

Policy 3234: School Calendar
Comment Log
October 10, 2013 – November 12, 2013

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

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
§126-(73)-(1) General				
10-18	Cemantha Woody PRAYRS --Parents Rallying Against Year Round School Buckhannon WV	Seriously??? ELIMINATING school trips. They have basically taken every thing away from these kids. It's something every year and now their field trips. Do you really think they can't learn anything outside of school. Adding 5 more weeks to the calendar is not going to make these kids learn more. They are burnt out by the time summer comes. The kids need a break, the parents need a break and I'm sure the Teachers need a break. No wonder we have such a high drop out rate. It's more like prison than school. I didn't realize it was against the law to have fun in school these days. Why don't they try going back to basics and teach these kids how to deal with life. I am speaking as a parent and I think I know my child's needs better than anyone. I don't personally think he is going to learn any more sitting in class 5 more weeks out of the year. He is mentally going to shut down. Reality is these kids are NOT a number or a statistic and the kids bringing down your "numbers" wouldn't score any higher, if they	NA/-	Policy 3234 does not eliminate school trips. Co-curricular trips are still allowed as they are counted as instructional time. Also, Policy 3234 does not mandate an additional five weeks of instructional time on the school calendar. It simply provides for a longer window for the counties to use for their calendar. The extended calendar allows for counties to have more flexibility.

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		were in school 365 days a year. The state needs to put their focus on revamping this crappy testing system and get back to teaching our kids the basics of life, Reading, Writing, and Math. The thing that gets me the most is that the State gets to dictate to us what we have to do. Let us, the parents and Teachers have a vote.		
10-21	Allyson Schoenlein Director of Title Programs Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.	NA/-	Instructional support (IS) days were eliminated as part of Senate Bill 359 to enable county boards to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction to students. While the IS days were counted as instructional days, students generally did not attend school.
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	No problem noted.	N/o	
11-07	Bobby Ratliff Burlington Wv	Let the kids enjoy the warm weather. Kids need to be kids. Starting school early is taking away from kids. I feel that they start to early now and you are wanting them to start earlier, that is just wrong. I feel like kids get more exercise in the summer with swimming, riding bikes, so if you want to fight obesity, don't take that from them	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Kandi Resh	I am opposed to the changes in the school	N/-	

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	Mental Health/Disabilitlities/Transition Coordinator Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	calendar, employment term and instructional term.		
11-08	Ashlee Hoppert Ridgeley WV	I am totally against a year round school calendar. The children started school on August 15th this year and weren't even let out until the beginning of June. They had no summer!!! Kids should be allowed to be children. Everything is becoming so strict and rigid. We wonder why the world is the way that it is now. Well, lets start doing things the way that we used to. Kids go to school during the winter, and they have the summers off to enjoy their childhood. Simple! These years go by fast, and I don't know about other parents, but I want my child to remain young,free, innocent for as long as possible. I don't want him overwhelmed by strict guidelines that force him to become miserable. I want him to swim, play, ride his bike, catch bugs, watch fireworks, have picnics, climb trees, and do all the other things that a summer allows a child to do.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	frederick f. pritts II Mr. fort ashby wv	seriously, year round school. If your considering this I might have to consider voting for new school board members and senators. Our children work hard at school and they deserve the same break from June to September they always have. They will be adults soon enough and have to work every single day. How much more in taxes will	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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11-08	Janie Academic Coach Merendino Fairmont wv	this cost for the extra months and teachers salaries? As I read the proposed changes to school calendars, I am wondering if the ones that wrote this policy are aware of the latest research on what enhances student achievement. Teachers having time devoted to professional development is a must. As I work in teacher's classrooms I see a great need for teacher content knowledge in the area of mathematics. Elementary teachers do not know what some of the standards for elementary math mean. Coaching is a wonderful opportunity to build this knowledge and it does happen in the classroom. However finding time for those courageous conversations that need to follow is a hardship as our calendar is fixed. Taking away time for this is going backwards in our concept of what a good schedule includes. A few days for instructional support can make significant increases in teacher content and teacher behaviors that lead to student behaviors that leads to student achievement.	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
11-08	Adrianne Minard Teacher Keyser WV	The move to year-round school isn't wanted by parents or teachers! If the WV school system really values parents as a partners in their children's education, then they should put year-round school (and the new calendar changes) out for vote during the next election.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-09	Toni Dell	We should not go to school year round. The	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor

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	Teacher Frankfort intermediate school Fort ashby Wv	students need their summers to be able to relax and have fun. Teachers need to be able to decompress for the summer so they are ready to go back and teach.		State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-09	Kacia Parent Elk Garden Primary Elk Garden WV	The school system has operated successfully under the original scheduling for many years. Maybe the change should be curriculum and teaching and support staff instead of student and staff members time.	NA/-	The changes to the school calendar requirements were the result of Senate Bill 359.
11-12	Paula Athey Principal mineral co schools Wiley Ford wv	We are in need of scheduled professional development days that are built into the calender. We have so much to cover with our staff that without these its difficult to teach and re teach concepts.	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
11-12	Stephanie Mace Fort Ashby West	As a recent graduate of Frankfort High School, I am taking a stand against the change in the school calendar. In high school, I was in the band all four years of my high school career. Two of those years, I served as the Drum Major. Throughout my band experience and even in the present, the Frankfort High School Band was and is always known to be a great representation not only of the Mineral County Schools but the entire state as well. The Frankfort High School Marching Band as well as other bands and extracurricular activities in the West Virginia school system	NA/-	Participation in the high school band is a very valuable experience for students. Bands will still have time to practice after school, during the summer break and on non-instructional days.

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		rehearse and practice numerous times in the summer and outside of the school day. Lengthening the school calendar will limit the practice these extracurricular activities have and will ultimately decrease the willingness to participate in such things. Without summer and instructional support day rehearsals, the Frankfort High School Marching Band would not have been able to represent Mineral County Schools and the entire state of West Virginia in the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Parade. If the calendar is lengthened, this great state of West Virginia will not see as much representation of the school system through extracurricular activities because the unnecessary change will diminish the time these students will have to prepare for once in a lifetime experiences. I am really concerned at the 180 day requirement and flexibility or really lack thereof in this bill. Young people need time to do activities other than school. Although the magic 180 days sounds reasonable, you have to have a starting and stopping date for those of us outside the school system. In addition, there is extra cost involved-- school bus drivers and cooks get paid on late days-- they will need to be paid extra to "make up" these days. If you go to this almost "year round" calendar, you are denying middle class and low income children affordable opportunities. Our weather is not conducive for children to be in		
11-12	Brenda M. Pruett WVU Extension Agent WVU Mercer County Extension Princeton WV		NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. Each local county board will establish a starting and ending date for their school calendar. The end date may be revised depending on the weather and

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		school all summer. Children are limited in outside activities in much of the year. In summer this is not the case. However, calendars are being adapted so that the 180 days won't be missed virtually making children go year round to school. This policy needs public hearings and practical people to review and rework it. What : "sounds good" when one looks at it is not necessarily practical when put into practice. In addition, there are many extra curricular and outside activities that are much more effective for children to participate in than a day or two sitting in a classroom but school systems punish children for participating in these activities. For example, I take 40 plus children to WVU Day at the Legislature and then on to the science center. I seldom have High School students because if they miss too much they must take finals. Therefore, the really conscientious ones don't attend and miss out on a very worthwhile activity because it is not seen as school activity and is not an excused absence from taking finals. Policies that are intended on the surface to force children/families into making good decisions are punishing those of us who value education and doing little for those who do not. I do not agree with changing the school year from a 43 week term to a 48 week term. I believe this would cause a chain reaction of inconveniences and well as would not be in the best interest of the		need to make up days to achieve the 180 days of instruction. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A
11-12	Kara Arthur Secretary/Accountant Keyser WV		NA/-	

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		students. (1) Many parents have full time jobs and this could cause great distress on many families in the way of finding daycare providers who are willing to only take on children during the "off-times" of the school year. (2) Many families have already planned vacations around the traditional time off and therefore would cause a great number of absences. To begin this change for the 2014-2015 school year isn't fair to those parents/staff members who have already planned and possibly paid for those vacations. Family vacations are a very important part of the family life and this could definitely put a wrench in their plans. At least if it were to be proposed for the 2015-2016 school year, families and staff throughout WV would have a proper chance to prepare for how this will alter their planning/lifestyles. (3) I feel that year round schooling would possibly be okay for older students but I feel that younger students would not benefit from this proposal. My experience has been that children that young take a while to get back on track after a long period of absence so increasing those absences would be a detriment to their education. (4) As far as enrolling students and transferring, it makes it very difficult for parents who are transferring from one school (state) to another would have a difficult time knowing when school was in session. For instance, if a child moves from another state in August, they would have already missed a possible 2 months at that point simply because our		balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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		school was on a different schedule.		
11-12	Tammy Dunn Parent Ridgeley ww	Keep the school calendar the way it is, some of us like having our children home for a full month or better. We like to teach the common sense items to our children.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	June DiJirolanio Teacher Chester WV	I do not approve of the make up of 2 hr delays. Inclement weather is totally an unpredictable event. I feel the current way suffices.	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
§126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval				
10-19	Savannah Buckhannon ww	DO NOT agree with the new projected school calendar.	N/-	
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	No problems noted.	N/o	
11-08	Richard Thompson School Counselor Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	I have serious concerns with the school calender up for discussion. July 23 is way too early to send students back to school. I realize there is a push to move towards "year round schools" but this calendar doesn't make sense. Taking (3) intercession weeks combined with a fall break interrupts the flow of education provided to the students, especially when(3) of those weeks fall	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. July 23 rd is not a mandated start date as part

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		when the weather isn't a threat to cancel school (Sept. 29-Oct. 10 & March 23-27) Having the students attend school those (3) weeks along with the January intercession (Jan. 5-9) you could move the start date back to Aug. 20, which I (and many others) still think is too early for students to go back but at least its better than July 24. Also what if the week you have your January intercession is the only good week of weather in that month of January? You just wasted a week that students could be attending school. As for making up 2 hour delays, why not just get rid of 2 hour delays? In my county they are usually used in the event of cold weather. If its 5 degrees at 6:30 in the a.m. chances are two hours later the temperature will only rise to be 12-15 degrees, what did the delay accomplish? Get rid of it. Most superintendents and transportation directors monitor the weather and roads religiously during the winter months, make the decision early and live with it. Get rid of the two hour delays! I believe most parents would not like this calendar but the problem is they are unaware of it being out for public comment and/or they aren't sure how to access this site in which to voice their opinions. I am opposed to year round schooling. Please take into consideration the dramatic impact this would have on many families in the State of West Virginia.		of this policy. Each county board will be responsible for developing their own calendar within the guidelines set forth in State Board Policy 3234. The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A
11-08	Blake Pritts Fort Ashby WV		NA/-	

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11-08	Janie Simmons Parent Keyser WV	I sure hope this does not pass, children need that long summer break, to grow and learn, a lot of childhood adventures happen during the summer, if we take that away we will be taking away part of their childhood, also the dropout rate will go way up, The board themselves was children once, and they need to remember how it felt on that last day of school before summer break. PLEASE SAY NO .If it passes I will home school my children and encourage others to do the same. Its just sad.	NA/-	balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. Individual county boards are responsible for the development of their calendars.
11-11	Keith Foster Beckley WV	VOTE NO if this school calendar is based on your proposed new school calendar policy	NA/-	The WV Legislature passed Senate Bill 359 during the 2013 legislative session, which amended WV State Code to require that the WV Board of Education develop a school calendar policy which all county boards of education must follow in order to be in compliance with the new statutes. State Board Policy 3234 essentially outlines all of the requirements contained in WVC §18-5-45.
11-12	Jenny Keech Parent	No year around school!	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234

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	Mineral Co Schools Fort Ashby WV			mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	Jenny Keech Parent Mineral Co Schools Fort Ashby WV	No year around school!	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
§126-(73)-(11) Severability				
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	No problems noted.	N/o	
§126-(73)-(2) Purpose				
10-21	Allyson Schoenlein Director of Title Programs Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	The purpose is laudable, to insure all students receive adequate time for their instruction each year. HOWEVER, it time isn't filled with high quality instruction, more of the same thing won't help any kids. We must not lose sight of the need to train and retrain teachers. Moving to the Common Core Standards and Nxt Gen Assessment makes this even more necessary!	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel	I'm not sure you have succeeded in giving the school systems more flexibility. Even though	N/-	

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	Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	you've extended the number of weeks from 43 to 48, I believe the parameters may be even more stringent.		
§126-(73)-(3) Application				
10-14	Steve Mascaro Morgantown WV	Delay until 2015-2016 school year to allow appropriate time for public comments. A majority of parents are not aware of the impact of this change.	NA/-	WVC §18-5-45(q) requires that the changes made during the 2013 regular session be effective for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2014.
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	No problems noted.	N/o	
§126-(73)-(4) Definitions				
10-14	Steve Mascaro Morgantown WV	Remove 4.8 Noninstructional day from list of definitions.	N/-	Since the term is not defined in code, it is felt that the definition is needed (see following comment).
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	Definitions are appropriate.	N/+	
11-11	Stacey Strawderman teacher Fairmont WV	4.9 School year - maybe add here within 48 weeks.	NA/o	The school year is defined pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-1-2.
11-11	Doug Lambert Superintendent	4.1 Accrued Instructional Time:	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes

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	Pendleton County Schools	While here in Pendleton County we have accrued time that will equal an additional 6 days on time that can be used for Professional Development (PD) activities for staff, 2 hour delays and early dismissals due to inclement weather, I am concerned that this time will be used in a quick manner due to our interesting weather patterns. It may come to pass that we possibly will cancel school altogether for a day when such a delay or early dismissal would suffice. Obviously, that will add extra days to the end of the calendar to satisfy the 180 day requirement but why cancel/dismiss for just a small period of time due to the constrictions of the policy?		to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
		§126-(73)-(5) School Calendar		
10-14	Steve Mascaro Morgantown WV	Remove 5.3. This past summer in Mon Co. was shortened once again. Parents count on being able to spend time with their kids in the summer when the weather is nice. We have such little time with them when they are young, this will just reduce that time even more. Planning summer vacations will become even more problematic. Planning any vacations during the mini-breaks during a year-round scenario would be financially risky since, I'm sure if school is missed due to snow days, one of the mini-breaks would be reduced by the same amount. Great chance to loose money on deposits.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. Noninstructional days are required pursuant to WVC §18-5-45.

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		Duel income household's will be further burdened with finding child care during short periods throughout the year. Much easier to schedule 3 months vs. 2-3 weeks several times a year.		
		Remove noninstructional days. Waste of taxpayer money and the reason schools can't meet the "mandated" calendar. Better focused instruction removes the time element of calendars anyway. Better job of teaching = no need for this measure. Studies have shown year-round schedules do nothing to improve student performance. There is absolutely no proof of need for this measure.		
		Overall, do not enact this change as there are no stated benefits, yet issues that are produced by this change are easily visualized.		
10-16	Mary Knapp Special Education Director Boone County Schools Madison WV	If a school is closed for lack of power and the day needs to be made up, will there be money to pay the bus drivers who may have already worked that day delivering students to other schools?	NA/-	County boards can avoid such costs by using compensatory time.
10-17	Robin Lee Mrs. Augusta WV	I understand there is a push for an all year school calendar from July 31-June 30. This is concern in our rural area for many reasons. The 4-H program is huge in this area. Over 300 kids participate in the Hampshire County fair; many of their parents are school employees. It's already difficult to get the students/children to the fairgrounds when you are a parent as well as an employee. Animal	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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		juding takes place during the early afternoon which means parents need to help the kids get ready with grooming, feeding, practicing, etc. In addition, there are various chores to perform in the livestock barns. This program teaches the kids responsibility, teamwork, sportmanship, and many other positive traits. If the calendar changes, breeding season will need to be adjusted. A goat, for instance, must weight 60 pounds by the fair in order to be sold. A month's difference means and adjustment must be made in breeding. A year in advance is necessary for that. In addition, many students attend Vacation Bible School during the summer, visit their estranged parents, attend Girl Scout/Boy Scout Camps, and rent river lots for the summer. Many parents only have a babysitter for the summer but may have issues getting a babysitter for other months like February; which is what I heard would be the case. Camp and Fair dates are usually determined a year to 18months in advance. If a change is in the works for the calendar, I highly suggest it be discussed with the various organizations and that at least a year notice to all parents, organizations, and interest groups in order to prepare as well as the full list of benefits for doing so. I understand Charleston's community is different from this area but not better and not worse...just different. It may be difficult for you to appreciate the positive impact these groups and activities have on our students and children.		

