

Action		Type	
N	No Response	-	Negative
NA	Not Accepted	+	Positive
A	Accepted	O	Neutral

Policy 5314.01 Autism Mentor  
Public Comment Period February, 2013-March, 2013

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/TYPE	RATIONALE
<b>§126-146A-1 General</b>				
02-21	Diann Ganoe Aide/paraprofessional WVDE Romney, WV	I feel that if a mentor aide is working in a classroom getting mentor pay, they should be working with an autistic student. Also, I feel that if an autism mentor has less seniority, they should have the position over the aide without the mentor.	N/+	No policy revision proposed.
02-28	Justin L. Schooley Associate Superintendent of HR Berkeley County Schools Martinsburg, WV	Stakeholders—Why were no personnel directors involved?	N/O	No policy revision proposed.
<b>§126-146A-3 Standards and Experience</b>				
02-28	Carol Hamric HR Director Kanawha County Schools Charleston, WV	<p>Why were no personnel directors involved?</p> <p>3.3 “Under the supervision of a certified special education teacher”. What if the teacher is not a fully certified teacher, such a teacher on permit or a long-term substitute?</p> <p>Some grievance decisions have questioned the percentage of time of a day an aide must work with a student in order to qualify as completing a successful experience working with autism. Can the amount of time per day be defined to assist the LEA in making this determination?</p>	<p>N/O</p> <p>A/+</p> <p>NA/O</p>	<p>No policy revision proposed.</p> <p>Policy revised to clarify under the supervision of a fully certified special education teacher.</p> <p>The percentage of time which qualifies for a day is determined by the district. No policy revision proposed.</p>



	Schools New Cumberland, WV	needed to gain a year: 1) Does 8 hours equal a day (does a ½ day=a full day) do the 133 days have to be all in one year or can you stack days over several years (50-50-33=133).		
02-25	Tonia Withrow Transportation Aide Chester, WV	It should not be limited to just 2 yrs successful experience in a classroom. I feel that transportation aides should also be able to get credit for time on the bus spent with a student with autism.	NA/-	Policy revised to clarify under the supervision a of fully certified special education teacher.
02-28	Justin L. Schooley Associate Superintendent of HR Berkeley County Schools Martinsburg, WV	<p>3.3 "Under the supervision of a certified special education teacher". Is this a certified Autism teacher or any exceptionally of a special education teacher? What if the teacher is not a fully certified teacher, such a teacher on permit or a long-term substitute?</p> <p>Some grievance decisions have questioned the percentage of time of a day an aide must work with a student in order to qualify as completing a successful experience working with autism. Can the amount of time per day be defined to assist the LEA in making this determination? What counts as instructional support to autistic students (such as transportation aides with autism aides on the bus-restraining and de-escalation techniques can be used on buses)?</p> <p>3.3.b. Under school personnel policies and procedures, a school year for experience purposes is defined as a minimum of 133 days in a school year (July 1-June 30). School years cannot be combined. Therefore the 266 cumulative days conflicts with existing personnel policies and procedures. The minimum of 133 days is not recorded/reported for active school employees until the end of a school year (i.e. retirement report with days of service). This would impact section 3.5.a. completion of the standards.</p>	<p>A/+</p> <p>NA/-</p> <p>A/+</p> <p>A/+</p>	<p>Policy revised to clarify under the supervision a of fully certified special education teacher.</p> <p>The percentage of time which qualifies for a day is determined by the district. No policy revision proposed.</p> <p>Policy revised to clarify under the supervision of a fully certified special education teacher.</p> <p>Policy revised to clarify definition of one year and remove 266 cumulative days.</p>

