

**Policy 2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma
Comment Log**

April 11, 2013 – May 13, 2013

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

Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/ Type	Rationale
04-18	Twona Kennedy HSE Instructor; RN MCCTC Welch WV	<p>§126-32-1 General.</p> <p>CTE Instructors should not be evaluated on WESTEST scores. I actually do not believe CTE instructors should even be evaluated on WorkKeys results. It is not the fault of the CTE instructor that somewhere this child missed critical elements of Math or Reading. I am a Registered Nurse and I am very proficient at teaching the medical math that I am required to teach but I should not be held responsible for what other instructors have or have not taught. Also, as a parent with a son in this educational system I can say the problem lies in Elementary schools. My son had homework on a different math topic every night. The students and instructors are not allowed to spend enough time on one topic (fractions, multiplication, etc.) to MASTER it. I taught my son multiplication facts the old fashioned way and to memorize them. Students do not have to memorize these nor are</p>	NA / O	<p>This comment applies to Policy 5310: Performance Evaluation for School Personnel.</p> <p>This comment was emailed to Lisa Hedrick and Robert Hagerman in the Office of Professional Preparation for review.</p>

they required to write or learn cursive writing. I just polled my high school students and 6 out of 18 students stated they can write cursive well. Two out of 18 students stated they know their multiplication tables well.

As a nation, this form of teaching will come back to haunt us when Walmart loses electricity and the cashier does not give you correct change. Also, when these students get older they are not going to know how to sign a legal document in cursive or with a pen (black ink).

Extending the school year is not the answer to students learning more. I attended school in McDowell County with school starting after Labor Day and ending before Memorial Day, without having to make up snow days (and it really snowed then) I and everyone I attended school with learned more than students today that will go to school on this "balanced calendar."

The learning system now is set up where teachers are not actually allowed to teach students- teachers enable them and pass them anyway. Why should I be held accountable for the states mandates on what is taught and students not learning. Go back to the old system of teaching reading, writing and math and let the teachers teach. Technology is disabling our students. The only thing technology is good for is college research and our students will never find this out because they will never make it to college if we are not allowed to teach.

05-10	Carol MCLAugherty Career Connections Coordinator Mercer County Schools Princeton WV	<p>§126-32-1 General.</p> <p>This policy provides excellent opportunities for students and results in a better prepared workforce.</p>	A / +	Thank you for taking time to review the changes to Policy 2444.4 and making your comment. We too agree that policy changes will provide an excellent opportunity for students and result in a better prepared workforce.
05-10	Carol MCLAugherty Career Connections Coordinator Mercer County Schools Princeton WV	<p>§126-32 6 Testing of Individuals Enrolled in the Option Pathway.</p> <p>Students not having to attend school after completing testing and/or career technical concentration is a positive for all stakeholders.</p>	A / +	Thank you for taking time to review the changes to Policy 2444.4 and making your comment. We agree this policy offers positive outcomes for all stakeholders and may assist with decreasing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates for students.
04-12	Stefan Smolski Teacher Grafton High School Fairmont WV	<p>§126-32 8 Testing of Option Pathway Students Enrolled in Mountaineer Challenge Academy</p> <p>This is an outstanding change to the policy. As a MCA mentor, this change provides incentive to the cadets to complete the rigorous program and opens doors that are closing to those without a high school diploma even with a GED. This also removes the NCLB penalty to a high school for</p>	A / +	Thank you for taking the time to review the changes to Policy 2444.4 and making your comments. We agree that the change in policy provides incentives to the cadets to