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10-17	Julie Yearego Ellamore Wv	I am very concerned about a proposed year-round school calendar for Upshur co. I teach in another county and the different schedules would cost my family around \$2000 more a year in childcare costs. There are no strong research results to prove to me the added benefit of year round school over the traditional method. Also we would miss out a good deal of family time together due to the conflicting schedules. From the Board of Ed meetings, the county seems to be under the impression there is a strong "suggestion/recommendation " from WVDE to look into adopting a year round schedule. This would affect many families I know negatively, especially with child care options. Please reconsider your suggestive stance to the counties.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
10-17	Julia Brady teacher Upshur County Schools Buckhannon WV	The idea that school trips should not be counted in the 180 days is ridiculous. Who ever said all learning takes place in a classroom? If you like, make a ruling about the educational relevance of school trips; i.e., require sponsors to document the pre- and post- activities as well as learning objectives covered by the trip. There will not be any trips if they have to be taken on weekends, breaks or holidays. Many of our students benefit greatly from the opportunity to experience trips to places their families would never take them.	NA/-	Per section 4.2 of the State Board Policy 3234, cocurricular activities are allowed and do meet the criteria of instructional time as defined in section 4.5.b of the policy.
10-19	Savannah Buckhannon wv	I do not agree with the new school calendar they are discussing. Having so many breaks between schooling is difficult for the children and teachers	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-

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		will have to spend so much time going back over what was learned before the break that it won't benefit the children AT ALL! Children need time to be children and DESERVE their time off in the summer when they can enjoy the beautiful weather.		round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
10-21	Allyson Schoenlein Director of Title Programs Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.	NA/-	Instructional support (IS) days were eliminated as part of Senate Bill 359 to enable county boards to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction to students. While the IS days were counted as instructional days, students generally did not attend school.
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	99% of the time, I think County Boards of Education can guarantee 180 instructional days. That being said, in rare instances, this may be impossible. I think those minute possibilities need to be addressed in policy. If the intent of 5.3 is to address these situations, then I think that will suffice.	NA/o	Section 5.3 and 5.4 require that a county board develop an inclement weather and emergencies policy to guarantee that 180 separate days of instruction are provided to students. If the county board determines that a longer instructional term is needed to meet the 180 day requirement, then a longer instructional term is allowed so long as the employment term is also increased by a

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10-22	mindy toler mrs martinsburg wv	If it is true that you are suggesting to extend the calendar 5 weeks, when will students be able to enjoy family time? Not all of life is surrounded by the education gathered inside a school building. Please consider the effect of our students and the families who enjoy having their children home. There are more families who deserve better than this fix-all philosophy pushed down their throats because of the families who are the minority. Life IS NOT about a test!	NA/-	comparable number of days. State Board Policy 3234 does not mandate an additional five weeks of instructional time on the school calendar. It simply provides for a longer window for the counties to use for their calendar. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
10-23	Karen Bollinger Teacher Summers Co. Schools Hinton WV	I disagree with the elimination of the Instruction Support days. Teachers utilize these days to meet with parents, assist students and meet with other teachers. Communication is of vital importance to the educational process. These IS days are needed for that communication. Please reconsider the elimination of these days and keep them in future calendars.	NA/-	Instructional support (IS) days were eliminated as part of Senate Bill 359 to enable county boards to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction to students. While the IS days were counted as instructional days, students generally did not attend school.
10-26	Barbara TAYlor member Nicholas County Board of Education Fenwick WV	5.5 declaration of state disaster should be included 5.6 being able to receive a waiver is an excellent idea	NA/- N/+	WVC §18-5-45 does not contain an exception for declaration of a state disaster, only a federal disaster area.

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10-30	Pamela Phares Teacher Eastern Greenbrier Middle School Ronceverte WV	As a teacher from a school in Greenbrier County, I strongly disagree with the idea of making up every day missed for weather situations. Some years, we have mild winters and miss very few days. Some years, we get pounded with snow and ice, causing us to miss many days.	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
		As a teacher, I know what I am responsible for teaching. The CSOs give me that information. I also know that I can effectively teach all of my CSOs in less than 180 days. If we miss a couple of weeks during the winter, it is definitely feasible to still teach everything we are supposed to.		
		Being from a rural county, I know many of my students live and work on farms. If the school year is extended, it will take valuable time away from the students who need to help their families on the farms.		
		We also host the WV State Fair here in Greenbrier County. It would be nearly impossible to have school during the fair, since MANY teachers, bus drivers, and students work at the fair. It would also create a logistical nightmare where traffic is concerned, since three of the counties largest schools are less than a mile from the fairgrounds. It would be impossible for busses to be on time.		
		Why is 180 the magic number for educational days? I can teach all of my CSOs easily in 160, or		

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11-01	Susanne Gompers Buckhannon wv	even less. I am not only a parent of three children within the WV school system, but I am also employed by the BOE. I am currently on the substitute list and interested in full time employment. If the school calendar goes to a year round version, my family will be greatly disappointed. We are opposed to a year round school calendar. Having this type of calendar would greatly affect our way of life. My husband is self employed and family time is very important to us. We would lose time together, if the calendar was to change. I also would be less likely to continue being a substitute and would definitely not seek full time employment with the BOE. There are countless reasons that year round schooling is NOT a good plan. Thank you for your time.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-05	Michael Wells Superintendent Pleasants County Schools St. Marys WV	180 instructional days sounds good. However, "it's not the time you put in, it's what you put in the time."	NA/-	WVC §18-5-45 requires the school calendar to provide one hundred and eighty separate instructional days. The quality of the instructional provided on those days is also very important.
11-06	Jennifer Hanson teacher Rupert WV	The taking of school preparation days at the beginning and end of a school year in unacceptable. If teachers are to do a quality job, getting organized is one of those necessary areas. No professional should be treated with such disdain and disrespect.	NA/-	Preparation days have not been removed. Counties still have the discretion of scheduling preparation days as part of the twenty noninstructional days required

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				in the school calendar.
11-06	Amber Osborne Teacher Rupert Elementary school WVEA member Rupert Wv	If prep days are taken away, when are teachers supposed to prepare for the classroom and students? Teachers take enough work home now as it is and are not compensated for it. I think the suits and people that sit in an office all day, not around other faculty members or students, need to come work a few days in a teacher's job. Swallowing lunch whole in about fifteen minutes because you had students that needed help or taken care of, so you used part of your 30 minute lunch to help. We have people in positions that know nothing about the education system trying to come up with policies or change policies.	NA/-	Preparation days have not been removed. Counties still have the discretion of scheduling preparation days as part of the twenty noninstructional days required in the school calendar.
11-06	sandra Beale teacher ronceverte wv	I would like to state my disapproval of allowing The teacher prep. days to be used as make up snow days. Teachers already spend at least two or more days of their own time preparing for beginning of school and closing at the end of the school term. To ask them to spend more of their own time for this is totally unfair. It will also not benefit the students. Some teachers will not spend their own time, therefore they will not be as prepared as they normally would. the students will be the ones who suffer this effect. It would be in the best interest of the students to always allow at least one prep day at the beginning of the school term.	NA/-	County boards now have discretion as to what type of day is used to make up a canceled instructional day; they can use available noninstructional days or use an out-of-calendar day instead of remaining noninstructional days and continue to use the noninstructional days as originally scheduled. In this manner, the county board can protect a particular noninstructional day, such as the preparation day for the closing of school, from being

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				used as a make-up day.
11-06	Lisa Martin Teacher Coalton Elementary Elkins WV	Why eliminate IS days? I've taught 30 years and yearly the paperwork and committee meetings increase. When are we supposed to address these issues? Believe me the 40 minute planning period a day doesn't cut it. By the way, my school, like many small schools provided the extra 10 minutes by having students report to class 10 minutes earlier thereby reducing my before school planning time by 10 minutes. I don't blame my administrator for this action. I blame legislative action that did not take the reality of the situation into account as they did not with most of Senate Bill 359.	NA/-	Instructional support (IS) days were eliminated as part of Senate Bill 359 to enable county boards to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction to students. While the IS days were counted as instructional days, students generally did not attend school.
11-07	Mike Saturday Principal Elk Garden Primary School Elk Garden WV	5.5 States the State Superintendent in any county declared a federal disaster area and where the event causes the declaration is substantially related to a reduction of instructional days. There are times the governor declares a "state of emergency." If a "state of emergency" is declared statewide or for a particular area, considerations and waivers should be made in the calendar.	NA/-	WVC §18-5-45 does not contain an exception for declaration of a state of emergency declaration by the governor, only a federal disaster area.
11-07	Annette Simmons Supervisory Aide Special Needs Alderson Elementary Alderson WV	Due to the area that we live in, we will always have snow days. We put enough of our time in now as it is. Please leave the calendar as it is.	NA/-	The school calendar policy changes as noted in State Board Policy 3234 are required by Senate Bill 359 which was passed during the 2013 legislative session.
11-07	Sue Everett	There is NO magic number of days that will make	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor

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	3rd Grade Teacher at New Creek Primary Mineral County Schools New Creek WV	a difference for some students. In years that our county had an above normal amount of days missed due to weather, our test scores did not suffer. How will delays of some schools be recovered when the county has already paid bus drivers for the days missed?? There has to be provisions for areas that recieve an enormous amount of snow in the winter. If year round school is what we are going for, lets just say it. I think going 6 weeks on, 2 or 3 weeks off would make more sense. I would like someone to be more specific with this policy. Spell out exactly what it is...because as it is now...it sounds alot like Obamacare...tell us one thing... and then do what you want.....which is a big mistake... I teach at Elk Garden Primary in Mineral County. Elk Garden is at the top of the mountain unlike the rest of the county. Therefore our weather is more severe than the other parts of the county. It is not safe for the students or teachers to travel in snowy weather. The state road has said in other years it was not safe to be out but the county did not listen. Our middle and high school students have to travel up and down the mountain which is scary. What is going to happen when our school is called off for the day and the buses do not go off the mountain. They say we will have to make it up but who is going to teach them off the mountain, when they had school and we didn't? What is it		State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. Counties will be required to make up time lost for two hour delays and early dismissals. Each county will determine how best to make up such time as part of their county policy.
11-07	Debra Novallis Teacher School Elk Garden WV		NA/-	Decisions related to canceling school, two hours delays, early dismissals, etc. will be made at the county level.

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11-07	Julie Burns Keyser WV	going to take? A bus full of kids getting hurt and a law suit for someone to listen to us! Oh yeah, we are a SUCCESS school! I do not feel that the 2014-2015 school year should begin August 3. This will hinder many activities that families have planned. Summer camps, vacations, bible schools, cub scouting, just to mention a few will still be holding summer time events. What is so wrong with how it used to be? Start school at the end of August, right before Labor Day? The students, parents and school staff will have to cut their summer vacations short. Who wants to attend camp or go to the beach in May?	NA/-	State Board Policy 3234 does not mandate a start date of August 3 rd .
11-07	Jennifer Self New Creek WV	I am strongly against this school calendar. When you live in farm communities, the children need to help their families with farm work. They are needed to help support their families economically, by making hay or harvesting produce. Also School would be starting before County and State fairs. Students work all summer on their FFA/4-H projects and by starting school prior to these events will cause interference with their studying.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-07	miranda ratliff Burlington WV	Issue concerning the school calendar. What ever happened to let our kids be kids. This new proposal to Starr school August 3rd is a bit much.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-

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11-07	Bobby Ratliff Burlington Wv	You are wanting to start when it is getting hot out. People are still taking vacations. That is when rates are cheaper. We never had this back in days about wanting to go year around or starting before labor day and the older people turned out just fine. I would rather see kids go back end of September and get out end of June. At least the weather would be better for them and can enjoy summer! Let the kids enjoy the warm weather. Kids need to be kids. Starting school early is taking away from kids. I feel that they start to early now and you are wanting them to start earlier, that is just wrong. I feel like kids get more exercise in the summer with swimming, riding bikes, so if you want to fight obesity, don't take that from them	NA/-	round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. State Board Policy 3234 does not mandate a start date of August 3rd. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-07	Samantha Strother Keyser	I do not think these kids should go back to school so early. More kids will miss school than normal due to vacations and bible school. That's just a few. Kids would rather be off in August than May because the weather is much nicer in August and therefore will enjoy their time off. No one wants to spend their summer vacation indoors! Thank you	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-07	Melissa Nesselrodt New Creek West	I would like the board to think about the thought of staying school earlier each year. I feel that if they need more instructional days in the calendar that the kids should go to school longer into June add it is not as hot and family functions are not taking place. In June when kids are out of school it is not even warm enough for kids to swim or	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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		enjoy the outdoors. August there are still activities taking place. Keep then longer in June and go back Lauer in August!		
11-08	Kim Root Parent Fort Ashby Primary School Keyser WEST	I DISAGREE with this change. I feel that all students, teachers and facility work hard during the school year and look forward to this time off to relax and prepare for the next year. This would have a very negative effect of family vacation time and quality time with the children.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Wanda Weaver Fort Ashby WV	I'm totally opposed to changing our school calendar to year round. I grew up in California and we had year round school, it worked there, however we never had season's. Our students and their families need the summer off to enjoy our only months where we can enjoy the outdoors/beaches. I will take my child out of school and home school her if this shall go through.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Kandi Resh Mental Health/Disabilitlities/Transition Coordinator Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	Adding in snow days is not wise. We could go from Aug to Aug. Many students live in an area where it snows much more and are bussed to another school. This will cause much confusion with different areas having different amounts of snow and all in the same county. Who will teach the kids extra days? We will see many absences with families taking vacations. It will interrupt church and bible school, 4H, fairs, etc.	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45. That section of code also requires one hundred eighty separate days of instruction.
11-08	Richard Thompson	I have serious concerns with the school calender	NA/-	State Board Policy 3234 does

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	School Counselor Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	up for discussion. July 23 is way too early to send students back to school. I realize there is a push to move towards "year round schools" but this calendar doesn't make sense. Taking (3) intercession weeks combined with a fall break interrupts the flow of education provided to the students, especially when(3) of those weeks fall when the weather isn't a threat to cancel school (Sept. 29-Oct. 10 & March 23-27)Having the students attend school those (3) weeks along with the January intercession (Jan. 5-9) you could move the start date back to Aug. 20, which I (and many others) still think is too early for students to go back but at least its better than July 24. Also what if the week you have your January intercession is the only good week of weather in that month of January? You just wasted a week that students could be attending school. As for making up 2 hour delays, why not just get rid of 2 hour delays? In my county they are usually used in the event of cold weather. If its 5 degrees at 6:30 in the a.m. chances are two hours later the temperature will only rise to be 12-15 degrees, what did the delay accomplish? Get rid of it. Most superintendents and transportation directors monitor the weather and roads religiously during the winter months, make the decision early and live with it. Get rid of the two hour delays! I believe most parents would not like this calendar but the problem is they are unaware of it being out for public comment and/or they		not mandate a start date of July 23rd. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. The decision to have a two-hour delay is a local decision made by the county school board based on the determination of what is the safest course of action for the students.

