

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2433

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[Originating in the Committee on Education;

January 22, 2020.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5-45 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all
2 relating to establishing dates within which the instructional term for students must be held;
3 exempting schools operating on a balanced calendar; authorizing state board to waive
4 requirements of section; requiring state board rule on waiver process; and modifying use
5 of purposes for certain noninstructional days.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-45. School calendar.

1 (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Instructional day" means a day within the instructional term which meets the following
3 criteria:

4 (A) Instruction is offered to students for at least the minimum number of minutes as follows:

5 (i) For early childhood programs as provided in subsection (d) section forty-four of this
6 article;

7 (ii) For schools with grade levels kindergarten through and including grade five, 315
8 minutes of instructional time per day;

9 (iii) For schools with grade levels six through and including grade eight, 330 minutes of
10 instructional time per day; and

11 (iv) For schools with grade levels nine through and including grade twelve, 345 minutes of
12 instructional time per day.

13 (B) Instructional time is used for instruction and cocurricular activities; and

14 (C) Other criteria as the state board determines appropriate.

15 (2) "Cocurricular activities" are activities that are closely related to identifiable academic
16 programs or areas of study that serve to complement academic curricula as further defined by
17 the state board; and

18 (3) "Instruction delivered through alternative methods" means a plan developed by a
19 county board and approved by the state board for teachers to assign and grade work to be
20 completed by students on days when schools are closed due to inclement weather or other
21 unforeseen circumstances.

22 (b) *Findings.* –

23 (1) The primary purpose of the school system is to provide instruction for students.

24 (2) The school calendar, as defined in this section, is designed to define the school term
25 both for employees and for instruction.

26 (3) The school calendar shall provide for one hundred eighty separate instructional days
27 or an equivalent amount of instructional time as provided in this section.

28 (c) The county board shall provide a school term for its schools that contains the following:

29 (1) An employment term that excludes Saturdays and Sundays and consists of at least
30 two hundred days, which need not be successive. The beginning and closing dates of the
31 employment term may not exceed forty-eight weeks;

32 (2) Within the employment term, an instructional term for students of no less than one
33 hundred eighty separate instructional days, which includes an inclement weather and
34 emergencies plan designed to guarantee an instructional term for students of no less than one
35 hundred eighty separate instructional days, subject to the following:

36 (A) A county board may increase the length of the instructional day as defined in this
37 section by at least thirty minutes per day to ensure that it achieves at least an amount of
38 instructional time equivalent to one hundred and eighty separate instructional days within its
39 school calendar and:

40 (i) Apply up to five days of this equivalent time to cancel days lost due to necessary school
41 closures;

42 (ii) Plan within its school calendar and not subject to cancellation and rescheduling as
43 instructional days up to an additional five days or equivalent portions of days, without students

44 present, to be used as determined by the county board exclusively for activities by educators at
45 the school level designed to improve instruction; and

46 (iii) Apply any additional equivalent time to recover time lost due to late arrivals and early
47 dismissals;

48 (B) Subject to approval of its plan by the state board, a county board may deliver
49 instruction through alternative methods on up to five days when schools are closed due to
50 inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances and these days are instructional days
51 notwithstanding the closure of schools; ~~and~~

52 (C) The use of equivalent time gained by lengthening the school day to cancel days lost,
53 and the delivery of instruction through alternative methods, both as defined in this section, shall
54 be considered instructional days for the purpose of meeting the 180 separate day requirement
55 and as employment days for the purpose of meeting the 200 day employment term-; and

56 (D) Beginning for the school year 2021 – 2022, the instructional term for students shall
57 begin no earlier than September 1st and end no later than June 7th each calendar year: *Provided,*
58 That nothing in this subdivision shall apply to any school operating on a balanced calendar as
59 defined by state board policy: *Provided, further,* That upon request of a county board of education,
60 the state board of education may waive the requirements of this section. The state board shall
61 adopt a rule establishing the process a county board shall follow to submit a waiver that ensures
62 public participation in the county board’s decision to request a waiver under this section.