		<p>any student attending MCA. I can more effectively counsel my students to consider this pathway to their diploma who might otherwise become wards of the penal system.</p>		<p>complete rigorous program and creates extended opportunities due to the ability of cadets to receive a high school diploma as a result of changes made to the policy.</p>
<p>05-10</p>	<p>Kathy Tasker Director Mountaineer Challenge Academy Kingwood WV</p>	<p>§126-32-8 Testing of Option Pathway Students Enrolled in Mountaineer Challenge Academy</p> <p>At a minimum, the Academy would like the Department of Education to include waiver considerations (a and b) to prevent excluding segments of the at-risk population. The proposed version of §126-32-8.3 states: " The sixteen (16) seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) years of age student currently enrolled in a West Virginia high school participating in the Option Pathway shall be awarded a high school diploma from their high school of origin by Mountaineer Challenge Academy and be counted as a graduate if the student meets the following requirements..."</p>		

	<p>a. "...student currently enrolled..." limits the students served by the Academy. The Academy suggests changing this segment to "... student currently (Ms. Tasker suggested striking through the word currently)enrolled..".</p> <p>i. Students are eligible to enroll into the Academy who are residents of the state, 30 days. The Academy is currently in discussions with Preston County Schools to explore registration options and Student Assistance Team support for those few students coming from out of state or home school situations. Individual situations would be addressed in waiver requests.</p> <p>ii. Students who have dropped-out are eligible to attend the Academy. Home high schools should have the opportunity to re-enroll and recode a student in WVEIS so that student success can be captured in graduation rates. These could be addressed in waiver requests.</p> <p>b. "...participating in the Option Pathway..." limits the Academy's ability to offer the diploma option to only those students coming from an attendance area that currently offering the Option Pathway. The intent was to make it available for all students attending the MCA. This restriction was not previously discussed with the MCA. This would be a severe limiting factor. At this time,</p>	<p>NA / O</p> <p>A / O</p>	<p>a. Student participation in the Option Pathway reflects the Option Pathway that will be offered at Mountaineer Challenge Academy.</p> <p>i. We accept the statement that according to Mountaineer Challenge Academy Policy, that student are eligible to enroll into the Academy who are residents of the state (30 days as a state resident may enroll).</p> <p>Any student enrolled in a West Virginia high school to include Preston County is eligible to participate in Mountaineer Challenge</p>
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<p>not all school systems are enrolled in the Option Pathway. Some school systems such as Martinsburg have stated that they will not enroll. Wood County does not have the capacity to increase attendance at the vo-tech center and is not currently enrolled. These are two of the largest county systems represented by Academy students. If the Academy's ability to coordinate high school diplomas is to be effective, this section should be deleted.</p> <p>c. For complete clarity, the Academy suggest adding, repeating verbiage to clarify that the home high school would count the student as a graduate.</p> <p>Revisions suggested by the Academy to §126-32-8.3: "The sixteen (16) seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) years of age student currently (Ms. Tasker suggested striking through the word currently) enrolled in a West Virginia high school participating in the Option Pathway (Ms. Tasker suggested striking through the words participating in the Option Pathway) shall be awarded a high school diploma from their high school of origin by Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy and be counted as a graduate from their high school of origin (Ms. Tasker suggested to add the wording from their high school of origin) if the student meets the following requirements..."</p>	<p>A / O</p>	<p>Academy.</p> <p>Policy 2444.4 does not address a waiver request of any kind.</p> <p>ii. Mountaineer ChalleNGE Academy must communicate with the home high school/county district and follow the locally established policies and procedures for re-enrollment of students.</p> <p>Policy 2444.4 does not address a waiver request of any kind</p> <p>b. Student participation in the Option Pathway that will be offered at Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy. Option</p>	<p>Academy.</p> <p>Policy 2444.4 does not address a waiver request of any kind.</p> <p>ii. Mountaineer ChalleNGE Academy must communicate with the home high school/county district and follow the locally established policies and procedures for re-enrollment of students.</p> <p>Policy 2444.4 does not address a waiver request of any kind</p> <p>b. Student participation in the Option Pathway that will be offered at Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy. Option</p>
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	<p>Kathy Tasker Director Mountaineer Challenge Academy Kingwood WV</p>	<p>§126-32-9 Testing of Option Pathway Students in West Virginia State Correctional or Residential Facilities for Custody and Treatment</p> <p>The proposed changes to Policy 2444.4, included a reference to Mountaineer Challenge Academy under §126-32-9 Testing of Option Pathway Students in West Virginia State Correctional or Residential Facilities for custody and treatment which does not apply to the Academy. The Academy should not be mentioned in Section 9.3. This issue is correctly addressed for the Academy in Section 8.5.</p>	<p>A / +</p>	<p>The concern was noted during the review of the draft on 3/12/13. The reference to Mountaineer Challenge Academy was removed from Section 9.3 prior to submitting the final draft.</p>
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Dewayne Duncan