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		aren't sure how to access this site in which to voice their opinions.		
11-08	Blake Pritts Fort Ashby WV	I am opposed to year round schooling. Please take into consideration the dramatic impact this would have on many families in the State of West Virginia.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
		Please leave the school calendar as is. Changing the school calendar would cause many problems for our school system, Pre-K\Head Start, students that are struggling, parents, staff members and families.		
11-08	Cynthia Ketterman Secretary\Accountant Mineral County Pre-K\Head Start Keyser WV	Making a so-called Flexible calendar which is just another way of saying, Year Around School, is not feasible for anyone. All the summer programs like summer school for struggling children to get extra help, Energy Express, summer reading programs, 4-H, band camps, church camps, and bible school, etc., will be affected. Children and staff need quality family time. Families don't do enough together as it is. Some families only get to sit and eat a meal as a family on a family vacation because of work schedules.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
		West Virginia has many farms. Children are needed at home in the summer to pick crops for food for the winter, sale crops for money and sale		

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		cattle for money to pay bills. Many bus drivers have 2nd jobs or are farmers.		
		We have heard in our area that there is no money for overtime for the state road to clear snow off of the roads this winter at night. Plowing will only be done during the day. Not counting 2 hour delays as a school day is ridiculous. Then why send staff to school to work without pay and send students to school if the work they do isn't going to count.		
		School systems do not have the money to pay staff, pay for extra electric, water, sewer, gas, food and supplies to keep schools open for longer hours in the day or for a longer school year. Our Pre-K\Head is part of our county school system. Where is the money going to come from to pay out more money for staff wages and more supplies. These 3 and 4 year olds are asleep by 2:00 p.m. They can't take a longer day or more days in the year. These small children are done with school by the 3rd week in May as many of them play T-ball. After the 1st of May, they come to school and sleep because they are so tired. It is daylight longer and they stay outside and play longer.		
		I beleive that if the calendar changes, more people will be moving out of the state, children will be missing more school for family functions and more high schoolers will be dropping out of		

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		school.		
		No amount of education can replace children missing socialization, learning skills to be independent, missing summer programs or taking time away from children and their families. There are some things in life that can't be replaced. Thank you.		
11-08	Staci Calder Teacher Public School Employee Ridgeley WV	Many teachers rely on summer jobs because salaries within the lower paying counties are not enough to cover student loans and other necessary expenses. Not only will you lose highly qualified teachers because they simply cannot afford to live on the current pay scale, but it will make recruitment of new teachers that much more difficult.	NA/-	The school calendar policy changes as noted in State Board Policy 3234 are required by Senate Bill 359 which was passed during the 2013 legislative session. No county boards of education are required to adopt a balanced calendar, so the majority of teachers will still have the opportunity to work other summers jobs if they so desire.
11-08	Travis Smith Ridgely wv	Keep the school schedule the way its been. Starting school in july makes it incredibly difficult to plan family vacations and spend extended time with my children.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Danielle Plum Keyser WV	I do not believe that instituting year round school would be beneficial to our area. Instead it would create a great hardship for the parents due to	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-

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		missing work or trying to find childcare. As a former employee of Mineral County Schools, I also know the importance of giving children a break over the summer, not to mention give the teachers and other staff a chance to regroup. We expect a lot of the kids, and they rise to those expectations, but they do need a break too. Most parents are able to find long-term childcare over the summer while they work. However, many childcare facilities will not hold a spot for a child that would just be there every several weeks when the schools have an extended break. The parents would either have to pay to reserve that spot or miss work. I do not know too many parents that could afford either of those options. Please consider keeping our school year as it is. Thank you.		round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Julianne Duckworth Parent Keyser Wv	I strongly DISAGREE with moving on with yr round schooling. Children need a continuous break, not just a week here and there. Many families plan vacations at this time. How will that be possible? As of right now, I have two children in Mineral County school system. I am very satisfied with the way things are being taught and would NOT want to see anything tgat drastic change. It's unnecessary! These are our children. We should not rush them to grow up!!	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Cathy Tasker	I really do nit agree with making the our children	NA/-	The requirement that a county

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	Keyser West	make up snow days.. There are times that my children do not go to school on these days because the roads are just to bad in the winter time... If you don't like the idea of the Keyser kids that ride the mountain buses then put Elk Garden back to the way it was 17 years ago.. Make it once again a complete school.. K through 12... I know that if the roads are bad here then my children will not be in school..		board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
11-08	Debra Knotts Parent Against 3234 Senate Bill (SB359) Ridgeley WV	I am against Senate bill(SB359). Proposal 3234 in the Mineral County School District. WV is already a poverty state,which would lead to more poverty,by not allowing Parents to stick to their Work Schedule.As well as using more energy during the hotter months of the year,as well as planned family vacations taken during the summer months,so I believe there will be a lot of absent students.If you really want to improve education in WV make it mandatory to do school work through the computer,through the school system during the summer months,we all know students love and enjoy the computer,then give the students a test to what they have learned.Thank You,Sincerely Debra Knotts/NF	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Mistee Bland Morgantown Wv	The idea of year-round school has been tried in other states with very little success. Why does West Virginia insist on using dated practices? Children need time to be children and teachers need time to recharge and train in better practices. Where does this fit in year-round school?	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to

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				county boards.
11-08	Adrianne Minard Teacher Keyser WV	I think that this policy has completely forgotten that we work with children. Children who need to run and play outside, who need to swim and play in the water with friends, and who need to be given time to be CHILDREN. This calendar policy has children in school during the best times for children to be outside playing. It doesn't allow children enough time to fully recharge their batteries. They will never feel refreshed and ready to start giving school their best, again. Instead, they will always be relearning the routines of school, because the new proposed calendar has them in and out so much. We'll constantly be starting over with the students; and there will be no continuity to units as they get separated by these mini breaks. Clearly, anyone who is proposing these in and out breaks has never worked with small children. Furthermore, this policy has completely ignores what it will be like for parents dealing with childcare. I feel for parents when they have to find someone to watch their children for a week in October, a week in November, a week in January, another week in March, and etc... Daycares won't hold spots for "here and there" children for free which means parents will have to miss work or pay to hold a fulltime spot!	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. The school calendar policy changes as noted in State Board Policy 3234 are required by Senate Bill 359 which was passed during the 2013 legislative session.

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		Also, how many children will be missing whole weeks of school, because parents can no longer figure out what breaks their children will have for sure to schedule vacations. If they don't know when their kids will be out of school for sure, they will just start taking vacations whenever having to look the other way as to how much their children will be missing during a whole week of school. (Being realistic, the only breaks that will be guaranteed will be those before November, because snow is just a fact of life in West Virginia.) While I truly believe that Mineral County would never do anything to purposely endanger students, I have to wonder will counties send students to school in weather that is dangerous just to avoid having to deal with making up these times that are going to be a logistics nightmare. Will counties keep schools open to avoid losing more break time? And if the schools are open in treacherous weather, how many parents will just keep their kids at home? It also seems ridiculous to not allow State of Emergency days to be forgiven when the government is basically telling you to stay off the road. These are extreme situations and have to be dealt with as exceptions. Policies have to allow for these exceptions in life! It is also ridiculous to have parents with children in different schools making up different amounts of days. This, again, goes back to making life even more difficult for		

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		parents which gives them yet another reason to dislike the school system. Overall, the proposed calendar changes are over the top. I have spoken to numerous parents about this policy and moving to year-round school, and they don't want it! They don't want a schedule that basically eliminates their children having a summer of fun and endangers their children's safety during the winter. If the WV school system really values parents as a partners in their children's education, then they should put year-round school (and the new calendar changes) out for vote during the next election.		
11-09	Robyn Carlson Keyser WV	I hope that they are going to add WORKING AC to all schools. A classroom with temps in the high 90's (many with windows that don't open) is a safety hazard, not a learning environment.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. While county boards of education will be required to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction, counties will have flexibility in determining how the calendar is structured to limit the number of days that

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11-09	Frank l. Hamrick taxpayer w.v. resident norton wv	Does extending the calander year as far as weeks of instruction come with a increase in pay for the teachers who are required to work these additional work weeks?	NA/-	students attend during the hot summer months. The extension of the period over which the employment term can fall from 43 to 48 weeks did not result in an increase in the number of days in the employment term. Teachers will still only be working 200 day contracts. As such, there is no additional pay related to that change in the school calendar.
11-09	Rebecca Jones Teacher WVEA Terra Alta WV	Because I teach in Preston County, I am very concerned about the proposals to essentially extend the school term to year round. If you are planning to have school during days when the weather is wicked, then you MUST invest in the manpower and equipment needed to keep the roads clear and passable in our county!	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-09	Tammy Ridgeley WV	I would oppose the drastic change to our children's school calendar. The benefits do not out-way the cons. of having school all-year round. I foresee a lot of family difficulties stemming from Daycare, Jobs, Extra Curricular activities, esp. when we are so close to the boarder of other states. Our families would not have the same time off from school to be able to participate in family gatherings. We personally camp a lot over the summer and this	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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11-09	Amy Marley Teacher Mineral County Schools Fort Ashby WV	would make our Summers so much shorter. I would think that everyone would be on board with the idea that families need to spend this quality time together. The summer months can be very hot and most schools and all the buses are not equipped with A/C. Our children would be miserable, not mentioning the fact it is sunny outside and they would rather be outside and not in a classroom. The swimming time for families would be shorten. So as for me and my family please consider the family units that do appreciate the time we do share "AS a FAMILY". If it isn't broke don't fix it. We have lived with the changes of our children going to school earlier and earlier every year. As a parent, I look at how the schedule was then; and how the changes though small, and think "We all survived, so why mess with it". Kids will still be kids and the world isn't getting better by not having the family time we all so desperately need. Year round schooling is not kid friendly. Since West Virginia is working hard to reduce childhood obesity, being off for several weeks in colder weather greatly reduces the chances of being outside for exercise. Many families take vacations in the summer months and attendance will be greatly affected by these family vacations. What will happend to summer enrichment programs? Kids need a summer break, not a break in the winter when the opportunities for fresh air and	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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11-09	Barbara Coffman PreK teacher Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	natural sunlight are greatly diminished. I am opposed to the changes in this policy. I believe that the provision for the extension of the number of weeks in which employment shall occur will be problematic for students and for staff. Unfortunately with salaries which place us forty-eighth among the states in the union many of our young faculty members supplement their income with summer employment outside the school system. With no firm starting and ending dates how can they become supplementally employed? Many of our young teaching professionals take summer courses to obtain advanced degrees, how will they be able to schedule these classes when the terms can fluctuate wildly year to year. Many higher education programs only offer courses by rotation, if the rotation is missed it becomes very problematic in finishing the degree. Many counties also use the summer to offer teacher academies or leadership conferences, with so many varied local calendars around the state, how will those programs occur? I also believe these changes in policy will negatively impact the students. Energy Express has operated in our county for many years. this quality program enhances the reading curriculum for our elementary students, but more importantly for many of our students it provides the needed nourishment of two meals a day. With the need for	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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11-09	Kacia Parent Elk Garden Primary Elk Garden WV	quick maintenance turn around of our facilities, these programs will be lost. Many of our students have also benefitted from remedial summer programs or student internships, these valuable programs will be lost to varied scheduling. Lastly, I have heard from many members of the community who are opposed to the changes in family life these calendar changes will enact. Many members of the community are opposed to losing what they hold dear, Four H, scout and church camps, Bible school programs and family reunions and vacations. I come from a family of educators and I do highly value education, but I also value childhood which in our society today I feel is quickly disappearing and will more rapidly disappear if these changes are enacted. A wise scholar once said, "We need to educate our children, but what we may need more is to give them the time to educate themselves." Barbara Coffman, Nationally Board Certified Early Childhood Generalist This change in calendar scheduling will not fairly affect all schools. Areas like my own have more severe weather problems which do not always allow for clear roads at 7 am. If the students are meeting the standards required for their grade and age levels (because their education is supposed to be the important thing, right?) then the lack of "full instructional days" does not fairly apply to	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.

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		them, because they will be required to sit in school when other schools in the area are already dismissed. Not only that, but their opportunity for extracurricular activities (sports, camps, etc.) will be sorely limited, even though we are supposed to be promoting healthier children. The concern for the amount of weeks or days students and teachers maintain is slightly ridiculous considering no one is taking steps to alter or improve the curriculum and required teaching strategies that obviously have begun to create a much lazier and less economically intelligent structure for our children. Why can we not focus on their education instead of whether or not we can eventually force year-round schooling? The proposed state calendar for 2014-15 is a farce. The dates for school and breaks are completely unrealistic for families to adhere. How are summer school, Bible school, camp experiences, teacher graduate summer courses and workshops able to fit in this frame. There are too numerous pitfalls to list here. My colleagues, friends and family are all shaking their heads in disbelief. Why all of a sudden, is it a priority to shake up the entire school year. There has to be a better way. We are charged with attending 180 days. I really cannot see this law being ignored. We need to work smarter, not year round.		
11-09	Michelle McRae Title I Reading Specialist Mineral County Schools Cumberland Maryl		NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-10	Sherry Claypool Buckhannon WV	I am writing this concerning the new discussion that has come upon us about the ‘year-round’	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234

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		school. My family and I live in Upshur County, and we are one of the smaller communities. I am against year round school/policy 3234 and I feel that this is a decision that the parents should have a say in and not quietly announced online or meetings held in one area. I have recently read some information on a study conducted on the year-round school and it stated that the year-round school was started to alleviate overcrowding but someone decided that it would provide academic benefits for students. However, the results they came up with did not support that claim. Instead of having to review things at just the beginning of the year, they ended up having to review several times a year. To me, that seems even worse than what we have now. I feel that there are way too many issues to consider before pushing everyone to do this year-round school, which is what we were informed by our local BOE that they have been told. They did not have a decision in this and they were given a time limit to do so. But then I also heard a contradiction to that by a letter from Dr. Phares' office that indicated that all 55 counties have control of their own school calendars which was sent to another local parent who does not agree with the 'balanced' calendar. It also stated that this 'year-round' calendar was an exploratory situation. But my concerns are for the children and nothing else. The many issues I feel that need to be considered in this begins with a few scenarios which does not		mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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		apply to me personally but will apply to several of the children in this situation. Let's say "little Joe" has parents who have divorced and he flies out every summer to California to spend with his father. This is one of the few times he gets to spend with that parent. After going through, I am sure already, a disappointment considering the separation of his parents and now if we consider a 'balanced' calendar this could interfere with him seeing his father because maybe the parents cannot afford to fly "little Joe" out several times a year just to spend time with his father. So "little Joe" suffers, meaning some children will suffer. Also, another concern is older children who may get a job in the summer to help their families with expenses they may have and are suffering from. Maybe these children help pay for their own school clothes or supplies and they will not have that opportunity while attending school during summer months, so once again the children suffer. Another example will be the added expense to some parents that they will accumulate due to the new 'balanced' calendar. Most day cares that they used for the summer months will not hold a spot for that child while they are in school on and off during the year. The day care has to make money so then these families will have to find other means of care for their child, which causes maybe more expense. Therefore, the parents will have to budget that money from somewhere, which may be their family vacation fund or their grocery fund		

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		which means the children once again will suffer. We all also know that this will end up costing more in the long run with the air conditioning having to be used through those hot summer times more often then what is used now. How is the state going to fund all these new costs? Another concern I have encountered is that in our local schools, we do not have any air conditioning in the gyms, our local Middle School is an example and from experience attending some end of the year school functions, sitting in that gym is unbearable. I couldn't imagine children trying to have gym in that area during some of the hottest months. During our BOE meetings, I have noticed, not one, but two window air conditioning units in the art room of our local elementary school used for these meetings. When summer rolls around with its scorching ninety-eight degree weather, how many air conditioners will the state be able to afford for each school in our county? Once again, the children are the ones who will suffer. In other words, a major update of the air conditioning systems will have to be done in most of our schools in this county. Who will foot the bill for that expense? I personally have a son with severe allergies which he receives shots monthly for. He had become very sick and we couldn't understand why. After months of missed school and confusion, we had him tested for allergies and he tested positive to several. We noticed that he was getting sick		

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		during school months, but was functionally healthily during summer. After receiving the test results, everything started to make sense. The doctor said the reason our son was suffering heavily during the school year was his allergies, which include dust mites, feathers, mice and cockroaches, are often found in the ventilation systems of most schools. While our son is attending school and the air or heating system is running constantly, he is allergic to the air that he is breathing. In our particular situation, summer is a time for him to recover and receive some relief from the constant battle of allergies. The point I am trying to get across is that all children are different, and not one “balanced” calendar is going to fit every child’s needs. It was something started for solving the issue of overcrowding, a problem our schools don’t encounter. This solution would be like giving one medication to every single person in hopes that it will affect every person the same. Also, referring back to the study I indicated previously in my letter, I will now quote how they ended their report. “On purely academic grounds, I wouldn’t advocate a year-round calendar, but I can’t recommend against it, either. If a school has a non-academic reason for adopting a year-round calendar--such as coping with overcrowding-- it can do so without any major harm to academics. And if it already has a year-round calendar, there is no academic reason to switch back. On the other hand, if a school is considering a year-round		

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		calendar in hope of boosting academic achievement, it seems unlikely that these hopes will be realized” Once again I vote NO for policy 3234. (http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/yearrnd.htm). Sincerely, Sherry Claypool		
11-10	Michelle Buckhannon Wv	I am against year round school. This would affect our family in so many different way. My child works in the summer months in the hay fields and would be unable to do this with school in the summer months. Please don't force us to leave upshur co!	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-10	Beverly Kingery Superintendent Nicholas County Schools Summersville WV	The waiver option appears to be a realistic option for mountainous, "snow belt" counties that in some years may never be able to fulfill 180 instructional days. The waiver affords the option to address quality as well as quantity of education and allow counties to demonstrate how they have realistically attempted to meet the 180 days.	N/+	
11-10	Mollie Arnold Wiley Ford WV	I respectfully request that you do not pass this policy. I feel it would be detrimental to the communities as well as the families. Living in a rural community, we must get many of our programs in MD because that is the closest city. Our children would miss out on summer camps and opportunities available when their classes are out and we are still in school. I would also be very angry to miss summer with my kids. We take	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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11-10	lkraus teacher-retired aarp Ridgeley wv	many family trips and this is our time to educate our kids on things that are not taught in school. We need our family time. The school year is so hectic with sports, after school activities, homework and the extra things we are teaching our kids, such as horseback riding and karate. The summer is the only time that things slow down and we can enjoy ourselves as a family unit. If you change the schedule, we will all suffer as a result. I also hate the idea that my kids would be wasting the little bit of good weather sitting in a classroom. We live in the mountains and our weather is terrible in the winter. Our kids need a chance to go swimming, ride their bikes and play on the playgrounds. The can't do that in December, no matter how tightly we bundle them up. I think this is a terrible idea and I sincerely hope you do not pass it. Education is important to me. I have drilled reading into my children from the moment they were born and I will do anything that I think will help them succeed. Not this. Not at the expense of our family time and the memories they should have of carefree summers with us. Please do not pass this policy. As a retired professional teacher I can speak from experience. The length of the school year...adding more days to meet the "magic 180 days" does NOT add to the quality of learning. When days are missed for whatever reason, teachers TEACH the missing content material by adjusting their	NA/-	WVC §18-5-45 requires county boards of education to provide 180 separate days of instruction.

