



**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE**

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cFILED

4/11/2013 11:52:05 AM

OFFICE OF
WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

**FORM 5 -- NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE OR
A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

AGENCY Education

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt **AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE** Yes **TITLE-SERIES** 126-

RULE NAME College Hours or Comparable Training in a Trade or Vocational School (5301) **163**

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

RULE IS LEGISLATIVE EXEMPT

Yes

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS

Monday, May 13, 2013

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



Title-Series: 126-163



Rule Id: 8965



Document: 24712

126CSR163

TITLE 126 LEGISLATIVE RULE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SERIES 163 College Hours or Comparable Training in a Trade or Vocational School (5301)

§126-163-1. General.

1.1. Purpose - The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for providing the additional pay specified in West Virginia Code §18A-4-8a for service personnel who have earned the college hours or comparable training in a trade or vocational school specified in the code section, or those who have earned an associate, a bachelor's, a master's, or a doctorate degree.

1.2. Authority - West Virginia Constitution, Article XII, Section 2 and West Virginia Code '§18-2-5 and '§18A-4-8a.

1.3. Filing Date – April 11, 2013

1.4. Effective Date – May 13, 2013

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. This legislative rule amends W. Va. 126CSR163, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 5301, College Hours or Comparable Training in a Trade or Vocational School, filed July 12, 2002, and effective August 12, 2002.

§126-163-2. Applicability.

2.1. This policy applies only to service personnel. The policy provides guidance for county boards of education in determining the additional monthly pay as specified in West Virginia Code §18A-4-8a for service personnel who have earned the college hours or comparable training in a trade or vocational school specified in the code section, or those who have earned an associate, a bachelor's, a master's, or a doctorate degree. The bonus specified in code for a college degree is for each degree level.

§126-163-3. Definitions.

3.1. Accredited institution of higher education - A college or university accredited: (1) by the official accrediting agency of the state in which the institution is located, and; (2) by one of the regional accrediting agencies recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), OR by one of the National Faith-Related Accrediting Organizations recognized by CHEA and the United States Department of Education, OR by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, to award degrees at a stipulated level, i.e. associate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, and/or doctorate degree.

3.2. Approved trade, vocational, technical, business or similar institution - An institution approved by a state or national institutional or specialized accrediting agency or the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Department of Labor.

3.3. College hours or comparable training in a trade or vocational school shall be defined to include any combination of the following:

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3.3.a. Semester hour - An hour of college credit from an accredited institution of higher education on the semester system.

3.3.b. Quarter hour - An hour of college credit from an accredited institution of higher education on the quarter system. One quarter hour is equivalent to two-thirds of a semester hour.

3.3.c. Comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school - Each fifteen contact hours of training obtained in a post-secondary program from an approved trade, vocational, technical, business or similar institution shall be equivalent to one semester hour of college credit. Comparable credit for such contact hours should still be granted even if the contact hours are also counted towards meeting annual professional development requirements.

3.3.d. The term “associate degree” means an associate or “two-year” degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education.

3.3.e. The term “BA” means a bachelor’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education.

3.3.f. The term “BA+15” means a bachelor’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education plus fifteen hours of undergraduate or graduate work also earned from an accredited institution of higher education. The undergraduate hours must have been completed after the bachelor’s degree was awarded.

3.3.g. The term “MA” means a master’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education approved to do graduate work.

3.3.h. The term “MA+15” means a master’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education approved to do graduate work plus fifteen hours of undergraduate or graduate work also earned from an accredited institution of higher education. This classification requires 45 semester hours including a master’s degree, of which 15 may be undergraduate hours completed after the bachelor’s degree was awarded.

3.3.i. The term “MA+30” means a master’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education approved to do graduate work plus thirty hours of under-graduate or graduate work also earned from an accredited institution of higher education. This classification requires 60 semester hours including a master’s degree, of which 15 may be undergraduate hours completed after the bachelor’s degree was awarded.

3.3.j. The term “MA+45” means a master’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education approved to do graduate work plus forty-five hours of undergraduate or graduate work also earned from an accredited institution of higher education. This classification requires 75 semester hours including a master’s degree, of which 15 may be undergraduate hours completed after the bachelor’s degree was awarded.

3.3.k. The term “MA+60” means a master’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education approved to do graduate work plus sixty hours of undergraduate or graduate work also earned from an accredited institution of higher education. This classification requires 90 semester hours including a master’s degree, of which 15 may be undergraduate hours completed after the bachelor’s degree was awarded.

3.3.l. The terms “doctorate” means a doctor’s degree earned from an accredited institution of higher education qualified and approved to confer such a degree.

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§126-163-4. Verification of Hours.

4.1. Verification of credit will be an official transcript of course work completed from an accredited institution of higher education or a grade report of completed contact hours in a post-secondary program from an approved trade, vocational, technical, business, or similar institution. Each employee is responsible for obtaining and providing official copies of the required records to his/her employer.

4.2. County boards of education are responsible for verifying the number of hours completed by their respective employees for additional pay purposes.

§126-163-5. Severability.

5.1. If any provision of this rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this rule.