West Virginia Senate

Committee on Education

Minutes for March 10, 2026, 9:08 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Education met on March 10, 2026, 9:08 AM in Room 451-M.

Members present: Senators Grady, Clements, Azinger, Barnhart, Bartlett, Deeds, Fuller, Oliverio, Roberts, Tarr, Taylor, Garcia

Members absent: Senator Hart

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chair Grady announced that HB5537 was removed from the agenda.

HB4002 Establishing the West Virginia Collaboratory was discussed.

Hank Hager, Counsel, explained the bill.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

HB4573 Foster Youth Post-Secondary Transition Awareness Act was discussed.

Hank Hager, Counsel, explained the bill.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

HB4425 To repeal the provision allowing for students to transfer from one school to another without losing eligibility was discussed.

Hank Hager, Counsel, explained the bill and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee and after taking the prescribed oath, Tim George, Spring Valley High School Athletic Director, addressed the committee and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee and after taking the prescribed oath, Jay Hesse, Frankfort High School Athletic Director, addressed the committee. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee and after taking the prescribed oath, Eddie Smolder, Winfield High School Head Football Coach, addressed the committee and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee and after taking the prescribed oath, Steve Wamsley, Tygarts Valley Middle/High School Principal, addressed the committee and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee and after taking the prescribed oath, Wayne Ryan, WVSSAC Executive Director, addressed the committee and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee adjourned.

Amy N. Grady

Chair

Benjamin Mack

Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 10th day of March, 2026, in the Senate Committee on Education.

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

Tim George

Print Witness Name

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy N. Grady

Print Member Name

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 10th day of March, 2026, in the Senate Committee on Education.

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

Jay S. Hesse

Print Witness Name

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy M. Grady

Print Member Name

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 10th day of March, 2026, in the Senate Committee on Education.

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

Eddie Smolder

Print Witness Name

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy N. Grady

Print Member Name

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 10th day of March, 2026, in the Senate Committee on Education.

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

Steve Wamsley

Print Witness Name

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy N. Grady

Print Member Name

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 10th day of March, 2026, in the Senate Committee on Education.

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

Wayne Ryan
Print Witness Name

Wayne Ryan
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy N. Grady
Print Member Name

Amy N. Grady
Sign Member Name