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11-11	James D. Hannah Mr. Citizen Taxpayer Veteran Romney WV	schedules and using their teaching skills to see that all the necessary content is taught. It is not the QUANTITY of time, but the QUALITY of time that is important. Continually changing the school calendar to add more days to it is not productive. Children need time to be with their families for holidays and vacations. The inclement weather days are days when it is not safe for teachers or students to attend. Again, saying that these days must be "made up" to meet a certain amount of days is counterproductive. The content material IS covered on other days when school IS in session. Why not the educators who work with the students set the calendar? Legislators who have not taught should allow educators to tell THEM what is working best with the school calendar. West Virginia has a great school system! Why try to fix something that isn't "broken"? Abraham Lincoln had no more than 2 years formal schooling total and look where he went! It isn't the amount of time IN school that is important, it is the quality of the teaching experience that counts! My comment pertains to the requirement to make up MINUTES lost for DELAYS and EARLY DISMISSALS. It is my concern that DELAYS and DISMISSALS which NEED TO OCCUR WILL NOT as superintendents weigh the possible dangers against the challenges of making up the additional minutes. More equivocation will occur and instead of erring on the side of safety, it will	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.

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		be on the side of looking good with regard to adherence to the drive for rigor, rigor, and more rigor. Because of that, decisions may be made that place STUDENTS and TEACHERS in positions of UNDUE RISK. As a parent of a dedicated teacher who gives her all ever day, I do not want to see my child's or any other parent's much loved child placed at risk. It is sensible to have personnel and students MAKE UP LOST DAYS. However, to get so precise as to make up EACH MINUTE of DELAY or EARLY DISMISSAL even when cumulatively they result in days may create poor choices on the part of decision makers. Besides placing lives at risk, this could actually cost the taxpayer more. This would be because buses will make extra runs on Saturdays or days added to the school year to account for minutes lost on days when buses already ran. Couple that with the fact that many people will not send their children when it looks bad and school has not been called NOR on a Saturday if school is planned then to make up for lost minutes and all in all it is a lose/lose situation for both taxpayers and those concerned for students and teachers. Lastly, Saturday school and a prolonged school day would also create problems for students who are responsible enough to assist family income by having a job. I urge you to delete the proposed requirement to make up each minutes of delays and early		

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11-11	Doug Lambert Superintendent Pendleton County Schools	dismissals. Thank you. 5.3 Our instructional day is currently pushing the limits of time allowed with many of our children boarding the bus between 6:30 am – 6:45 am and not getting home until 4:30 pm. Consolidation forced Pendleton County to have one county wide transportation system which greatly limits the flexibility to creatively adjust due to the geographic weather patterns we have. Making up 2 hour delays? We live in a mountainous and very snowy county--those 2 hour delays give the state road workers time to clear secondary roads and make it safe for my children to travel to school. They receive instruction when they arrive. Having to make up the 2 hour delays seems like a punishment to us for living in an area where the weather is not as mild as Kanawha County. I don't think my county superintendent would decide to risk students' lives to avoid 2 hour delays, but would all do this, and why should that even be an issue? I believe the elementary schools in my county have more "bank" time due to scheduling. So will they be able to skip making up the 2 hour delays while the high school has to make them up? This whole idea is ludicrous.	N/-	
11-11	Charlotte Woodford Alpena WV	48 weeks instead of 45? Again, punishment for some counties. In theory, this means that my kids could have to go to school until the end of June	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.

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		and return at the end of July. While students in counties with less snow, fewer mountains, smaller distances to travel, will get a longer summer break---allowing for a better chance of employment for high school students, planned family vacations. (We had to cancel vacation plans last summer because of making up snow days. I know of several families whose children missed the last week of school because they had already make reservations and paid deposits for family trips. What good did the longer year make for them?)		
		I did choose to live in Randolph County. But I don't make the weather; I didn't consolidate schools making for longer travel; I don't want to be punished (or have my kids punished) for those things. These crazy ideas affect the ENTIRE state, not just those counties in milder areas.		
11-11	Tabitha Jones Elk Garden WV	I am a concerned parent regarding the proposed school calendar changes for the 2013-14 school year. We live in the mountains of WV and get more snow then any other area of the county. Due to this our kids tend to miss more days and have more 2 hour delays then the rest of the county. With that being said our kids have still had great test scores (in fact, we were higher then most in the entire state), and we received the "SUCCESS SCHOOL" title last year. I don't think the snow days/2 hour delays have effected our learning	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.

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		process and therefore I am opposed to the proposal of having our kids make these days up into the summer months.		
11-11	David Jones Elk Garden WV	I am opposed to the new policy that would require our students to make up every snow and 2 hour delay days that they encounter. Our students have been above and beyond in test scores with the way things are now. They are doing great as a school now and have also been named a Success School.	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
11-11	Dan Snider Application Programmer Application Programming Bowden wv	Keep the Summer free of school sessions. There is no compelling reason to eliminate vacation time for family and students. This time in the Summer is also used for youth to work at jobs and in households.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-11	Keith Foster Beckley WV	I am a concerned parent, taxpayer and registered voter. I strongly urge you to reconsider implementation of this proposed policy and VOTE AGAINST this policy. You say that this calendar policy gives the county more freedom. I do not agree. This looks like your way of implementing a year round calendar. I agree, education is vital and I want my children to be prepared for college. However, I believe children need time to be children and to have family time together. This policy impacts both of these. It also will make it difficult for child day care with a week off here and there. Leave the calendar alone, it has worked for many, many	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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11-11	Dorothy Parli Teacher Randolph County Board of Educ Elkins WV	years. I am a professional, university graduate and I received an excellent education under the current calendar. VOTE NO!!! In mountainous counties where more snow storms and ice storms occur consideration needs to be given to modifying makeup days to accomodate dangerous working conditions that are caused by weather. Less days should have to be made up and assignments can be posted online on work packets can be distributed for dangerous traveling conditions.	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
11-11	Jennifer Rich Teacher Lewisburg WV	Out of dedication to our profession, a majority of teachers currently spend many unpaid hours before the official calendar begins and after the official calendar has ended (not to mention evenings and weekends) to complete the tasks that make students' school experiences as high quality as is possible. Perhaps the state of WV needs to "take the plunge" into a more year-round calendar if the mandate for 180 days must be addressed. It is yet another disrespect to this state's educators to take professional preparation days and use them for snow day make-ups!	NA/-	County boards now have discretion as to what type of day is used to make up a canceled instructional day; they can use available noninstructional days or use an out-of-calendar day instead of remaining noninstructional days and continue to use the noninstructional days as originally scheduled. In this manner, the county board can protect a particular noninstructional day, such as the preparation day for the closing of school, from being used as a make-up day.
11-11	savannah johnson ms	I do not wish for school to be year round... My family and I are used to summer vacations and	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234

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	mineral county school ridgeley wv	having family time in the summer months, I do not think that going all year could better my education.		mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	Mary Ann Pannone Teacher Wiley Ford Primary Wiley Ford WV	Our students need a summer vacation. Keep our school calendar the way it has been. Coming back to school in July is not good for our students.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
		I believe that when something isn't broken, it doesn't need fixed. The current school calendar law is working. Counties have enough room already built in the calendar to make up snow days. Why do we need to start making up the time for 2 hour delays?		The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
11-12	Betsy Anderson Executive Secretary New Cumberland wv	Having worked on our school calendar for over 18 years, I get most of the calls pertaining to the calendar. Most are from our employees that do not understand all the codes currently in the calendar, I can't imagine trying to get the public to understand them. Having the public's input might take more that two public meetings, and I really don't understand the need for public input. I can only speak for my county, but we have only had people complain about our calendar having school on Columbus Day, and President's Day, luckily we	NA/-	Instructional support (IS) days were eliminated as part of Senate Bill 359 to enable county boards to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction to students. While the IS days were counted as instructional days, students generally did not attend school.

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11-12	Kara Arthur Secretary/Accountant Keyser WV	are able to either have CE day or the current IS days on those specific dates, so staff attends but the students have those days off. The IS days are important for two factors - staff development and faculty senates and for allowing us to honor those days. Thank you for reading my comment. I do not believe we need to change anything and we need to leave the school calendar as is. I do not agree with changing the school year from a 43 week term to a 48 week term. I believe this would cause a chain reaction of inconveniences and well as would not be in the best interest of the students. (1) Many parents have full time jobs and this could cause great distress on many families in the way of finding daycare providers who are willing to only take on children during the "off-times" of the school year. (2) Many families have already planned vacations around the traditional time off and therefore would cause a great number of absences. To begin this change for the 2014-2015 school year isn't fair to those parents/staff members who have already planned and possibly paid for those vacations. Family vacations are a very important part of the family life and this could definitely put a wrench in their plans. At least if it were to be proposed for the 2015-2016 school year, families and staff throughout WV would have a proper chance to prepare for how this will alter their planning/lifestyles. (3) I feel that year round schooling would possibly be okay	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. WVC §18-5-45 requires that the changes made to the school calendar statutes during the 2013 legislative session be effective for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2014.

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11-12	Deborah Johnson Teacher BOE Ronceverte WV	for older students but I feel that younger students would not benefit from this proposal. My experience has been that children that young take a while to get back on track after a long period of absence so increasing those absences would be a detriment to their education. (4) As far as enrolling students and transferring, it makes it very difficult for parents who are transferring from one school (state) to another would have a difficult time knowing when school was in session. For instance, if a child moves from another state in August, they would have already missed a possible 2 months at that point simply because our school was on a different schedule. I'd like to ask that the days before school starts and the days the teachers have at the end of the year to shut their classroom down....be left alone and not included in the making up of snow days. I don't think it would affect middle school and high school the way it would elementary. Elementary teachers have the custodians numbers and call them to find out when their floors are finished (dry) so they can go into their classrooms and start preparing. This happens way before school starts for teachers. Elementary teachers already work days and days without pay (not including the nights at home they are labeling and making items for the beginning of school) please don't take anymore days from us.	NA/-	County boards now have discretion as to what type of day is used to make up a canceled instructional day; they can use available noninstructional days or use an out-of-calendar day instead of remaining noninstructional days and continue to use the noninstructional days as originally scheduled. In this manner, the county board can protect a particular noninstructional day, such as the preparation day for the closing of school, from being

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				used as a make-up day.
11-12	Margaret Miltenberger Extension Agent WVU Extension Service Keyser WV	The proposed changes to the school calendar impact youth and families on a broad scope. (1) There is a large range of summer camps that will be affected - 4-H camps, scouting camps, all youth summer camps, youth sports camps, and etc. These program provide excellent learning opportunities, outdoor recreation, leadership development and many other skills. The challenge in West Virginia is that many of our local camps are only operational during warmer weather. The best weather for camp programs in West Virginia is during warmer weather. A shorter summer greatly restricts the ability to offer outdoor camping programs in West Virginia. 2) Fair programs - 4-H and FFA are involved with county, state, and regional fairs that operate during the summer months. Significant changes in the school calendar will pose a challenge to offering these programs. County fairs and the WV state fair support local economies, youth programs, small businesses and local development. Many of these fairs bid for the same amusement park services and therefore are staggered throughout the summer. (3) Low-income families have restricted income that allow for little or no vacations. For their children local outdoor recreation will be the highlight of there break time. If summer is compressed and other breaks are offered during	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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		off weather times it severely limits these opportunities for outdoor recreation. One of these outdoor options is swimming. West Virginia weather is most conducive for swimming between late May and early September. This of course will impact the ability of local pools to operate. (4)Summer Employment - many older youths rely on the summer months to find jobs to help support themselves or to save money for college. A shortened summer eliminates the opportunity for good summer employment. It will also effect those employers who seek extra summer help. (5)Snow day make up time that could extend for a month beyond the planned end of the school year effects family vacation planning and summer programs. How can families plan and other educational programs such as 4-H plan when an entire month has to be kept on hold? This is ridiculous for the state of West Virginia to put children, families, and other organizations in this position. When people are under the crunch in the rest of the working world to make up lost time we do it. (5) Extending the school calendar and allowing year round school may really not be the best thing to improve education in West Virginia. Our local school system is doing a great job and they get it done within the current school calendar. (6) The proposed changes to the school calendar massively impact West Virginia children, families, youth organizations, county and state events, local		

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11-12	Tamra L. Hansford School Nurse Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	economies, and many other groups beyond the school system. These decisions should not be made without a full understanding of the broad scope of the impact with our communities. I do not agree with the school year round policy. With neighboring states not implementing this, we will lose good teachers. Is it not enough the income is not up to par with these neighboring states?! As a school nurse, I do look forward to the summers off, and yes, I will be honest - it's what keeps me in this job. But I love the children and working with them. But I love all my patients and am an excellent nurse. In fact, as a nurse practitioner, if we go to school year round, I, among others, will be looking for better paying jobs. (and they are out there) You are going to have a sparse team. Also, when the weather is bad, the employee has a choice whether to take a vacation day or not at other work sites. Some work places have until a certain time to get there. You are punishing many people for those that do not make up days for inclement weather. In addition, this will have a domino effect on many businesses such as day cares, resort places, etc. There needs to be much thinking behind this decision before a final decision is made.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	angela west ridgeley wv	The school calender should remain the same. Do not change it so that the school year goes year-round. The kids need a break between grades. Families use that summer break for vacations and	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A

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11-12	Krisinda Heavener Keyser WV	family time. Children should be able to be outdoors during the summer not stuck inside doing homework for school. While the proposed calendar may work for the minority of students, I ask you to reconsider your proposal. WV is a rural State, and as such, agriculture is still an important part of our culture and economy. While it is certainly not to the extent that it used to be, I know many families, including my own, who spend the summer tending gardens, plowing fields, mowing and putting in hay, etc. These are family farms without employees. Many of these families work secondary jobs and take vacations during the summer months to accomplish these task and also depend on the help of their children to work on the farm as well. Not only does this help the children learn things like responsiblity, a strong work ethic, and family unity, it also helps to keep healthy food on the table. Other families use the summer to relax and/or take family vacations. With the way that the proposed school calendar is set up, it will be more difficult to plan those vacations because everyone will want the same time off for work to coincide with their kids' vacations, and that is just not feasible. A longer summer allows for more flexibility. Family vacations=family unity=less instances of child abuse and neglect. Also, the longer break helps students to be less burned out. The less traditional academic calendar can make	NA/-	balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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		things more difficult for sports, band, and even students who are taking accelerated college courses. In the interest of the students and the parents who are supporting them, I ask that you reconsider the proposed changes. Thank you.		
11-12	Tammy Dunn Parent Ridgeley ww	see general comments	N/o	
11-12	Paul Dunn Parent Ridgeley ww	Your idea for having our children go to school all year is not your brightess idea. I am not for the all year round program. Even my wife and I like to spend time with our child.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	Karen Keyser West Virginia	I have saw a proposed calendar for basically a year round school year for 2014-2015. I enjoy spending time with our family during the summer taking in several trips and vacations and this calendar would definitely cut into our plans. I would very much consider home schooling my children if this calendar was set. I have seen children that have a hard time with short breaks and then going back and this would increase their anxiety more with the continuous breaks scheduled. I believe our normal school calendar should remain in place. Thank You!	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	Kara Lyons Teacher	I do not agree with having each seperate school make up instructional time. This is going to be too	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes

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	Elk Garden Primary School Elk Garden WV	difficult to do for an area such as Elk Garden that has both middle and high school students as well as the primary students. How are you going to provide instruction for the middle and high schoolers when the rest of the county has already had their instructional time. I fear that this is going to result in sending students and staff to school when the road conditions are unsafe just to meet the 180 days. Our county has schools that have very dangerous weather conditions when other parts of the county are fine. You can not send these students and staff to school in those types of dangerous conditions. Students and staff are going to be put at risk in order to meet the 180 days. Elk Garden Primary School has had cancellations when the rest of the county did not, and they are considered a Success School. It has always been the case that if you feed them lunch, it is considered a whole day of instruction. I would like for you to rethink making students and staff make up their seperate 180 days of instruction. I do not agree with Section 7.2 which states that additional minutes of instruction be added to the school day or entire additional days be added to recover lost time for early dismissals or late arrivals. Our county has schools in the mountainous areas; and our Middle and High School Students attend school off of the mountain. How can these students make up loss of time in this event? It is not the fault of our school or		to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.
11-12	Valerie Durr Teacher Elk Garden Primary School Elk Garden WV		NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45.