63 (3) Within the employment term, noninstructional days shall total twenty and shall be
64 comprised of the following:

65 (A) Seven paid holidays;

66 (B) Election day as specified in section two, article five, chapter eighteen-a of this code;

67 (C) Six days to be designated by the county board to be used by the employees outside
68 the school environment, with at least four outside the school environment days scheduled to occur
69 after the one hundred and thirtieth instructional day of the school calendar;

70 (D) One day to be designated by the county board to be used by the employees for
71 preparation for opening school and one day to be designated by the county board to be used by
72 the employees for preparation for closing school: *Provided*, That the school preparation days may
73 be used for the purposes set forth in paragraph (E) of this subdivision at the teacher's discretion;
74 and

75 (E) The remaining days to be designated by the county board for purposes to include, but
76 not be limited to:

77 (i) Curriculum development;

78 ~~(ii) Professional development;~~

79 ~~(iii) (ii) Teacher-pupil-parent conferences;~~

80 ~~(iv) (iii) Professional meetings, professional development, record keeping, and community~~
81 outreach;

82 ~~(v) (iv) Making up days when instruction was scheduled but not conducted; and~~

83 ~~(vi) (v) At least six two-hour blocks of time for faculty senate meetings with at least one~~
84 two-hour block of time scheduled in the first month of the employment term, at least one two-hour
85 block of time scheduled in the last month of the employment term and at least one two-hour block
86 of time scheduled in each of the months of October, December, February and April; and

87 (4) Scheduled out-of-calendar days that are to be used for instructional days in the event
88 school is canceled for any reason.

89 (d) A county board of education shall develop a policy that requires additional minutes of
90 instruction in the school day or additional days of instruction to recover time lost due to late arrivals
91 and early dismissals.

92 (e) If it is not possible to complete one hundred eighty separate instructional days with the
93 current school calendar and the additional five days of instructional time gained by increasing the
94 length of the instructional day as provided in subsection (c) of this section are insufficient to offset
95 the loss of separate instructional days, the county board shall schedule instruction on any

96 available noninstructional day, regardless of the purpose for which the day originally was
97 scheduled, or an out-of-calendar day and the day will be used for instruction of students: *Provided*,
98 That the provisions of this subsection do not apply to:

99 (1) Holidays;

100 (2) Election day;

101 (3) Saturdays and Sundays; and

102 (4) The five days or equivalent portions of days planned within the school calendar
103 exclusively for activities by educators at the school level to improve instruction that are gained by
104 increasing the length of the instructional day as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

105 (f) The instructional term shall commence and terminate on a date selected by the county
106 board.

107 (g) The state board may not schedule the primary statewide assessment program more
108 than thirty days prior to the end of the instructional year unless the state board determines that
109 the nature of the test mandates an earlier testing date.

110 (h) The following applies to cocurricular activities:

111 (1) The state board shall determine what activities may be considered cocurricular;

112 (2) The state board shall determine the amount of instructional time that may be consumed
113 by cocurricular activities; and

114 (3) Other requirements or restrictions the state board may provide in the rule required to
115 be promulgated by this section.

116 (i) Extracurricular activities may not be used for instructional time.

117 (j) Noninstructional interruptions to the instructional day shall be minimized to allow the
118 classroom teacher to teach.

119 (k) Prior to implementing the school calendar, the county board shall secure approval of
120 its proposed calendar from the state board or, if so designated by the state board, from the state
121 superintendent.

122 (l) In formulation of a school's calendar, a county school board shall hold at least two public
123 meetings that allow parents, teachers, teacher organizations, businesses and other interested
124 parties within the county to discuss the school calendar. The public notice of the date, time and
125 place of the public hearing must be published in a local newspaper of general circulation in the
126 area as a Class II legal advertisement, in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter
127 fifty-nine of this code.

128 (m) The county board may contract with all or part of the personnel for a longer term of
129 employment.

130 (n) The minimum instructional term may be decreased by order of the state superintendent
131 in any county declared a federal disaster area and in any county subject to an emergency or
132 disaster declaration by the Governor when the event causing the declaration is substantially
133 related to the loss of instructional days in the county.

134 (o) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the state board may grant
135 a waiver to a county board for its noncompliance with provisions of chapter eighteen, eighteen-a,
136 eighteen-b and eighteen-c of this code to maintain compliance in reaching the mandatory one
137 hundred eighty separate instructional days established in this section.

138 (p) The state board shall promulgate a rule in accordance with the provisions of article
139 three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this
140 section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to modify the school instructional calendar to begin not earlier than Labor Day and end prior to Memorial Day.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.