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 1:27 PM
To: ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2013-04-18 13:26:42)

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Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

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Name: Twona Kennedy
Organization: MCCTC
Title: HSE Instructor; RN
City/State: Welch, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-04-18 13:26:42
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-32-1 General

CTE Instructors should not be evaluated on WESTEST scores. I actually do not believe CTE instructors should even be evaluated on WorkKeys results. It is not the fault of the CTE instructor that somewhere this child missed critical elements of Math or Reading. I am a Registered Nurse and I am very proficient at teaching the medical math that I am required to teach but I should not be held responsible for what other instructors have or have not taught. Also, as a parent with a son in this educational system I can say the problem lies in Elementary schools. My son had homework on a different math topic every night. The students and instructors are not allowed to spend enough time on one topic (fractions, multiplication, etc.) to MASTER it. I taught my son multiplication facts the old fashioned way and to memorize them. Students do not have to memorize these nor are they required to write or learn cursive writing. I just polled my high school students and 6 out of 18 st

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not learning. Go back to the old system of teaching reading, writing

and math and let the teachers teach. Technology is disabling our students. The only thing technology is good for is college research and our students will never find this out because they will never make it to college if we are not allowed to teach.

Dewayne Duncan

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2013 1:23 PM
To: ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2013-05-10 13:22:53)

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Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

Name: Carol MClagherty
Organization: Mercer County Schools
Title: Career Connections Coordinator
City/State: Princeton, WV
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-05-10 13:22:53
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-32-1 General

This policy provides excellent opportunities for students and results in a better prepared workforce.

Comments for section 126-32 6 Testing of Individuals Enrolled in the Option Pathway

Students not having to attend school after completing testing and/or career technical concentration is a positive for all stakeholders.

126CSR32

RECEIVED APR 30 2013

POLICY2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: May 13, 2013

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Notice: Comments are submitted shall be filed with the West Virginia Secretary of State's office and kept in a public place for a period of 90 days after the close of the comment period.

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on Policy 2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name: Carol McClaugherly Organization: Mercer Co Schools
Title: Career Connections Coordinator
City: Princeton State: WV

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- School System Superintendent
- School System Staff
- Parent/Family
- Principal
- Teacher
- Business/Industry
- Professional Support Staff
- Service Personnel
- Community Member

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS	
§126-32-1. General.	<i>This policy provides excellent opportunities for students and results in a better-prepared workforce.</i>
§126-32.2. State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.	

126CSR32

<p>§126-32.3. Applying for Testing.</p>
<p>§126-32.4. Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.</p>
<p>§126-32.5. Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger.</p>
<p>§126-32.6. Testing of Individuals Enrolled in the Option Pathway. <i>Students not having to attend school after completing testing and for career technical concentration is a positive for all stakeholders.</i></p>
<p>§126-32.7. Testing of Individuals Participating in a Government Program.</p>
<p>§126-32.8. Testing of Option Pathway Students Enrolled in Mountaineer Challenge Academy.</p>
<p>§126-32.9. Testing of Option Pathway Students in West Virginia State Correctional or Residential Facilities for Custody and Treatment.</p>
<p>§126-32.10. Residence.</p>

126CSR32

§126-32.11. Transcripts of Scores.
§126-32.12. Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations.
§126-32.13. Testing Fees.
§126-32.14. All correspondence regarding this policy should be directed to.
§126-32.15. Severability.