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11-12	Martha Randolph Hancock County Schools New Cumberland WV	students that the weather on the mountain is worse than the weather off the mountain. It was always a law that if the students were fed lunch then it was considered a whole day. What happened to this law? Isn't it still in effect? As a Primary Teacher I always make decisions that are in my students best interest when it comes to the curriculum. I ask that the same is made when safety is an issue as well. I do not want to see the calendar extended from 43 to 48 weeks. It is too difficult for teachers to recertify by taking classes in only a 4 week summer period. The students need more than 4 weeks off in the summer. Not all WV schools are air conditioned and this would be a hardship. I realize it was legislated to make up 2 hour delays. However, I do not agree with this policy and will address it through my legislators. Please put language in to protect the Faculty Senate time. Our county sometimes schedules meetings for teachers that conflict with Faculty Senate, and Faculty Senate is intended to give teachers a voice. I would like to see language that prohibits conflicts so all teachers have the opportunity to attend.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. The language regarding faculty senate meetings contained in State Board Policy 3234 closely mirrors WVC §18-5A-5.
11-12	Margaret Miltenberger Extension Agent WVU Extension Service Keyser WV	How will state parks in West Virginia continue to operate and maintain their budgets with this proposed calendar? Most rely on good summer weather.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to

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				county boards.
11-12	James Jewell Mr. Short Gap W.V.	I am a parent of two daughters. I find absolutely no reason why school should be all year. From what I have seen; when children go to school longer, they seem to have absolutely NO common sense. I see a lack of common sense as of late in society these days. Lots of book smarts. Yet, with everyone having bachelor degrees or higher. The amount of jobs to meet those number of students with degrees are not around. As if our local government and federal government does not have enough say in our lives all ready!! This country was founded on freedom. Yet, we have schools that do not teach cursive writing. Yet, our founding documents are all written in cursive. This is another fine example of the schools and government trying to dictate and control lives of FREE people. What happened to the parents teaching their children during the summer while on vacation? What has happened to the values and morals in this country?? Yet, we do away with these morals, values and replace them with dictatorship and more rules. I could go on, but starting to bring up more then just reasons why the school calender all year is WRONG, and if you and the others voting on this can not see this fact, then maybe it is time that you are all voted out of office. I am not the only parent in W.V. that feels this way. Had I know of this site before hand, you would be receiving many more comments on this	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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11-12	Jenny Keech Parent Mineral Co Schools Fort Ashby WV	site, but if you choose not to believe me, that is okay. You will see the results come next election for all those that vote for this. I am opposed to year around school and feel that our government agencies are not representing the people of this state and country. Education and society are pushing our children into an adult world that their brains are not ready for. Child development studies show that we are putting more demands on out children and forgetting about teaching them fundamentals and the basics. My son is overwhelmed by the 5th grade curriculum already. Please don't take away his summer and time to be a child while he is still one. Why does education have to change constantly?	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	Jenny Keech Parent Mineral Co Schools Fort Ashby WV	I am opposed to year around school and feel that our government agencies are not representing the people of this state and country. Education and society are pushing our children into an adult world that their brains are not ready for. Child development studies show that we are putting more demands on out children and forgetting about teaching them fundamentals and the basics. My son is overwhelmed by the 5th grade curriculum already. Please don't take away his summer and time to be a child while he is still one. Why does education have to change constantly?	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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§126-(73)-(6) Employment Term				
10-14	Don Dellinger Deputy Superintendent Berkeley County Schools Martinsburg WV	The proposal makes it difficult for districts to provide professional development for all staff. Once holidays, election day, OS days, beginning/ending of year prep days and parent/teacher conference day are worked into the calendar, there are only 3 days maximum left for professional development and teacher collaboration. It becomes difficult to provide staffs with sustained training in instructional strategies.	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
10-16	Peggy LaFollette Teacher Faculty Senate Capon Bridge WV	Is our contract no longer for 200 days? If so, won't our pay have to increase to cover the extra days?	NA/-	The contract term will continue to be 200 days. Because the number of days actually worked did not increase, no pay increase will be necessary.
10-16	Mary Knapp Special Education Director Boone County Schools Madison WV	If OS days are not needed to make up snow days, will staff work these days at the end of the school term?	NA/o	If the OS days are not needed to make up snow days, then they would remain OS days which generally do not require employees to report.
10-17	Julia Brady teacher Upshur County Schools Buckhannon WV	If Professional Development is not done during the 180 day term, be prepared to add salary as employees attend the trainings outside of the current employment period.	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
10-21	Allyson Schoenlein	Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be	NA/-	Instructional support (IS) days

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	Director of Title Programs Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.		were eliminated as part of Senate Bill 359 to enable county boards to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction to students. While the IS days were counted as instructional days, students generally did not attend school.
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	I'm not sure we can get in the mandated 18 hours of staff development if we are not permitted to have Instructional Support and Enhancement Days. I believe the reaction of teachers and service employees to utilizing out of calendar days to make up instruction will present a huge issue. I think more likely than not, they will take the day off and we will be stuck at school without adequate supervision on those days. Additionally, bus drivers who take off work on these days will have a huge impact upon the efficient transport of students to and from school.	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
10-26	Barbara TAYlor member Nicholas County Board of Education Fenwick WV	6.1c1 What happens if the original schedule has the 7 paid holidays and the required "make-up days" include another holiday (WV Day). Are the employees not paid while the central office is paid? Won't there be grievances? 6.1.c.4 Won't staff development suffer from these 6 types of days (many of which need 2 days such as opening and closing of school and the 4 parent-teacher conferences?	NA/-	Section 6.1.d of the policy states that "the remaining school holidays are to be scheduled as out-of-calendar days, and are to be considered as such for all 200-day employment terms." County boards have the

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		6.1.c.4.H Since the staff is to be paid when they are scheduled to work, what happens when someone has a major illness and misses the rest of the year? Do they pay back what has been paid? Are they responsible for the taxes already paid by the county? 6.1.c.6 How is the 18 hour requirement required when we may have to use the day for make-up? Who pays a consultant who is schedule to come on a day that is rescheduled for students to attend?		discretion of determining how to schedule the remaining six days discussed in Section 6.1.c.4 of the policy. Counties are also permitted to utilize accrued instructional time for professional development if desired. Additional guidance will be provided to LEAs regarding payroll issues. County boards can schedule professional development on both noninstructional days and through accrued instructional time. Options available to guarantee that professional development (CE) days are not used as makeup days include: schedule them early in the school year or use out-of-calendar days in lieu of CE days.
10-28	Charles (Chuck) Nichols Interim Executive Director RESA 4	Herein I submit comments for WVBE Policy 3234 currently on public comment. Understanding that instructional time is paramount to student achievement, there is another essential and significant factor that is in danger of being	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days

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		overlooked within the law and proposed policy. That factor is professional development. The law and proposed policy stymies professional development crucial for school improvement and ultimately classroom instructional improvement. With the recent implementation of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, the core and crust of that waiver is student growth. This will be difficult if not impossible with decreased and limited professional development time for teachers. The core of RESA work is now school improvement. One might argue that RESAs and districts could afford professional development opportunity outside of the regular school day. That is not as plausible as in the past due to teachers with second jobs, family obligations, and those who simply will not relinquish personal time. Another major issue is funding outside the regular school day. RESAs and districts are experiencing declining budgets which make this increasingly difficult. If for no other reason, I request that you not adopt this policy until the professional development issues stated and implied by this policy can thoroughly be explored. Thank you for your consideration of this request.		and through the use of accrued instructional time. WVC §18-5-45 requires that the changes made to the school calendar statutes during the 2013 legislative session be effective for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2014.
10-29	Gabriel Devono & All RESA 7 Superintendents Executive Director	• With all of the prescribed non-instructional days that must be within a 200-day employment according to 126-73-6 (7 paid holidays, 1-2	NA/-	WVC §18-5-45 only requires one election day to be taken as a noninstructional day. Also,

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RESA 7 Clarksburg WV		election days, 6 OSE days, 5 faculty senate meeting at 2-hours each = 19 days), it appears counties will only have one day of flexibility. Don't school systems need at least one day to open and close the school? • For mountain counties with many dismissals and closures due to inclement weather, there is no real value in 6 OSE days given that those days will inevitable become instructional days to make up for cancellations. • Can accrued time be banked and used at a later date? For example, if we have a two-hour delay due to weather and we have banked 200 minutes, are we to subtract 120 minutes of accrued time allowing us to still use 80 minutes at a later date? • What happens if a county does not have sufficient accrued time to offset lost time due to delays and early dismissals? • According to 6.7.4, "a faculty senate meeting can be scheduled on instructional days using accrued time." What is this accrued time is unavailable? • Special Note: Tucker County High School does not accrue instructional time due to the location of the high school and bus routing requirements. • If a county does not have sufficient accrued time to offset lost time due to delays and early dismissals, this could cause counties to add additional days of instruction. Is there funding for those days? • In one mountain county last year, there were 18 delays and 2 early dismissals due to snow. How is		faculty senate meetings can be held during noninstructional days with dual purposes, including the OS days, if necessary. Accrued instructional time can still be banked and used at a later date to make up lost time due to early dismissals. The example provided is accurate. If a county does not have sufficient accrued instructional time to make up for delays or cancelations, the county has several options: add additional time to the remaining instructional days; use any available noninstructional days to make up the time; use out-of-calendar days; or add days to the calendar. If no accrued instructional time is available for a faculty senate meeting, the meetings can be held during a non-instructional day. There is also an allowance in the policy

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		it possible to make up 36 hours of instructional time without being faced with a financial burden by paying service personnel for additional hours or additional contracted days? • Will funding be provided by the WVDE for legal advertisements for our CTE centers? • According to 6.1.c.6, 18 hours of staff development is to be scheduled when? • In policy 6.1.c.4.G, a two-hour block of time is identified for faculty senate meetings. In section 8.4, faculty senates are allowed the opportunity to meet for an unlimited block of time during a non-instructional day. Which is it – is this decision made by school or county wide faculty senate decision?		for counties to allow faculty senates to use compensatory time to hold faculty senate meetings after school instead of on the noninstructional day. There is no additional funding if a county adds additional days of instruction to the calendar. Multi-county vocational centers are not required to hold public hearings and therefore are not required to use legal advertisements. Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time. The language regarding the faculty senate meeting length is from WVC §18-5A-5(b)(12). That code sections indicates the “time shall be used and determined at the

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10-31	William Smith Superintendent Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	Flexibility has been eliminated. There is no provision for professional development and teacher collaboration and common planning. We must embed this time into the employment term - 10 days for PD and 170 days of quality instruction. Or eliminate OS days and turn them into professional development days.	NA/-	local school level.” Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
11-03	Sallie Greenbrier County Schools Dalton LEWISBURG WV	6.1c6 - If professional development days are required to be rescheduled for lost instructional time, then this section should read, "County boards are required to schedule all professional and service personnel employed at least 18 hours of professional development annually. Counties are encouraged to develop innovative methods of reaching this goal such as providing staff development as a result of accrued instructional time."	NA/-	The recommendations are included in the annual calendar guidance document.
11-05	Michael Wells Superintendent Pleasants County Schools St. Marys WV	It will be difficult to offer Professional Development and Collaboration time, if we must use snow days to make up time beyond the 200 day employment term. We do not have the funding to extend contracts. Also, bus drivers will need to transport students, if one school has an extra day to make-up a day missed which may require to extend their contract? Why can't a 2 hr. delay count as an instructional day without extending the time? Safety should be our number one concern.	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45. Days with 2-hour delays are still counted as a separate instructional day, but counties are required to make up the time lost due to the delay.

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11-06	Lisa Martin Teacher Coalton Elementary Elkins WV	It is ridiculous to expect teachers to be "held hostage" for five additional weeks each year in case we have a "bad winter". We have families and lives. Many teachers spend the summer furthering their education. This would be impossible with these restrictions. Many, also supplement their income with second jobs. Being among the lowest paid teachers in the country makes this necessary.	NA/-	WVC §18-5-45 now requires 180 separate days of instruction and extends the window in which to achieve those days from 43 weeks to 48 weeks. While some counties may need to extend beyond the 43 weeks currently utilized in the event of a bad winter, neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Kandi Resh Mental Health/Disabilities/Transition Coordinator Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	We are already under paid. If you add days to our employment term and time on each day, we will come out with less money. The raise equals a minus 7% when you add it all up. Many of us will go to neighboring states for other employment or take different jobs outside of the school system.	NA/-	The standard contract term will continue to be 200 days and the total hours worked will remain the same.
11-08	Chris Kellermeyer Band Director Frankfort Middle School Ridgeley WV	40 unpaid days is unacceptable to me. 48 weeks covers 240 days excluding Saturday and Sunday. I cannot see how you can contract someone to work for 200 days and then spread it out to cover 240. I need the days off in the summer so that I can get a second job to make enough money to take care of my family.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards. Only two counties currently have

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11-08	Mistee Bland Morgantown Wv	Salaries are not competitive. Summers offer the time to recharge and further education for better practices. If WV goes to year-round school, how many teachers will simply walk away and into another, better paying profession? How do you plan to keep qualified teachers in the classroom?	NA/-	schools that operate on a year-round calendar. While some counties will need to extend beyond the current 43 weeks to obtain 180 separate days of instruction, the majority will not be utilizing the full 48 weeks available at this time. Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-08	Adrianne Minard Teacher Keyser WV	As we move toward year round school, WV will seriously need to look at how teachers are given personal days. Government employees and people working in the private sector earn so much vacation time. When they request time off, they know that they can make vacation plans or plans to have medical procedures done. Making up all the days will make all break uncertain. This will not guarantee your professional employees any vacation time. How will we make plans for our own family when any break can be taken for make-up and schedules for the following year aren't made until May? It is only fair that we be given five personal days, so we are able to schedule our vacations without fear that we may	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

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		have to take the days without pay, because the calendar has to change. We are professionals and we need to be treated as such! When you cancel school, that is school board's choice not our choice to take that day off. There is NO employee of the STATE BOARD of ED that would want to take days without pay, because their planned vacation time was suddenly take from them! Even more important than this is the fact that MOST of the teachers in our system don't want to be gone from our classrooms. We don't want to leave our students to someone else who may or may not be qualified to teach in our area and who definitely does not know our students and their stories! Not having some amount of guaranteed breaks is bad for our students as it will very likely cause more teacher absenteeism! ***Furthermore, I understand that State Board of Ed wants their money worth out of us. However, they have, again, forgotten all the paperwork that we take home on a regular basis or the calls that we make at night. They only think about the slacker "teachers" they see being made fun of on t.v. They easily look away from the fact that most teachers (especially elementary teachers) arrive early, stay late, and carry a ton of their work home. I personally spend every Sunday afternoon or evening checking papers and planning for the week to come; because there is no time for this during planning due to parent conferences,		

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11-09	Kacia Parent Elk Garden Primary Elk Garden WV	cleaning, organizing, and preparing classroom materials, team meetings, IEP meetings, etc... I have always looked the other way figuring that I got my time back in other places. I, though, will definitely NOT be doing work for free and taking time from my own family if the new policy ignores the value of the personal time that teachers spend on our classrooms and students. Sadly, it is my hope that WVEA will call for a work stoppage if the new calendar goes in as proposed. If it isn't done at school, then it won't be done which will definitely not be good for our students! However, at some point, teachers have to say, "No!", too! Again, ridiculous. Is altering the amount of weeks teachers are going to be required to work going to alter their salaries? Also, is it going to change the fact that some teachers are only concerned about their paychecks and titles, instead of our children? For some teachers, the majority of their "summer break" is spent restructuring their rooms, buying supplies (out-of-pocket) and preparing for their next class of students. For those teachers, extending their employment term is unfair. For those teachers (as well as other school staff)who only work for the paycheck (and there are plenty), why bother? They don't care anyway, so what more work do you really feel that you will be getting from them? Do the BOE staff (other than support staff and a few dedicated members)work this same proposed schedule? Has no one else	NA/-	The standard contract for teachers and service personnel will continue to be 200 days, so a pay increase will not be required. WVC §18-5-45 simply extended the window during which counties can schedule their employment term from 43 weeks to 48 weeks. This provides more flexibility for counties who may need to extend beyond the current 43 weeks in order to achieve the required 180 separate days of instruction. The central office personnel of many counties have a contract

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11-10	Beverly Kingery Superintendent Nicholas County Schools Summersville WV	noticed that the constant altering of a system that has produced many hardworking adults has now brought us a generation of teenagers and young adults that are no longer even capable of making change for a dollar?! Will making the teachers work their summers provide them with better teaching curriculum standards to follow that may somehow miraculously provide future generations with some common sense? Why are we restructuring the unimportant and ignoring the problems? A major issue to be resolved (and will need to be resolved before any new calendar structure guidelines or implementation occurs) is the employment term for professional AND service personnel. WV Code dictates the employment term and how employees are to be paid. With the new calendar structure, will employees be paid on a regular ten month pay period OR at the time of service/work? If on a regular ten month pay period, then what legal measures would a county have to require employees to work beyond time already paid? There are legal implications associated with the pay of employees that must be addressed. 6.1.c.6 If local boards of education are to be responsible for student achievement, then they need to be given local control to adequately provide professional development to meet the instructional needs and alignment to the strategic plan. The proposed calendar structure virtually	NA/-	term that is longer than the standard 200 day contract, so many of those personnel will work additional days over the summer. That is a local determination. Personnel will continue to be paid in accordance with a regular ten month pay period. According to WVC §18A-5-2, an employee's pay is not to be adjusted during a pay period because a county has utilized an out-of-calendar day for a snow day, requiring the employee to work a contract day at a later date. Additional guidance related to this issue will be provided to LEAs. Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days

