

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2499

By Delegate E. Pritt

[Reported to the Committee on Education on March 11, 2025]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18A-3-13, relating to creating an in-person training course for principals in
3 public schools; informing teachers of their state rights and protections; and providing for an
4 Individualized Education Program meeting format.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT.**

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

1 (a) Training course. – Principals who are employed with public schools in this state, and
2 county board members in this state, shall receive a one-day informational training course, in
3 person, covering the federal law on The Individuals with Disability Education Act 2004 (otherwise
4 known as "IDEA 2004"), IDEA, Least Restrictive Environment LRE, updated discipline guidance
5 that has been revised and sent out from the United States Department of Education, and parental
6 rights when it comes to due process. The one-day training course shall include the following
7 information:

8 (1) Principals and county board members shall be expected to know how many students
9 are legally allowed in a special education classroom;

10 (2) Principals and county board members shall understand the way a waiver works in the
11 case that the student to teacher ratio is over;

12 (3) Principals and county board members shall understand the teacher's rights for
13 advocating for students, procedural rights in documentation, and all protections set forth under
14 §18-20-1c;

15 (4) Principals and county board members shall understand the classroom teachers' rights
16 and that the teacher may not be reprimanded for advocating for their student; and

17 (5) Principals and county board members shall understand all information related to local
18 advocate agencies and local United States Department of Education funded advocacy agency.

19 (b) Time period. – This course shall be given before December 31, 2025, and shall only be
20 given afterwards to those having already received it if updated federal or state guidance is
21 provided. It shall also be given to any newly employed principal or to a newly elected county board
22 member after December 31, 2025.

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

25 (1) The documentation process within a 45-day grading period for teachers;

26 (2) The rights of teachers when it comes to informing parents of local advocates who can
27 come to the Individualized Education Program ("IEP") meetings;

28 (3) Protection methods in place for teachers who advocate for student placement; and

29 (4) All teacher protections and rights set forth under §18-20-1c.

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