Please direct all comments to:

Dewayne Duncann, Executive Director
Office of Optional Educational Pathways
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Building 6, Room 728
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
E-Mail Address: ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us
Fax No.: (304) 558-6315

Jenelle Feldhaus

From: Dewayne Duncan <ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 8:12 AM
To: jmosley@access.k12.wv.us
Cc: dtetrick@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2013-04-12 23:19:04)

Jenelle,

Please start a file to collect the comments related to Policy 2444.4. The policy is on comment until May 13, 2013.

Thanks,

D. Dewayne Duncan
Executive Director
Office of Optional Educational Pathways

Building 6, Room 728
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330
304.558.7881 P
304.558.5042 F
E-mail ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us
wvde.state.wv.us

f | t | g+ | YT | wt

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nobody [<mailto:nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:19 PM
To: ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2013-04-12 23:19:04)

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Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

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Name: Stefan Smolski

Organization: Grafton High School

Title: Teacher

City/State: Fairmont, WV

Role: Teacher

Posted: 2013-04-12 23:19:04

Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-32 8 Testing of Option Pathway Students Enrolled in Mountaineer Challenge Academy

This is an outstanding change to the policy. As a MCA mentor, this change provides incentive to the cadets to complete the rigorous program and opens doors that are closing to those without a high school diploma even with a GED. This also removes the NCLB penalty to a high school for any student attending MCA. I can more effectively counsel my students to consider this pathway to their diploma who might otherwise become wards of the penal system.

Dewayne Duncan

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2013 12:52 PM
To: ddduncan@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2013-05-10 12:51:37)

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Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

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Name: Kathy Tasker
Organization: Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy
Title: Director
City/State: Kingwood, WV
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-05-10 12:51:37
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-32 8 Testing of Option Pathway Students Enrolled in Mountaineer Challenge Academy

At a minimum, the Academy would like the Department of Education to include waiver considerations (a and b) to prevent excluding segments of the at-risk population. The proposed version of §126-32-8.3 states: " The sixteen (16) seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) years of age student currently enrolled in a West Virginia high school participating in the Option Pathway shall be awarded a high school diploma from their high school of origin by Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy and be counted as a graduate if the student meets the following requirements..."rna."...student currently enrolled..." limits the students served by the Academy. The Academy suggests changing this segment to " ... student currently (Ms. Tasker suggested striking through the word currently)enrolled..". rni. Students are eligible to enroll into the Academy who are residents of the state, 30 days. The Academy is currently in discussions with Preston County Schools to explore registration options and Student Assis!

tance Team support for those few students coming from out of state or home school situations. Individual situations would be addressed in waiver requests.rnii. Students who have dropped-out are eligible to attend the Academy. Home high schools should have the opportunity to re-enroll and recode a student in WVEIS so that student success can be captured in graduation rates. These could be addressed in waiver requests.rnb. "...participating in the Option Pathway..." limits the Academy's ability to offer the diploma option to only those students coming from an attendance area that currently offering the Option Pathway. The intent was to make it available for all students attending the MCA. This restriction was not previously discussed with the MCA. This would be a severe limiting factor. At this time, not all school systems are enrolled in the Option Pathway. Some school systems such as Martinsburg have stated that they will not enroll. Wood County does not have the cap!
acity to increase attendance at the vo-tech center and is not !
currentl

y enrolled. These are two of the largest county systems represented by Academy students. If the Academy's ability to coordinate high school diplomas is to be effective, this section should be deleted.rnc. For complete clarity, the Academy suggest adding, repeating verbiage to clarify that the home high school would count the student as a graduate.rnrnRevisions suggested by the Academy to §126-32-8.3:rn"The sixteen (16) seventeen (17) or eighteen (18)

years of age student currently (Ms. Tasker suggested striking through the word currently) enrolled in a West Virginia high school participating in the Option Pathway (Ms. Tasker suggested striking through the words participating in the Option Pathway) shall be awarded a high school diploma from their high school of origin by Mountaineer Challenge Academy and be counted as a graduate from their high school of origin (Ms. Tasker suggested to add the wording from their high school of origin) if the student meets the following requirements..."