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		eliminates delays, early out, or other PD means for teachers to work and plan together especially in "snow belt" counties. How can this be "fair and equitable" in improving student achievement for all students in WV? In reality, paying teachers to stay after school, Saturdays, or summer affects two groups of teachers - the best teachers and those who just want extra money.		and through the use of accrued instructional time.
11-11	Stacey Strawderman teacher Fairmont WV	6.1.c. Why do we have to put 4 OS days after 130 days? What happened to the "local control"? Why can't each county put the days where it most benefits the schools? What is the purpose of this?	NA/-	The requirement of four OS days being scheduled to occur after the one hundred thirtieth instructional day is contained in WVC §18-5-45(c)(3)(c).
11-11	Doug Lambert Superintendent Pendleton County Schools	The presumption that was put forth in the calendar bill simply was the notion that local school systems would have greater flexibility in designing the calendar to meet each county's need. If you look closely and read carefully, one would think that is the prevailing argument. However, when you have the prescribed days under this section, it becomes increasingly difficult to schedule professional development in a consistent manner to meet the needs of staff and students.	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
		With seven (7) holidays, one (1) Election Day, six (6) OS days, one (1) opening and one (1) closing day, three (3) CE days, and one (1) PTC day, we have successfully met the mandated 200 days of employment. As I mentioned above, we can use Accrued Instructional Time for Faculty Senate		

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		meetings – four (4) half days during the school term which equates to two (2) of my six (6) accumulated days. With this scenario, other than the three (3) days of required professional development (PD)/continuing education (CE), I see no room for ongoing, sustained PD for staff unless we take teachers out of the classroom during the instructional day.....something that I thought we are attempting to monitor and control more efficiently and effectively. Yes, we could pay for after school hours training but where would the funds come from since most of our counties are financially tight. Additionally, of the three (3) CE days mentioned, one is earmarked to satisfy state code and/or state board requirements to cover particular codes and policies that must occur each year. This leaves only two days remaining to cover the many trainings and such that are vital and essential to assist in our mandate and desire to improve student achievement.		
11-12	Kara Arthur Secretary/Accountant Keyser WV	The proposed schedule would no longer allow those teachers/staff who have obtained summer employment to do so. The school staff sometimes use the summer time off to supplement their income by obtaining jobs while school is not in session.	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-12	Amanda Teacher Clay WV	Lengthening the contracted term of employment takes away from teachers ability to work a summer job that many of us depend on. I believe	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-

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		this proposal has benefits for education but it also opens the conversation for teacher pay raise.		round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
§126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term				
10-14	Don Dellinger Deputy Superintendent Berkeley County Schools Martinsburg WV	7.4 Accrued Instructional Time should include provisions for professional development and teacher collaboration.	NA/o	State Board Policy 3234 Section 7.4 allows the use of accrued instructional time for professional development activities.
10-16	Peggy LaFollette Teacher Faculty Senate Capon Bridge WV	If we already have extra time built into our schedule, can this be used in place of hours/days missed?	NA/o	Accrued instructional time can be utilized to make up for time lost due to early dismissals and late arrivals. It cannot be used in place of full days missed, as it cannot be used to avoid 180 separate days of instruction.
10-21	Allyson Schoenlein Director of Title Programs Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.	NA/-	Instructional support days (IS days) were eliminated as part of Senate Bill 359 to enable county boards to actually provide 180 separate days of instruction to students. While the IS days were counted as instructional days, students generally did not attend school.
10-21	Leo G. Lake	7.3 will create a significant problem especially	NA/-	County boards of education

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	Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	service personnel. If we hold them to accumulate bank time, we could put them in a overtime situation.		will need to monitor overtime for service personnel when determining whether to add minutes to the day in order to accumulate instructional time.
10-22	Michael J. Coleman Special Education Director Hampshire County Schools Romney WV	Recovery of lost time: Can the additional minutes be built into the instructional day up front. In other words, can the time be banked in advance for delayed arrival/early dismissal to do data analysis, professional development, etc. As long as it is built into the approved calendar and the county has a policy covering the recovery of this time towards the required 180 days. Or am I misunderstanding this part of the policy, does it only pertain to weather related delays and dismissals.	NA/o	Additional minutes can be built into the instructional day up front and banked in advance to use to make up for delays and early dismissals, professional development, etc. Each county must develop a county policy related to making up time for late arrivals and early dismissals.
10-24	David Seay Child Nutrition Director Fayette County Schools Fayetteville WV	Does every school have to have 180 days? Is it a school by school requirement or a county requirement? For example if a school has a boil water advisory and we cancel school for that one school, do they have to make it up? Or because the rest of the county is having school are they covered? At times it would be advantageous to Fayette County to cancel school in Meadow Bridge due to inclement weather, but have school in the rest of the county, would Meadow Bridge then have to make that day up, but not the rest of the county?	NA/o	According to WVC §18A-5-2 and §18-5-45, every school is required to provide 180 days of instruction and to make up any time lost.
10-26	Barbara TAYlor member	7.2 Who pays the additional overtime if service personnel work over time when extending the day	NA/-	The county board of education would be responsible for the

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	Nicholas County Board of Education Fenwick WV	for all schools. Due to busing issues, the extension of one schools school day may vastly affect another school. This could easily happen if a school has an emergency which requires a 4 hour early dismissal having only accumulated 30 minutes of accrued time early in the year, and no other school is effected. 7.3 We have a great deal of black ice. The state road doesn't pretreat the roads due to the expense so we need 2 hour delays. Can the state give the state road the money to pretreat the roads so we can go at regular time? 7.5 If only one school does not have 180 days, does just that school make up the time? 7.5 What if this takes staff development time? 7.6 what happens if a misses all of the make up days and the rest of the calendar? Does he pay us back for the days paid and not worked earlier in the year? 7.8 Will you cancel all "State Tournaments" because we will be punished for low attendance on those days and we already miss SO much for snow, ice and lack of utilities that we currently make up?		payment of any overtime worked by service personnel due to an extension of the school day. The West Virginia Division of Highways may need to increase its appropriation request for additional funding for this purpose. The 180 day requirement applies to all schools, but accrued instructional time may be used to make-up the time. County boards now have discretion as to what type of day is used to make up a canceled instructional day; they can use available noninstructional days or use an out-of-calendar day instead of remaining noninstructional days and continue to use the noninstructional days as originally scheduled. In this manner, the county board can protect a particular noninstructional day, such as the preparation day for the

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				closing of school, from being used as a make-up day.
				Additional guidance will be provided to LEAs regarding payroll issues.
				Extracurricular activities have not been eliminated, but this is no change from previous guidance related to accrued instructional time.
11-05	Gail Fleshman Speech Pathologist Greenbrier County Board of Education Rainelle WV	7.5 The language in this section does not guarantee that teachers will retain the two preparation days in the calendar. While the preparation day at the beginning of the school year would not be affected as it occurs before students arrive, it will affect the one at the end of the year. If this is taken to make up days lost for inclement weather, teachers will not have time to file end of the year reports such as grades and permanent records as well as prepare the classrooms for summer cleaning. Since we are expected to keep students actively engaged until the last day of school these tasks must be conducted after the students leave. This day should not be able to be used to make up inclement weather days. The wording of this policy does not guarantee this. In mountain counties weather conditions can cause more days missed due to inclement weather and	NA/-	County boards now have discretion as to what type of day is used to make up a canceled instructional day; they can use available noninstructional days or use an out-of-calendar day instead of remaining noninstructional days and continue to use the noninstructional days as originally scheduled. In this manner, the county board can protect a particular noninstructional day, such as the preparation day for the closing of school, from being used as a make-up day.

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		this is one day that needs to be guaranteed to properly close the schools.		
11-06	Lisa Martin Teacher Coalton Elementary Elkins WV	The use of out of calendar days could place a severe financial burden on small rural counties where service personnel will need to be paid overtime. How will bus drivers be paid when they have worked a day driving on a two hour delay day? It is discrimination against mountain counties which experience more severe weather.	NA/-	The use of out-of-calendar days as make-up days generally will not result in an overtime situation or additional contract days for employees. The out-of-calendar days will be used when a county runs out of noninstructional days to make up for all of the snow days. Some counties may need to add contract days if they are unable to make up for all lost instructional time from two-hour delays and early dismissals through the use of accrued instructional time. Employees will be paid for any additional contract days necessary to comply with the calendar requirements.
11-07	Mike Saturday Principal Elk Garden Primary School Elk Garden WV	My school in particular will be impacted by this particular section. Elk Garden is in the mountains of Mineral County. My school is a feeder school for Keyser Middle School and subsequently Keyser High School. There are some days that weather is so severe in Elk Garden that we will either delay or cancel school. Are those students	NA/-	Mineral County Board of Education will make the determination of how to handle weather-related issues for Elk Garden.

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		who go to Keyser still required to go on those days? Are they going to be counted absent? If they are given an opportunity to make the day up, how will the teachers at Keyser be compensated?		
11-08	Kandi Resh Mental Health/Disabilitlities/Transition Coordinator Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	I am sure there are a few other counties with similar problems. We are already under paid. If you add days to our employment term and time on each day, we will come out with less money. The raise equals a minus 7% when you add it all up. Many of us will go to neighboring states for other employment or take different jobs outside of the school system.	NA/-	The standard contract term will continue to be 200 days and the total hours worked will remain the same.
11-09	Roy Boyle Teacher Keyser Middle School Keyser WV	If an out-of-calendar day is used as a make-up day, I feel that by including weeks and weeks of out-of-calendar days you have extended our commitment and thus our employment well beyond the 200 day contract. You have eliminated our chance to seek alternative employment opportunities outside of our contracted year by slicing and dicing our commitment to our contract. You need to provide a large chunk of time (months) to seek alternative employment or compensate us financially for the lost opportunity for income proportional to the loss of a three month summer. With the lower pay of West Virginia the exodus of teachers to border states will accelerate.	NA/-	The standard contract term will continue to be 200 days and the total hours worked will remain the same.
11-09	Kacia Parent	The only people who will be in support of an extended instructional term will be those parents	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234

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	Elk Garden Primary Elk Garden WV	who use the school system as free day care. For those of us who appreciate and understand the necessity and benefit of family time, this possible extension is depriving us of time that we have always used for our families. Family outings are all required to be within a summer break, and are a horrible issue to request during the school year, but lets limit the time available for our families. We are so worried about our generation of obese students, but lets extend the amount of time we force them to sit at desks, taking away the time where they may actually get some real exercise. For a system that relies on families to help enforce what the children are being taught, and are expected to abide by school guidelines that leave our children hungry and insecure, your priorities seem to be amazingly misguided. Can anyone honestly explain to us why you lack concern for the important yet push so hard to alter what is important to our children and their families? The definition of instructional time coupled with employment term requirements in section six are severely prohibitive to adequate professional development time to address school improvement. The proposed policy virtually eliminates delays, early outs, or other professional development time for teachers to work and plan together, especially in "snow belt" counties. How can this be "fair and equitable" in improving student achievement for all students in WV? Everyone doesn't live in lower		mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.
11-10	Beverly Kingery Superintendent Nicholas County Schools Summersville WV		NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.

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		elevation areas of WV. How can we fully implement Next Generation Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment without providing teachers sufficient time to study and implement in the classroom? WV Legislature, WVBE, and WVDE yearly require specific trainings for teachers (e.g. crisis prevention, IEP, multicultural, etc.). Where will the time be for all required and needed instructional professional development? With the current structure, it is nearly impossible to schedule all the required trainings in a county. I can foresee taking teachers out of classrooms more for training and paying substitutes during the day, which is not best for students. One always hears technology can bridge the learning gap for students during inclement weather and provide a "flipped classroom" structure. In reality, a fair number of students in many counties do not have access to technology at home and/or ability to connect. Is providing these students paper and pencil assignments fair when others have technology at their disposal for learning?		
11-11	Stacey Strawderman teacher Fairmont WV	7.8 So there will be no more extracurricular activities??? Is this what I'm reading here? Or is it that we can have an assembly during the day and we don't have to use accrued time for that assembly?	NA/-	Extracurricular activities have not been eliminated, but this is no change from the previous guidance related to accrued instructional time.
11-11	Doug Lambert Superintendent Pendleton County Schools	7.4 I would ask that those days that have late arrival, early dismissal, Faculty Senate two (2) hour blocks, and other causes of lost instructional	NA/-	Days with early dismissals or late arrivals are counted as separate instructional days;

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		time be treated and subject to those practices that have occurred in the past...counting those days as full instructional days. I am also concerned about those students that attend Multi-County Career and Technical Centers. If one of the three contributing counties do not have school and the host county does, how can we make the time to equal the required 180 days? For example, South Branch Career and Technical Center is located in Grant County with students attending from Grant, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties. If Pendleton has a two hour delay or we have no school due to inclement weather, our students miss a day of instruction as our kids come to South Branch in the morning. IF we have school and Grant County doesn't, South Branch is closed and our kids miss a day of instruction. The same holds true for the students from Hardy County. As stated above, our Accrued Instructional Time can only go so far in the time provided to allow for such time away from school. I ask again that past practices allowed in that those days that that our students miss attending South Brfanch be allowed to count as full instructional days. South Branch, nor the three counties that participate in the attendance of student, cannot afford to extend the instructional day as all three counties have their instances of school not being in session that are unique and different.		however, county boards are required to make up any instructional minutes lost during those days. Situations related to the MCVCS and the participating counties will be handled at the local level by the participating counties.

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11-12	Charles Hedrick Director of Administrative Support Services Pendleton County Schools Franklin WV	Our teachers and staff personnel have and will continue to expect children to excel in the time they have allotted. Giving local county boards this option will give those counties (like Pendleton) the ability to make informed decisions in regards to weather conditions and calamitous conditions we all face. I would certainly hope school in not kept in session or a early arrival/dismissal would not occur due to this scenario. 126-(73)-(7). Instructional Term: 7.4 I would ask that those days that have late arrival, early dismissal, Faculty Senate two (2) hour blocks, and other causes of lost instructional time be treated and subject to those practices that have occurred in the past...counting those days as full instructional days. One idea that was mentioned was taking the two (2) hour late arrival and add those to equal one day, then add a day to the end of the calendar. Our service personnel arrive on time each and every day...where would Pendleton County find the funds to pay staff for an additional day along with the professional staff that would need to be paid for both the day in school after the two (2) hour delay and the extra day that would come as a result of the accumulation of the two (2) hour delays to equal one additional day added at the end of the term? What would happen is that we would be forced to cancel school for an entire day - when a two hour delay would have suffice.	NA/-	The requirement that a county board add additional minutes to the instructional day to make-up time lost due to late arrivals and early dismissals is contained in WVC §18-5-45. Counties may need to change their policies regarding when some service personnel report on two-hour delay days in order to mitigate the cost impact.

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§126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings				
10-16	Peggy LaFollette Teacher Faculty Senate Capon Bridge WV	When are noninstructional days to be planned in order to have meetings? If ISE days have been eliminated, what other days can be used? Are teachers to have these meetings on non-pay time?	NA/o	WVC §18-5A-5 requires the school calendar to provide a two hour block of time for a meeting on a day scheduled for the opening of school and four additional two-hour blocks of time on noninstructional days scheduled at least once every 45 days.
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	7.6 Using out of calendar days may cause a problem. If parents have trips planned for their families, the kids won't be in school on those days regardless. Employees who have scheduled activities on those days will simply take a sick or personal day and go as scheduled. If we don't have enough subs, we will create a supervision problem. 7.8 Good luck with that one. I'm really not sure how to comment. I just know it will present a huge problem.	NA/-	According to WVC §18-5-45, county boards are required to provide 180 separate days of instruction.
10-24	David Seay Child Nutrition Director Fayette County Schools Fayetteville WV	Is it within the new policy to have a Faculty Senate meeting on the last day of the 200 day calendar? Seems like it is outside of the 45 day window the policy describes. We would have a FS meeting on the first prep day, once every 45 days during the school term and then again on the last day of the 200 day calendar.	NA/-	As long as the meeting on the final day of school is at least 45 days from the previous meeting, it would be permissible to hold the final faculty senate meeting on the last day of the calendar.