		<p>ADD 3.4.c. The LEA may reevaluate a mentor's physical ability and stamina necessary to complete all job tasks and ensuring student safety when deemed necessary by the immediate supervisor.</p> <p>3.5.a. Completion of the standards based upon completion of the minimum of 133 days should be effective the school year immediately following the completion of the two years of successful experience.</p>	<p>NA/-</p> <p>A/+</p>	<p>The LEA is responsible to verify this standard. No policy revision proposed.</p> <p>Policy revised to clarify definition of one year and remove 266 cumulative days.</p>
02-28	Barbara Brazeau Personnel Director Putnam County Schools Winfield, WV	<p>3.3-Two concerns with the proposal that a certified special education teacher must supervise the aide: If an autistic student is in kindergarten and s/he spends a portion of the day in the regular classroom, the kindergarten aide could potentially meet the requirements to be reclassified as an autism mentor.</p> <p>Secondly, not all special education teachers are "certified". They are licensed for their assignments but they may not have fulfilled all requirements to be fully certified. You may want to change the language to "certified or licensed" or just "licensed".</p> <p>3.3.a should read: One year of experience means a minimum of 133 days within the same school year. The current language is confusing and could be misconstrued to mean a total of 266 days over any period of time.</p> <p>3.5.a is contrary to current law that requires us to review the classification of all service employees and upgrade them if they meet the standards for a higher classification. Posting of a position in that particular classification is not a requirement for the</p>	<p>NA/-</p> <p>NA/-</p> <p>A/+</p> <p>A/+</p>	<p>The proposed policy states two years of successful experience providing instructional supports to a student with autism under the supervision of a fully certified special education teacher must be completed. No policy revision proposed.</p> <p>Policy revised to clarify under the supervision of a fully certified special educator.</p> <p>Policy revised to clarify definition of one year and remove 266 cumulative days.</p> <p>Policy revised to clarify eligibility for autism mentor pay.</p>

		reclassification.		
03-04	Amy Bryan-Chapman Autism Coordinator Berkeley County Schools OSE Martinsburg, WV	<p>3.3b How much time of assistance should be counted as a day? If the individual is supervising during bus am/pm drop-offs does that equal someone who may spend an entire day offering instruction? Or what if an individual only spends a lunch period supervising does that qualify.</p> <p>3.3.c Exempts our preschool aides as the EC of those students are typically DD as opposed to AU. If we have a preschool teacher with AU certification wouldn't it be nice to have preschool Autism Mentors?</p> <p>3.4a Are there guidelines for this that the LEA can follow?</p>	<p>NA/O</p> <p>NA/O</p> <p>NA/-</p>	<p>The proposed policy states two years of successful experience providing instructional supports to a student with autism under the supervision of a fully certified special education teacher must be completed. No policy revision proposed.</p> <p>The proposed policy states two years of successful experience providing instructional supports to a student with autism under the supervision of a fully certified special education teacher must be completed. No policy revision proposed.</p> <p>The LEA is responsible to verify this standard. No policy revision is proposed.</p>
03-14	Wendi Decapio Autism Mentor Hancock County Board of Education Weirton, WV	To gain your years/days as an autism mentor, it should be credited on a consistent and consecutive basis. For example, you are working in an autism mentor job but are only a supervisory aide that qualifies you for your autism experience.	<p>A/+</p> <p>NA/-</p>	<p>Policy revised to clarify definition of one year and remove the 266 cumulative days.</p> <p>The percentage of time which qualifies for a day is determined by the district. No policy revision proposed.</p>

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02-28	Justin L. Schooley Associate Superintendent of HR Berkeley County Schools Martinsburg WV	Stakeholders -- Why were no personnel directors involved?		
02-28	CAROL HAMRIC HR DIRECTOR KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOLS CHARLESTON WV	<p>Why were no personnel directors involved?</p> <p>3.3 "Under the supervision of a certified special education teacher". What if the teacher is not a fully certified teacher, such a teacher on permit or a long-term substitute?</p> <p>Some grievance decisions have questioned the percentage of time of a day an aide must work with a student in order to qualify as completing a successful experience working with autism. Can the amount of time per day be defined to assist the LEA in making this determination?</p> <p>3.3.b. Under school personnel policies and procedures, a school year for experience purposes is defined as a minimum of 133 days in a school year (July 1-June 30). School years cannot be combined. Therefore the 266 cumulative</p>		

		<p>days conflicts with existing personnel policies and procedures. The minimum of 133 days is not recorded/reported for active school employees until the end of a school year (ie. retirement report with days of service).</p> <p>ADD 3.4.c. The LEA may reevaluate a mentor's physical ability and stamina necessary to complete all job tasks and ensuring student safety when deemed necessary by the supervisor.</p> <p>3.5.a. Completion of the standards based upon completion of the minimum of 133 days should be effective the school year immediately following the completion of the two years of experience.</p>		
03-14	<p>Wendi Decapio Autism Mentor Hancock County Board Of Education Weirton WV</p>	<p>It is my opinion that "sub" time should not be credited towards your experience working with students with autism for numerous reasons: 1) call out substitutes are called randomly. You can't pick your job. It's merely LUCK; 2) it's been my experience as a sub and working with subs that they do not do the full duty of the mentor they are subbing for. They are merely "an extra set of eyes and hands". They aren't the ones to stop a behavior or limit a behavior because they have no idea what their IEP calls for or how to handle the situation. Many aren't CPI trained and certainly do not know the student's triggers or calming techniques; 3) Many subs are scared in a MOD room and simply take a "sit back approach" which is best for all involved but confirming the fact that they shouldn't get autism time credit; and finally 4) many substitutes do not want to work in a MOD/SPED room and will not apply for those permanent jobs when posted; therefore this weeds out the ones that just want titled as an "autism mentor".</p>		
03-18	<p>Patti Barnabei Autism mentor-Pre-K Hancock County Schools employee Weirton WV</p>	<p>I feel that autism mentors should still go by your seniority, instead of a certain list in each county. If you have the experience in special education, &amp; have all the classes, that should be the way</p>		

