

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 802

By Senator Grady

[Introduced February 6, 2026; referred

to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5-45 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 noninstructional days within the school calendar; prohibiting a teacher from being required
3 to use the school preparation days for any other purpose besides the preparation for the
4 opening of school or for school closing; requiring noninstructional days to include two
5 Leave Teachers Alone days to be used as determined by classroom teachers for activities
6 that will improve instruction; requiring both of these days to be scheduled and to occur
7 before the beginning of the instructional term; and reducing the number of days to be used
8 as designated by the county board.

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 the
17 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 or
27 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 two
30 hundred days, which need not be successive. The beginning and closing dates of the employment
31 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 the
45 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 instruction
49 through alternative methods on up to five days when schools are closed due to inclement weather
50 or other unforeseen circumstances and these days are instructional days notwithstanding the
51 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 be
54 considered instructional days for the purpose of meeting the 180 separate day requirement and as
55 employment days for the purpose of meeting the 200 day employment term.

58 (A) Seven paid holidays;

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

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

63 (D) One day to be designated by the county board to be used by the employees for
64 preparation for opening school and one day to be designated by the county board to be used by
65 the employees for preparation for closing school. *Provided*. That the subject to the following:

66 (i) The school preparation days may be used for the purposes set forth in paragraph (E) (F)
67 of this subdivision at the teacher's discretion; and

68 (ii) No teacher may be required to use the school preparation days for any other purpose
69 besides preparation for the opening of school or for school closing;

70 (E) Two Leave Teachers Alone (LTA) days to be used as determined by classroom
71 teachers for activities that will improve instruction. Both of these days shall be scheduled and
72 occur before the beginning of the instructional term; and

73 (E) (F) The remaining two days to be designated by the county board for purposes to
74 include, but not be limited to:

75 (i) Curriculum development;

76 (ii) Professional development;

77 (iii) Teacher-pupil-parent conferences;

78 (iv) Professional meetings;

79 (v) Making up days when instruction was scheduled but not conducted; and

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

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

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

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

94 scheduled, or an out-of-calendar day and the day will be used for instruction of students: *Provided*,

95 That the provisions of this subsection do not apply to:

96 (1) Holidays;

97 (2) Election day;

98 (3) Saturdays and Sundays; and

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

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

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

107 (h) The following applies to cocurricular activities:

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

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

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

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

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

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

119 (l) In formulation of a school's calendar, a county school board shall hold at least two public

120 meetings that allow parents, teachers, teacher organizations, businesses and other interested
121 parties within the county to discuss the school calendar. The public notice of the date, time and
122 place of the public hearing must be published in a local newspaper of general circulation in the
123 area as a Class II legal advertisement, in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter
124 fifty-nine of this code.

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

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

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

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

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit a teacher from being required to use the school preparation days for any other purpose besides the preparation for the opening of school or for school closing; require noninstructional days to include two Leave Teachers Alone (LTA) days to be used as determined by classroom teachers for activities that will improve instruction; and require both of these days to be scheduled and occur before the beginning of the instructional term.

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