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		If the County doesn't have a policy on Comp time and we have tried to avoid Comp time because it doesn't match up very well with the fair labor standards act, does that negate the comp time clause which allows schools to conduct FS meeting outside of the instructional day and then get comp time off at another time. Is it permissible to hold 4 of the FS meetings outside of the instructional day and then to schedule a non-instructional day as "comp" time for the four FS meetings.		Each county utilizing the compensatory time provisions should have a county policy outlining the requirements for the use of compensatory time in their county. Yes, this would be permissible.
10-26	Barbara TAYlor member Nicholas County Board of Education Fenwick WV	8.2 What if the school day is canceled and we have used accrued time for other make up time? 8.5 Who keeps all these records? Is this another responsibility added to the principals/central office? We are already having difficulty hiring GOOD principals and superintendents.	NA/-	County boards now have discretion as to what type of day is used to make up a canceled instructional day; they can use available noninstructional days or use an out-of-calendar day instead of remaining noninstructional days and continue to use the noninstructional days as originally scheduled. In this manner, the county board can protect a particular noninstructional day, such as the preparation day for the closing of school, from being used as a make-up day.

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				Each county utilizing the option of using compensatory time for faculty senate meetings should have a county policy outlining the requirements for the use of such time in their county, including any record keeping requirements. This has always been a requirement of the county board.
10-29	Gabriel Devono & All RESA 7 Superintendents Executive Director RESA 7 Clarksburg WV	• In 8.4, it states that faculty senates may meet for an unlimited block of time during one of the five non-instructional days. If this occurs, counties may not be able to schedule staff development. Each faculty senate within the county may have different blocks of time to meet impeding efforts made to have county-wide staff development sessions. • In addition, section 8.5 states that a faculty senate may schedule a meeting after an instructional day and may take comp time off on the faculty senate scheduled non-instructional day. Again, the county loses the opportunity to have a scheduled staff development session. The use of comp time could be a difficult concept to implement for professionals and may open the door for other issues or concerns.	NA/-	This is permitted by WVC §18-5A-5(b)(12). Section 8.5 provides an option for county boards to utilize, but the boards are not required to utilize the option.
10-31	William Smith	The are no non-instructional days to schedule FS	NA/-	Faculty senate meetings can

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	Superintendent Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	meetings.		be scheduled on any noninstructional day other than holidays and election day. Per WVC §18-5A-5, the faculty senate meeting scheduled on a noninstructional day shall be considered as part of the purpose for which the noninstructional day is scheduled.
11-03	Sallie Greenbrier County Schools Dalton LEWISBURG WV	8.2 - Would prefer if it read, " Faculty Senates must be provided four additional two-hour blocks of time at least once every 45 days. Allowing for local flexibility, this time could be scheduled as part of a noninstructional day found within the calendar or it could be scheduled as an early dismissal or late arrival if the district has accrued 120 instructional minutes at every school in the district within the 45 days preceding the Faculty Senate meeting."	NA/-	The wording of Section 8.2 mirrors WVC §18-5A-5. Section 8.3 allows for the use of accrued instructional time for faculty senate meetings if sufficient time has been accrued.
11-05	Gail Fleshman Speech Pathologist Greenbrier County Board of	As a "mountain county" every noninstructional day must be available in the spring as a potential make-up day. Without the local flexibility to schedule noninstructional days, those days are diminished. When Faculty Senates were first introduced it was to give the faculty local control. At that time faculties were given 2 hours a month in which to	NA/-	The faculty senate requirements contained in State Board Policy 3234 are

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	Education Rainelle WV	conduct the business of the school. It was a very good way to increase communication and collaboration in the school. Later it was cut to 6 meeting with one at the end of the year after school is over which is not very helpful. Now it is cut to 5 meetings with one possibly being at the end of the year. The less time faculties have to meet means less time making decisions that help a school to run smoothly. These meetings help communication between the administrators and well as between teachers. Better communication means less confusion for the students, especially in larger schools.		from WVC §18-5A-5.
11-06	Lisa Martin Teacher Coalton Elementary Elkins WV	How can Faculty Senate days be scheduled in the spring if all non-instructional days are used to make up "snow days" and IS days are eliminated?	NA/-	Section 8.6 of State Board Policy 3234 indicates that county boards may, but are not required, to reschedule noninstructional days for the faculty senates to meet.
11-08	Kandi Resh Mental Health/Disabilitlities/Transition Coordinator Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	These need to be inside calendar.	N/o	
11-08	Adrianne Minard Teacher Keyser WV	My mother walked the strike line many years ago for the right to have more site based management. These days were originally every month - now, they are every 45 days. Maybe, this is enough for small schools. However, for larger schools like the	NA/-	The changes to the faculty senate requirements contained in WVC §18-5A-5 were changed by the Legislature during the 2013 session

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		one that I work in, this is just not enough! We need time to work with each other on school-wide projects, to help align curriculum and teaching strategies across all grade levels in our schools, to hold IEP meetings that require many teachers to be involved, and to work to make our schools the best that they can be! You gave this as part of an agreement when teachers took less money. Now, you haven't kept up with our salaries putting us right back where we were when the strike occurred, and now, you are taking away this! I really have to wonder if you want your good teachers to head across the stateliness to states that pay more (\$15,000+ more) and value their teachers! I think the STATE BOARD of ED along with the state legislature have made it quite clear that they have no value for their teachers and have forgotten we are the ones that work, day in and day out, to get the best out of our students by overcoming many factors that should make it impossible for them to be successful!		through Senate Bill 359. State Board Policy 3234 mirrors the requirements contained in state code. The State Board values all teachers.
11-10	Beverly Kingery Superintendent Nicholas County Schools Summersville WV	With the proposed calendar limiting professional development opportunities, I would propose restructuring the two hour Faculty Senate time. As many FS are not much more than discussing the color of paint in the school or the copier problems, perhaps a better use of this time could be one hour for general content and one hour for PD/teacher collaboration.	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
11-11	Charlotte Woodford	If counties accommodate these by having the	NA/-	Yes, statutes require that the

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	Alpena WV	schools run on a 2-hour delay schedule, does that time have to be made up? Now, that's a bad idea.		time be made up.
11-11	Kathy Jacquez Barrackville WV	If the faculty senates are limited to five two hour meetings, when will teachers receive the mandatory trainings that are required? When will principals pass along information that they receive from their meetings? When will teachers meet as a group to discuss the results of standardized testing, benchmark results, needs of students, and exchange information of school activities? With a calendar this explicit, the state does not possibly think that teachers will be willing to meet on their own time to accomplish any of the above activities!	NA/-	Under State Board Policy 3234, counties do have opportunities to schedule professional development time by using noninstructional days and through the use of accrued instructional time.
11-11	Stacey Strawderman teacher Fairmont WV	8.4 What non-instructional days are you talking about here? All non-instructional days have a purpose and NONE OF THEM have any time for faculty senate. The 2 P-preparation for beginning and ending school, the PTC day for parent teacher conference, the 3 CE days that we are required to get 18 hours of staff development, and the 6 OS days given in lieu of a pay raise and for teachers to get time for working at home - These days are used - there are NOT any non-instructional days to have Faculty Senate on!!! Early release days or putting ISE days back into the schedule are the only ways to do Faculty senate. Those days are so important to collaboration and professional development for teachers.	NA/-	WVC §18-5A-5 requires that one of the faculty senate meetings be held on a day scheduled for the opening of school prior the instructional term. The remaining four meetings are held on noninstructional days unless the county utilizes accrued instructional time or compensatory time for the meetings. The noninstructional days can be any days other than holidays or election day. The faculty senate meetings shall be

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				considered as part of the purpose for which the noninstructional day is scheduled.
11-11	Doug Lambert Superintendent Pendleton County Schools	I would ask and suggest allowing county boards to keep the same practice in place that has occurred in the past.....allow those days that have Faculty Senate Meetings to count as full instructional days. In closing please be advised that I fully support the rule of 180 days of instruction. I do not see the local flexibility that allows this to occur. One idea that was mentioned was taking the two (2) hour late arrival and add those to equal one day, then add a day to the end of the calendar. Our service personnel arrive on time each and every day...where would I find the funds to pay those folks for an additional day along with the professional staff that would need to be paid for both the day in school after the two (2) hour delay and the extra day that would come as a result of the accumulation of the two (2) hour delays to equal one additional day added at the end of the term?	NA/-	WVC §18-5A-5 requires that faculty senate meetings be scheduled on noninstructional days, unless a county utilizes the accrued instructional time option under Section 8.3 or the compensatory time option under Section 8.5 of State Board Policy 3234. County boards of education may need to review their policy regarding service personnel in inclement weather situations in order to lessen the financial burden.
11-12	Mary Ann Pannone Teacher Wiley Ford Primary Wiley Ford WV	We need time to meet as a faculty senate.	NA/-	Section 8 of State Board Policy 3234 and WVC §18-5A-5 both allow for faculty senate meetings.
11-12	Amanda	Faculty Senate meetings are times when we can	NA/-	This requirement has not been

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	Teacher Clay WV	collaborate as a staff and catch up with the endless amounts of paperwork (daily and required by the state!) These days are invaluable and should be increased rather than decreased.		changed; faculty senates are still provided the opportunity to meet five times a year.
§126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings				
10-16	Mary Knapp Special Education Director Boone County Schools Madison WV	Must public hearings be held every year?	NA/o	Yes, according to WVC §18-5-45, two public hearings must be held every year.
10-21	Leo G. Lake Manager of Service Personnel Cabell County Schools Huntington WV	No problems noted.	N/o	
10-26	Barbara TAYlor member Nicholas County Board of Education Fenwick WV	9.2 Who pays for publishing the "legal advertisement"? The meetings are a good idea. They could be advertized through the school's news letter, radio announcements, local TV (if available), the county wide call system, coming events in the newspaper, etc.	NA/o	Like all other legal advertisements, the county boards are responsible for paying the cost for the legal notice of the public hearings on the school calendar.
10-29	Gabriel Devono & All RESA 7 Superintendents Executive Director RESA 7 Clarksburg WV	• Concerning the two required public hearings needed prior to adopting a new calendar, do these two hearings apply for multi-county CTE centers or will it suffice if just the host county holds the meetings? • If the host county of a multi-county CTE center closes, how will the other counties make up the time? This could require additional days being added to one county or another county's calendar	NA/o	MCVCs are not required to hold public hearings. WVC §18-5-45 only requires county boards of education to hold public hearings. The impact of MCVC closures should be handled at the local level by the participating

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
		at the end of the school year depending on who is closed. • If making up time becomes necessary, how is the staff to be compensated if this time falls outside their contracted days?		counties. If the participating counties determine that the MCVV staff need additional contract days in order to make up time lost, those employees must be compensated. Payment for the additional contract days would again be determined at the local level by the participating counties.
11-03	Sallie Greenbrier County Schools Dalton LEWISBURG WV	With the provision of mandated public hearings versus local flexibility and noticing the hearings as a Class II legal advertisement, I would request that a reimbursement be considered for the cost of those advertisements for districts. The alternative to this would be written as such, (9.1) "Prior to the voting on a final school calendar for the school year 2014-15, each county board of education must hold at least two public hearings that allow all interested parties to discuss the school calendar. Unless substantial changes are made in state code regarding the calendar after school year 2014-15, county boards are encouraged to involve community, parents, students, and interested parties in the discussion of the school calendar." As local flexibility is mentioned frequently, then trust must be placed with each district that	NA/-	The requirement to hold public hearings and the requirement to publish notice of the hearing as a Class II legal advertisement is contained in WVC §18-5-45. No additional funding is anticipated for this legal advertisement requirement.

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
		communication among stakeholders is a given not a mandate.		
11-07	Jackee Long President West Virginia School Service Personnel Association Charleston WV	The public hearing should be a guide for the Board of Education to follow. Whatever the results of the hearing, the board shall vote accordingly from the voice of the public, employees and all concerned.	NA/-	Local board members are elected officials who take an oath to fulfill their duties to the best of their abilities. There are no statutory provisions as to how they should exercise their authority and perform their duties.
11-10	Sherry Claypool Buckhannon WV	I am writing this concerning the new discussion that has come upon us about the 'year-round' school. My family and I live in Upshur County, and we are one of the smaller communities. I am against year round school/policy 3234 and I feel that this is a decision that the parents should have a say in and not quietly announced online or meetings held in one area. I have recently read some information on a study conducted on the year-round school and it stated that the year-round school was started to alleviate overcrowding but someone decided that it would provide academic benefits for students. However, the results they came up with did not support that claim. Instead of having to review things at just the beginning of the year, they ended up having to review several times a year. To me, that seems even worse than what we have now. I feel that there are way too many issues to consider before pushing everyone to do this year-round school, which is what we	NA/-	Neither WVC §18-5-45, nor State Board Policy 3234 mandate a balanced (year-round) school calendar. A balanced calendar is just one of the options available to county boards.

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
		were informed by our local BOE that they have been told. They did not have a decision in this and they were given a time limit to do so. But then I also heard a contradiction to that by a letter from Dr. Phares' office that indicated that all 55 counties have control of their own school calendars which was sent to another local parent who does not agree with the 'balanced' calendar. It also stated that this 'year-round' calendar was an exploratory situation. But my concerns are for the children and nothing else. The many issues I feel that need to be considered in this begins with a few scenarios which does not apply to me personally but will apply to several of the children in this situation. Let's say "little Joe" has parents who have divorced and he flies out every summer to California to spend with his father. This is one of the few times he gets to spend with that parent. After going through, I am sure already, a disappointment considering the separation of his parents and now if we consider a 'balanced' calendar this could interfere with him seeing his father because maybe the parents cannot afford to fly "little Joe" out several times a year just to spend time with his father. So "little Joe" suffers, meaning some children will suffer. Also, another concern is older children who may get a job in the summer to help their families with expenses they may have and are suffering from. Maybe these children help pay for their own school clothes or supplies and they will not have		

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
		that opportunity while attending school during summer months, so once again the children suffer. Another example will be the added expense to some parents that they will accumulate due to the new 'balanced' calendar. Most day cares that they used for the summer months will not hold a spot for that child while they are in school on and off during the year. The day care has to make money so then these families will have to find other means of care for their child, which causes maybe more expense. Therefore, the parents will have to budget that money from somewhere, which may be their family vacation fund or their grocery fund which means the children once again will suffer. We all also know that this will end up costing more in the long run with the air conditioning having to be used through those hot summer times more often then what is used now. How is the state going to fund all these new costs? Another concern I have encountered is that in our local schools, we do not have any air conditioning in the gyms, our local Middle School is an example and from experience attending some end of the year school functions, sitting in that gym is unbearable. I couldn't imagine children trying to have gym in that area during some of the hottest months. During our BOE meetings, I have noticed, not one, but two window air conditioning units in the art room of our local elementary school used for these meetings. When summer rolls around with its scorching ninety-eight degree		

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
		weather, how many air conditioners will the state be able to afford for each school in our county? Once again, the children are the ones who will suffer. In other words, a major update of the air conditioning systems will have to be done in most of our schools in this county. Who will foot the bill for that expense? I personally have a son with severe allergies which he receives shots monthly for. He had become very sick and we couldn't understand why. After months of missed school and confusion, we had him tested for allergies and he tested positive to several. We noticed that he was getting sick during school months, but was functionally healthily during summer. After receiving the test results, everything started to make sense. The doctor said the reason our son was suffering heavily during the school year was his allergies, which include dust mites, feathers, mice and cockroaches, are often found in the ventilation systems of most schools. While our son is attending school and the air or heating system is running constantly, he is allergic to the air that he is breathing. In our particular situation, summer is a time for him to recover and receive some relief from the constant battle of allergies. The point I am trying to get across is that all children are different, and not one "balanced" calendar is going to fit every child's needs. It was something started for solving the issue of overcrowding, a problem our schools don't encounter. This solution would		

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
		be like giving one medication to every single person in hopes that it will affect every person the same. Also, referring back to the study I indicated previously in my letter, I will now quote how they ended their report. "On purely academic grounds, I wouldn't advocate a year-round calendar, but I can't recommend against it, either. If a school has a non-academic reason for adopting a year-round calendar--such as coping with overcrowding-- it can do so without any major harm to academics. And if it already has a year-round calendar, there is no academic reason to switch back. On the other hand, if a school is considering a year-round calendar in hope of boosting academic achievement, it seems unlikely that these hopes will be realized" Once again I vote NO for policy 3234. (http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/yearrnd.htm). Sincerely, Sherry Claypool		
11-11	Kathy Jacquez Barrackville WV	Why is the public hearing needed? Why are two public hearings required to accomplish allowing the public to determine the employment term of, in most cases, the county's largest employer?	NA/-	The requirement to hold two public hearings is contained in WVC §18-5-45. The public hearings provide parents, employees, businesses and other interested parties to discuss the calendar.
11-11	Stacey Strawderman teacher Fairmont WV	9.2 This will cost the counties extra money that many of them do not have.	NA/-	While there is a cost associated with legal advertisements, that cost is

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
				generally not significant.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 11:23 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-14 11:23:06)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Don Dellinger
Organization: Berkeley County Schools
Title: Deputy Superintendent
City/State: Martinsburg, WV
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2013-10-14 11:23:06
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

The proposal makes it difficult for districts to provide professional development for all staff. Once holidays, election day, OS days, beginning/ending of year prep days and parent/teacher conference day are worked into the calendar, there are only 3 days maximum left for professional development and teacher collaboration. It becomes difficult to provide staffs with sustained training in instructional strategies.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