		that the seniority would rule. I feel like a lot of other autism mentors, that the list should be gone. I have been in the system since 1992, & others have a least 4 years less then I do. Thank you for your time & I hope you will consider my thoughts.		
<b>§126-146A-3 Standards and Experience</b>				
02-18	Suzan Smith Superintendent Hancock County Schools New Cumberland W.V.	Please clarify 3.3b. Must the 133 instructional days be gained in one year or can these days accumulate over several years? Do the 266 days (2 Years) have to be gained consecutively from one year to the next? If not, is there a time limit on when the individual can gain the 2 years experience?		
02-20	Suzan Smith Superintendent Hancock County Schools New Cumberland WV	3.3.b Please verify if 133 days must be accrued in one school year to get credit for one year's experience or can you have more than one year to accumulate the 133 days. Must the two years (266 cumulative days) be successive years or is there a time period (time limit) to receive the two years credit?		
02-22	Wayne Neely Asst. Superintendent Hancock County Schools New Cumberland WV	3.3 2 years of experience, 266 cumulative days. From several grievences, I believe a few more issues need to be clarified on how much time is needed to gain a year: 1) Does 8 hours equal a day (does a 1/2 day = a full day) 2) do the 133 days have to be all in one year or can you stack days over several years(50-50-33=133)		
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		<p>be fully certified. You may want to change the language to "certified or licensed" or just "licensed".</p> <p>3.3.a should read: One year of experience means a minimum of 133 days within the same school year. The current language is confusing and could be misconstrued to mean a total of 266 days over any period of time.</p> <p>3.5.a is contrary to current law that requires us to review the classification of all service employees and upgrade them if they meet the standards for a higher classification. Posting of a position in that particular classification is not a requirement for the reclassification.</p>		
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03-18	<p>Debra Lawton Transportation Aide Hancock County Board of Education New Cumberland wv</p>	<p>266 days of instructional support should be 2 years of experience. NO SUB should acquire experience time BEFORE they have completed all classes. This makes for a better Autism Mentor and Sp. Ed. Aide 3. It also gives them a better understanding of the special needs children. After they have acquired their classes, then they can have experience</p>		

		<p>time. Experience time should not be stacked time. You must take a bid for a Autism Mentor position to recieve your experience time. Giving experience time to a sub is not fair to the other subs. The call out list even if it calls in order, does not give everyone the same chance at the special needs position. Therefore it is the luck of the call that you get your experience over maybe a more senior sub. Also, my special ed. dept. says that if a child is born with Autism he or she may not have it in the year you took care of the child, which is non sense to me. Therefore, she can give one aide experience time and the other aide will not get it. This has to be changed. Autism does not go away, you may see progress in some years, but it will never go away. Also, if you are a Transportaion Aide,that holds an Autism mentor certificate, with over half of your bus is Autistic students, you should get Autism Wages. You are instilling the same education in your students on the bus as they are in the classroom. You are following through with the IEP, the behavior plan and anything else the teachers might want you to do. This helps the child or children to have a great ride to and from school. Learning to behave on the bus, getting off and on, being with other students, rules of the bus, behavior for the bus and much more. I hope this helps you in the policy that you are trying to improve. You may always contact me for more information. Thank You!</p>		
03-18	Debra Lawton Aide Rep. WWSPA New Cumberland W.va.	<p>Transportation Aides that hold the title of Autism Mentor should be paid Autism Mentor wages on the bus. If a Kindergarten aide has a child with Autism, she gets paid Autism Mentor wages even if the teacher does not have a special ed. degree. Most special Ed teachers do not have the Autism endorsement on their teaching certificates. Thank You.</p>		