, may call his or her own witnesses 122 to verify his or her version of the incident and may con-123 front and cross-examine witnesses supporting the charge 124 against him or her. The hearing shall be recorded by me-125 chanical means, unless recorded by a certified court re-126 porter. The hearing may be postponed for good cause 127 shown by the pupil but he or she shall remain under sus-128 pension until after the hearing. The state board may adopt 129 other supplementary rules of procedure to be followed in 130 these hearings. At the conclusion of the hearing the coun-131 ty board either shall order the pupil reinstated immediate-132 ly or at the end of his or her initial suspension or shall 133 suspend the pupil for a further designated number of days 134 or shall expel the pupil from the public schools of such 135 county.
 - (g) Pupils may be expelled pursuant to the provisions of this section for a period not to exceed one school year, except that if a pupil is determined to have violated the provisions of subsection (a) of this section the pupil shall be expelled for a period of not less than twelve consecutive months: Provided, That the county superintendent may lessen the mandatory period of twelve consecutive months for the expulsion of the pupil if the circumstances of the pupil's case demonstrably warrant. Upon the reduction of the period of expulsion, the county superintendent shall prepare a written statement setting forth the circumstances of the pupil's case which warrant the reduction of the period of expulsion. The county superintendent shall submit the statement to the county board, the principal, the faculty senate and the local school improvement council for the school from which the pupil was expelled.
 - (h) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this section, if a pupil has been classified as a student with a disability, prior to performing the actions giving rise to this section, special consideration shall be given to such

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156 pupil as hereinafter provided:

- (1) Regardless of whether or not the misconduct is the proximate result of the disability of a student, a student with a disability may be suspended immediately for up to ten consecutive days for each occurrence of misconduct or when it is necessary for the protection of the student, the protection of school personnel, or the protection of other students;
- (2) If the misconduct is found to be the proximate result of the disability of the student, then, subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, the student may not be suspended or expelled for more than ten consecutive days for each occurrence of misconduct or for each occurrence when it is necessary for the protection of the student, the protection of school personnel, or the protection of other students;
- 172 (3) A student with a disability who has committed a 173 violation involving the possession of a firearm, as defined 174 in section two, article seven, chapter sixty-one of this code, 175 on the school premises or at a school-sponsored function 176 may be placed in an alternative educational setting by the 177 individualized education program committee, as described 178 in section one, article twenty, chapter eighteen of this code, for a period of not more than forty-five calendar days. 179 180 During this time, if a parent, guardian, or custodian re-181 quests a due process hearing to contest placement of the 182 student, the student shall remain in the alternative educa-183 tion setting during the pendency of any proceeding, unless the parents and the county board agree otherwise. At 184 185 the conclusion of the proceeding, if it is determined that 186 the student with a disability committed a violation involv-187 ing the possession of a firearm and the violation is not the 188 proximate result of the disability of the student, the stu-189 dent with a disability shall be expelled from school for the 190 period set forth in the applicable provisions of this section: 191 Provided, That special education and related services must 192 be provided during this additional period of expulsion;
 - (4) If the behavior giving rise to the violation or activity is not the proximate result of the disability of the student, a student with a disability who has committed a viola-

196 tion involving the possession of a deadly weapon, as de-197 fined in section two, article seven, chapter sixty-one of this 198 code, other than a firearm, or who has committed a viola-199 tion or has engaged in any other activity for which sus-200 pension or expulsion is a punishment under the provisions 201 of this article, shall be suspended or expelled from school 202 in the manner described in this section. In addition, special 203 education and related services must be provided during 204 the period of a suspension or expulsion exceeding ten 205 days; and

- 206 (5) If the student with a disability has been suspended, 207 and it is determined that the misconduct is the proximate 208 result of the disability of the student, it is recommended 209 that school officials determine whether the student is re-210 ceiving appropriate instructional and related services in the current placement. In addition, the violations may be ad-211 212 dressed through strategies, including, but not limited to, 213 the following: (i) Conflict management and behavior man-214 agement strategies which are not inconsistent with the 215 individualized education program of the student; (ii) Stu-216 dent and teacher training initiatives which are not inconsis-217 tent with the individualized education program of the 218 student; (iii) An initiation by professional educators, at 219 any time, of a change in the placement of the student 220 through an individualized education program meeting to 221 be held within twenty-one days, subject to the applicable 222 procedural safeguards; and (iv) An initiation of a court 223 order to remove the student from school, if there is belief 224 that maintaining the student in the current educational 225 placement is substantially likely to cause injury to the 226 student or others.
 - (i) In all hearings under this section, facts shall be found by a preponderance of the evidence.

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- (j) For purposes of this section, nothing herein shall be construed to be in conflict with the federal provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990 (PL 101-476).
- 233 (k) If a pupil transfers to another school in West Vir-234 ginia, the principal of the school from which the pupil 235 transfers shall provide a written record of any disciplinary

- action taken against the pupil to the principal of the school to which the pupil transfers.
- 238 (1) Principals may exercise any other authority and 239 perform any other duties to discipline pupils consistent
- 240 with state and federal law, including policies of the state
- 241 board of education.

§18A-5-1b. Alternative procedures for expulsion hearings by county boards.

1 The county boards may employ a hearing examiner

- 2 to conduct the expulsion hearings required by this article.
- 3 The hearing examiner shall be an attorney, duly licensed
- 4 to practice law in the state of West Virginia and shall not
- 5 be employed by the state or county boards for any other
- 6 reason.
- 7 The hearing examiner shall conduct hearings in com-
- 8 pliance with the guidelines of section one-a of this article.
- 9 All hearings shall be recorded by mechanical means, un-
- 10 less recorded by a certified court reporter. The hearing
- 11 examiner shall issue a decision and written findings of fact
- 12 and conclusions of law within five days of the conclusion
- of the hearing. Hearings by a hearing examiner shall have the same force and effect as a decision made by a county
- the same force and effect as a decision made by a county board. Upon the written request of a parent, guardian, or
- board. Upon the written request of a parent, guardian, or custodian of the student, or the county superintendent, the
- 17 county board shall review the decision of the hearing
- 18 examiner. Within ten calendar days from the date of the
- 19 request of the review, the county board shall enter an or-
- 20 der affirming, reversing, or modifying the decision of the
- 21 hearing examiner. A county board may, in its own discre-
- 22 tion, hold a hearing to determine any issues in question.
- The authority of the county superintendent shall be
- 24 the same as contained in section one-a of this article.

15 [Enr. Com. Sub. for H. B. 4065

the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.
Karely Scholanoch
Chairman Senate Committee .
Chairman House Committee
Originating in the House.
Takes effect from passage. Clerk of the Senate
Glerk of the House of Delegates President of the Senate Speaker of the House of Delegates
The within 10 approach this the 20th day of Much 1, 1996. Governor

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that

PRESENTED TO THE

GUVERNO RIVERNO

Date 4

Time