Comments for section 126-32-9 Testing of Option Pathway Students in West Virginia State Correctional or Residential Facilities for Custody and Treatment

The proposed changes to Policy 2444.4, included a reference to Mountaineer Challenge Academy under §126-32-9 Testing of Option Pathway Students in West Virginia State Correctional or Residential Facilities for custody and treatment which does not apply to the Academy. The Academy should not be mentioned in Section 9.3. This issue is correctly addressed for the Academy in Section 8.5.

MCA – DIR

March 13, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO DEBRA KIMBLER, Assistant Director, Office of Optional Educational Pathways, West Virginia Department of Education

SUBJECT: Policy 2444.4 Changes and Modifications

1. Thank you for working with the Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy and establishing a pathway for disenfranchised students to obtain a diploma through the ChalleNGe Program.
2. After reviewing the changes to Policy 2444.4, the Academy has three suggestions for §126-32-8.3. Two issues would limit the Academy's ability to offer the possibility of a high school diploma to all students selected to attend. At a minimum, the Academy would like the Department of Education to include waiver considerations (a and b) to prevent excluding segments of the at-risk population. The proposed version of §126-32-8.3 states: "The sixteen (16) seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) years of age student currently enrolled in a West Virginia high school participating in the Option Pathway shall be awarded a high school diploma from their high school of origin by Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy and be counted as a graduate if the student meets the following requirements:..."
 - a. "...student currently enrolled..." limits the students served by the Academy. The Academy suggests changing this segment to "... student currently enrolled...".
 - i. Students are eligible to enroll into the Academy who are residents of the state, 30 days. The Academy is currently in discussions with Preston County Schools to explore registration options and Student Assistance Team support for those few students coming from out of state or home school situations. Individual situations would be addressed in waiver requests.
 - ii. Students who have dropped-out are eligible to attend the Academy. Home high schools should have the opportunity to re-enroll and recode a student in WVEIS so that student success can be captured in graduation rates. These could be addressed in waiver requests.
 - b. "...participating in the Option Pathway..." limits the Academy's ability to offer the diploma option to only those students coming from an attendance area that currently offering the Option Pathway. The intent was to make it available for all students attending the MCA. This restriction was not previously discussed with the MCA. This would be a severe limiting factor.

At this time, not all school systems are enrolled in the Option Pathway. Some school systems such as Martinsburg have stated that they will not enroll. Wood County does not have the capacity to increase attendance at the vo-tech center and is not currently enrolled. These are two of the largest county systems represented by Academy students. If the Academy's ability to coordinate high school diplomas is to be effective, this section should be deleted.

- c. For complete clarity, the Academy suggests adding, repeating verbiage to clarify that the home high school would count the student as a graduate.
3. Revisions suggested by the Academy to §126-32-8.3:
"The sixteen (16) seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) years of age student ~~currently enrolled in a West Virginia high school participating in the Option Pathway~~ shall be awarded a high school diploma from their high school of origin by Mountaineer Challenge Academy and be counted as a graduate from their high school of origin if the student meets the following requirements:..."
4. The proposed changes to Policy 2444.4, includes a reference to Mountaineer Challenge Academy under §126-32-9 Testing of Option Pathway Students in West Virginia State Correctional or Residential Facilities for custody and treatment which does not apply to the Academy. The Academy should not be mentioned in Section 9.3. This issue is correctly addressed for the Academy in Section 8.5.
5. Please consider these modifications. Without change, the original goal of our collaboration will not be met. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Kathy Lynn Tasker
Director