

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4859

By Delegate Funkhouser

[Introduced January 28, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2B-2a and §18-9D-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended, all relating to allowing a county board of education participating in the operation
3 of a multicounty vocational center to withdraw; allowing any county board participating in a
4 multicounty vocational center to determine that a career technical education program be
5 part of the local high school; and modifying provisions pertaining to construction of a
6 comprehensive vocational facility by a county board served by a multicounty vocational
7 technical facility.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE	2B.	AREA	VOCATIONAL	PROGRAM.
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§18-2B-2a. Withdrawal from multicounty vocational center prohibited **Allowing career**
technical education program to be a part of the local high school.

1 ~~Any county which participates in the operation of a multicounty vocational center shall not~~
2 ~~be permitted to withdraw from such participation~~ Any county board of education participating in a
3 multicounty vocational center may determine that a career technical education program be part of
4 the local high school in order to better serve students. The program may be a state-approved
5 program of study (required by 20 U.S.C §2342) or a locally created program of study.

ARTICLE	9D.	SCHOOL	BUILDING	AUTHORITY.
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§18-9D-19. **Comprehensive** **high** **schools.**

1 (a) When planning the construction of a high school which has been approved by the
2 authority and which meets the required authority efficiencies, the authority shall provide funding for
3 comprehensive vocational facilities to be located, when feasible, on the same site as the high
4 school and may, in cooperation with the Higher Education Policy Commission, established in
5 §18B-1B-1 of this code, provide funding for facilities for community and technical college
6 education. When building in conjunction with the Higher Education Policy Commission, an
7 educational specification must be developed for the proposed new facility by the appropriate

8 institutional governing board as defined in §18B-1-2 of this code. The county board is the fiscal
9 agent for construction. All planning, design, bidding, and construction must be completed with
10 authority guidelines and under the supervision of the authority.

11 (b) When planning the construction of a high school which has been approved by the
12 authority and meets the required authority efficiencies, the authority shall provide funding sufficient
13 for the construction of at least one auxiliary gymnasium. The authority may establish standards for
14 the auxiliary gymnasium.

15 (c) Upon application of a county board to construct comprehensive vocational facilities at
16 an existing high school, the authority will provide technical assistance to the county in developing a
17 plan for construction of the comprehensive vocational facility. The facility may, in cooperation with
18 the Higher Education Policy Commission in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of
19 this section, include facilities for community and technical college education. Upon development of
20 the plan, the authority shall consider funding based on the following criteria:

21 (1) The distance of any existing vocational facilities from the high schools it serves;
22 (2) The time required to travel to and from the vocational facility to the high schools it
23 serves;
24 (3) The ability of the county board to provide local funds for the construction of new
25 comprehensive vocational facilities;
26 (4) The size of the existing high schools and the demand for vocational technical courses;
27 (5) The age and physical condition of the existing vocational facilities; and
28 (6) Such other criteria as the authority shall consider appropriate.

29 (d) When planning the construction of a high school in a county which is served by a
30 multicounty vocational technical facility, the county may not be required to include the construction
31 of a comprehensive vocational facility in the plan. If the county board elects to construct a
32 comprehensive vocational facility pursuant to this section, the board shall include the multicounty
33 center director and board in planning programs to be offered at the vocational facility which

34 complement the programs offered at the multicounty center and may as part of the plan include
35 facilities for career education secondary offerings and community and technical college education.
36 at the multicounty center. The programs offered at the vocational facility may not replace the
37 programs offered at the multicounty vocational technical center without the consent of the center
38 board.

39 (e) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, the county board in
40 which there is an existing comprehensive vocational center, may eliminate any vocational offering
41 from a new comprehensive high school if the county board:

42 (1) Completes a comprehensive vocational curriculum study, as required by the authority,
43 including an evaluation of both the programmatic and physical facilities of the existing center and
44 coordinates the county's vocational curriculum; and
45 (2) Submits the plan to the authority for review and obtains the authority's approval.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow a county board of education participating in a multicounty vocational center to determine that a career technical education program be part of the local high school; and allow the program to be a state-approved program of study or a locally created program of study.

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