7.4 Accrued Instructional Time should include provisions for professional development and teacher collaboration.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 3:09 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-14 15:09:25)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Steve Mascaro
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Morgantown, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-10-14 15:09:25
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(3) Application

Delay until 2015-2016 school year to allow appropriate time for public comments. A majority of parents are not aware of the impact of this change.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(4) Definitions

Remove 4.8 Noninstructional day from list of definitions.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Remove 5.3. This past summer in Mon Co. was shortened once again. Parents count on being able to spend time with their kids in the summer when the weather is nice. We have such little time with them when they are young, this will just reduce that time even more. Planning summer vacations will become even more problematic. Planning any vacations during the mini-breaks during a year-round scenario would be financially risky since, I'm sure if school is missed due to snow days, one of the mini-breaks would be reduced by the same amount. Great chance to loose money on deposits.rnrnDuel income household's will be further burdened with finding child care during short periods throughout the year. Much easier to schedule 3 months vs. 2-3 weeks several times a year. rnrnRemove noninstructional days. Waste of taxpayer money and the reason schools can't meet the "mandated" calendar. Better focused instruction removes the time element of calendars anyway. Better job of teachin!
g = no need for this measure. Studies have shown year-round schedules do nothing to improve student performance. There is absolutely no proof of need for this measure.rnrnOverall, do not enact this change as there are no stated benefits, yet issues that are produced by this change are easily visualized.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 9:21 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-16 09:21:14)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Peggy LaFollette
Organization: Faculty Senate
Title: Teacher
City/State: Capon Bridge, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-10-16 09:21:14
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

Is our contract no longer for 200 days? If so, won't our pay have to increase to cover the extra days?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

If we already have extra time built into our schedule, can this be used in place of hours/days missed?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

When are noninstructional days to be planned in order to have meetings? If ISE days have been elimanated, what other days can be used? Are teachers to have these meetings on non-pay time?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 1:26 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-16 13:25:41)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Mary Knapp
Organization: Boone County Schools
Title: Special Education Director
City/State: Madison, WV
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2013-10-16 13:25:41
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

If a school is closed for lack of power and the day needs to be made up, will there be money to pay the bus drivers who may have already worked that day delivering students to other schools?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

If OS days are not needed to make up snow days, will staff work these days at the end of the school term?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

Must public hearings be held every year?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 11:54 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-17 11:53:32)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Robin Lee
Organization:
Title: Mrs.
City/State: Augusta, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-10-17 11:53:32
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I understand there is a push for an all year school calendar from July 31-June 30. This is concern in our rural area for many reasons. The 4-H program is huge in this area. Over 300 kids participate in the Hampshire County fair; many of their parents are school employees. It's already difficult to get the students/children to the fairgrounds when you are a parent as well as an employeeed. Animal juding takes place during the early afternoon which means parents need to help the kids get ready with grooming, feeding, praciticing, etc. In addition, there are various chores to perform in the livestock barns. This program teaches the kids responsibility, teamwork, sportmanship, and many other positive traits. If the calendar changes, breeding season will need to be adjusted. A goat, for instance, must weight 60 pounds by the fair in order to be sold. A month's difference means and adjustment must be made in breeding. A year in advance is necessary for that. In addition,!

many students attend Vacation Bible School during the summer, visit their estranged parents, attend Girl Scout/Boy Scout Camps, and rent river lots for the summer. Many parents only have a babysitter for the summer but may have issues getting a babysitter for other months like February; which is what I heard would be the case. Camp and Fair dates are usually determined a year to 18months in advance. If a change is in the works for the calendar, I highly suggest it be discussed with the various organizations and that at least a year notice to all parents, organizations, and interest groups in order to prepare as well as the full list of benefits for doing so. I understand Charleston's community is different from this area but not better and not worse...just different. It may be difficult for you to appreciate the positive impact these groups and activities have on our students and children.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 8:56 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-17 20:56:28)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Julie Yearego
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Ellamore, Wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-10-17 20:56:28
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am very concerned about a proposed year-round school calendar for Upshur co. I teach in another county and the different schedules would cost my family around \$2000 more a year in childcare costs. There are no strong research results to prove to me the added benefit of year round school over the traditional method. Also we would miss out a good deal of family time together due to the conflicting schedules. From the Board of Ed meetings, the county seems to be under the impression there is a strong "suggestion/recommendation " from WVDE to look into adopting a year round schedule. This would affect many families I know negatively, especially with child care options. Please reconsider your suggestive stance to the counties.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 9:08 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-17 21:08:16)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Julia Brady
Organization: Upshur County Schools
Title: teacher
City/State: Buckhannon, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-10-17 21:08:16
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

The idea that school trips should not be counted in the 180 days is ridiculous. Who ever said all learning takes place in a classroom? If you like, make a ruling about the educational relevance of school trips; i.e., require sponsors to document the pre- and post- activities as well as learning objectives covered by the trip. There will not be any trips if they have to be taken on weekends, breaks or holidays. Many of our students benefit greatly from the opportunity to experience trips to places their families would never take them.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

If Professional Development is not done during the 180 day term, be prepared to add salsry as employees attend the trainings outside of the current employment period.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 4:12 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-18 16:11:39)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Cemantha Woody
Organization: PRAYRS --Parents Rallying Against Year Round School
Title:
City/State: Buckhannon, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-10-18 16:11:39
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

Seriously??? ELIMINATING school trips. They have basically taken every thing away from these kids. It's something every year and now their field trips. Do you really think they can't learn anything outside of school. Adding 5 more weeks to the calendar is not going to make these kids learn more. They are burnt out by the time summer comes. The kids need a break, the parents need a break and I'm sure the Teachers need a break. No wonder we have such a high drop out rate. It's more like prison than school. I didn't realize it was against the law to have fun in school these days. Why don't they try going back to basics and teach these kids how to deal with life. rnl am speaking as a parent and I think I know my child's needs better than anyone. I don't personally think he is going to learn any more sitting in class 5 more weeks out of the year. He is mentally going to shut down. Reality is these kids are NOT a number or a statistic and the kids bringing down your "numbers" wou!

Idn't score any higher, if they were in school 365 days a year. The state needs to put their focus on revamping this crappy testing system and get back to teaching our kids the basics of life, Reading, Writing, and Math. The thing that gets me the most is that the State gets to dictate to us what we have to do. Let us, the parents and Teachers have a vote.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 5:15 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-19 17:15:27)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Savannah
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Buckhannon, wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-10-19 17:15:27
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not agree with the new school calendar they are discussing. Having so many breaks between schooling is difficult for the children and teachers will have to spend so much time going back over what was learned before the break that it won't benefit the children AT ALL! Children need time to be children and DESERVE their time off in the summer when they can enjoy the beautiful weather.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval

DO NOT agree with the new projected school calendar.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 11:34 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-21 11:34:03)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Allyson Schoenlein
Organization: Cabell County Schools
Title: Director of Title Programs
City/State: Huntington, WV
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-10-21 11:34:03
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(2) Purpose

The purpose is laudable, to insure all students receive adequate time for their instruction each year. HOWEVER, if time isn't filled with high quality instruction, more of the same thing won't help any kids. We must not lose sight of the need to train and retrain teachers. Moving to the Common Core Standards and Nxt Gen Assessment makes this even more necessary!

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

Losing the 5 Instructional Support Days would be a huge step backward. With IS days, we can assure that 100% of our staff attend High Quality professional development as required by ESEA. If training must occur outside the school day and year, it can not be mandated.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 1:53 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-21 13:53:01)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Leo G. Lake
Organization: Cabell County Schools
Title: Manager of Service Personnel
City/State: Huntington, WV
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-10-21 13:53:01
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

No problem noted.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(2) Purpose

I'm not sure you have succeeded in giving the school systems more flexibility. Even though you've extended the number of weeks from 43 to 48, I believe the parameters may be even more stringent.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(3) Application

No problems noted.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(4) Definitions

Definitions are appropriate.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

99% of the time, I think County Boards of Education can guarantee 180 instructional days. That being said, in rare instances, this may be impossible. I think those minute possibilities need to be addressed in policy. If the intent of 5.3 is to address these situations, then I think that will suffice.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

I'm not sure we can get in the mandated 18 hours of staff development if we are not permitted to have Instructional Support and Enhancement Days. I believe the reaction of teachers and service employees to utilizing out of calendar days to make up instruction will present a huge issue. I think more likely than not, they will take the day off and we will

be stuck at school without adequate supervision on those days. Additionally, bus drivers who take off work on these days will have a huge impact upon the efficient transport of students to and from school.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

7.3 will create a significant problem especially service personnel. If we hold them to accumulate bank time, we could put them in a overtime situation.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

7.6 Using out of calendar days may cause a problem. If parents have trips planned for their families, the kids won't be in school on those days regardless. Employees who have scheduled activities on those days will simply take a sick or personal day and go as scheduled. If we don't have enough subs, we will create a supervision problem.
7.8 Good luck with that one. I'm really not sure how to comment. I just know it will present a huge problem.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

No problems noted.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval

No problems noted.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(11) Severability

No problems noted.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 3:33 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-22 15:33:14)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Michael J. Coleman
Organization: Hampshire County Schools
Title: Special Education Director
City/State: Romney , WV
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2013-10-22 15:33:14
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

Recovery of lost time: Can the additional minutes be built into the instructional day up front. In other words, can the time be banked in advance for delayed arrival/early dismissal to do data analysis, professional development, etc. As long as it is built into the approved calendar and the county has a policy covering the recovery of this time towards the required 180 days. Or am I misunderstanding this part of the policy, does it only pertain to weather related delays and dismissals.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 3:36 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-22 15:35:51)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: mindy toler
Organization:
Title: mrs
City/State: martinsburg, wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-10-22 15:35:51
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

If it is true that you are suggesting to extend the calendar 5 weeks, when will students be able to enjoy family time? Not all of life is surrounded by the education gathered inside a school building. Please consider the effect of our students and the families who enjoy having their children home. There are more families who deserve better than this fix-all philosophy pushed down their throats because of the families who are the minority. Life IS NOT about a test!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:55 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-23 09:55:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Karen Bollinger
Organization: Summers Co. Schools
Title: Teacher
City/State: Hinton, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-10-23 09:55:07
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I disagree with the elimination of the Instruction Support days. Teachers utilize these days to meet with parents, assist students and meet with other teachers. Communication is of vital importance to the educational process. These IS days are needed for that communication. Please reconsider the elimination of these days and keep them in future calendars.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:44 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-24 10:43:30)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: David Seay
Organization: Fayette County Schools
Title: Child Nutrition Director
City/State: Fayetteville, WV
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2013-10-24 10:43:30
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

Does every school have to have 180 days? Is it a school by school requirement or a county requirement? For example if a school has a boil water advisory and we cancel school for that one school, do they have to make it up? Or because the rest of the county is having school are they covered? At times it would be advantageous to Fayette County to cancel school in Meadow Bridge due to inclement weather, but have school in the rest of the county, would Meadow Bridge then have to make that day up, but not the rest of the county?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

Is it within the new policy to have a Faculty Senate meeting on the last day of the 200 day calendar? Seems like it is outside of the 45 day window the policy describes. We would have a FS meeting on the first prep day, once every 45 days during the school term and then again on the last day of the 200 day calendar.
If the County doesn't have a policy on Comp time and we have tried to avoid Comp time because it doesn't match up very well with the fair labor standards act, does that negate the comp time clause which allows schools to conduct FS meeting outside of the instructional day and then get comp time off at another time.
Is it permissible to hold 4 of the FS meetings outside of the instructional day and then to schedule a non-instructional day as "comp" time for the four FS meetings.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-26 09:29:31)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Barbara TAYlor
Organization: Nicholas County Board of Education
Title: member
City/State: Fenwick, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-10-26 09:29:31
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

5.5 declaration of state disaster should be includedrn5.6 being able to receive a waiver is an excellent idea

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

6.1c1 What happens if the original schedule has the 7 paid holidays and the required "make-up days" include another holiday (WV Day). Are the employees not paid while the central office is paid? Won't there be grievances?rn6.1.c.4 Won't staff development suffer from these 6 types of days (many of which need 2 days such as opening and closing of school and the 4 parent-teacher conferences?rn6.1.c.4.H Since the staff is to be paid when they are scheduled to work, what happens when someone has a major illness and misses the rest of the year? Do they pay back what has been paid? Are they responsible for the taxes already paid by the county?rn6.1.c.6 How is the 18 hour requirement required when we may have to use the day for make-up? Who pays a consultant who is schedule to come on a day that is rescheduled for students to attend?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

7.2 Who pays the additional overtime if service personnel work over time when extending the day for all schools. Due to busing issues, the extension of one schools school day may vastly affect another school. This could easily happen if a school has an emergency which requires a 4 hour early dismissal having only accumulated 30 minutes of accrued time early in the year, and no other school is effected.rn7.3 We have a great deal of black ice. The state road doesn't pretreat the roads due to the expense so we need 2 hour delays. Can the state give the state road the money to pretreat the roads so we can go at regular time?rn7.5 If only one school does not have 180 days, does just that school make up the time?rn7.5 What if this takes staff development time?rn7.6 what happens if a misses all of the make up days and the rest of the calendar? Does he pay us back for the days paid and not worked earlier in the year?rn7.8 Will you cancel all "State Tournaments" because we will be pu!
nished for low attendance on those days and we already miss SO much for snow, ice and lack of utilities that we currently make up?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

8.2 What if the school day is canceled and we have used accrued time for other make up time? rn8.5 Who keeps all these records? Is this another responsibility added to the principals/central office? We are already having difficulty hiring GOOD principals and superintendents.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

9.2 Who pays for publishing the "legal advertisement"?rn The meetings are a good idea. They could be advertized through the school's news letter, radio announcements, local TV (if available), the county wide call system, coming events in the newspaper, etc.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:01 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-29 10:01:25)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Gabriel Devono & All RESA 7 Superintendents
Organization: RESA 7
Title: Executive Director
City/State: Clarksburg, WV
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2013-10-29 10:01:25
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

• With all of the prescribed non-instructional days that must be within a 200-day employment according to 126-73-6 (7 paid holidays, 1-2 election days, 6 OSE days, 5 faculty senate meeting at 2-hours each = 19 days), it appears counties will only have one day of flexibility. Don't school systems need at least one day to open and close the school?
• For mountain counties with many dismissals and closures due to inclement weather, there is no real value in 6 OSE days given that those days will inevitable become instructional days to make up for cancellations.
• Can accrued time be banked and used at a later date? For example, if we have a two-hour delay due to weather and we have banked 200 minutes, are we to subtract 120 minutes of accrued time allowing us to still use 80 minutes at a later date?
• What happens if a county does not have sufficient accrued time to offset lost time due to delays and early dismissals?
• According to 6.7.4, "a faculty senate meeting can be scheduled on instructional days using accrued time." What is this accrued time is unavailable?
• Special Note: Tucker County High School does not accrue instructional time due to the location of the high school and bus routing requirements.
• If a county does not have sufficient accrued time to offset lost time due to delays and early dismissals, this could cause counties to add additional days of instruction. Is there funding for those days?
• In one mountain county last year, there were 18 delays and 2 early dismissals due to snow. How is it possible to make up 36 hours of instructional time without being faced with a financial burden by paying service personnel for additional hours or additional contracted days?
• Will funding be provided by the WVDE for legal advertisements for our CTE centers?
• According to 6.1.c.6, 18 hours of staff development is to be scheduled when?
• In policy 6.1.c.4.G, a two-hour block of time is identified for faculty senate meetings. In section 8.4, faculty senates are allowed the opportunity to meet for an unlimited block of time during a non-instructional day. Which is it – is this decision made by school or county wide faculty senate decision?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

- In 8.4, it states that faculty senates may meet for an unlimited block of time during one of the five non-instructional days. If this occurs, counties may not be able to schedule staff development. Each faculty senate within the county may have different blocks of time to meet impeding efforts made to have county-wide staff development sessions.
- In addition, section 8.5 states that a faculty senate may schedule a meeting after an instructional day and may take comp time off on the faculty senate scheduled non-instructional day. Again, the county loses the opportunity to have a scheduled staff development session. The use of comp time could be a difficult concept to implement for professionals and may open the door for other issues or concerns.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

- Concerning the two required public hearings needed prior to adopting a new calendar, do these two hearings apply for multi-county CTE centers or will it suffice if just the host county holds the meetings?
- If the host county of a multi-county CTE center closes, how will the other counties make up the time? This could require additional days being added to one county or another county’s calendar at the end of the school year depending on who is closed.
- If making up time becomes necessary, how is the staff to be compensated if this time falls outside their contracted days?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 4:38 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-30 16:37:31)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Pamela Phares
Organization: Eastern Greenbrier Middle School
Title: Teacher
City/State: Ronceverte, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-10-30 16:37:31
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

As a teacher from a school in Greenbrier County, I strongly disagree with the idea of making up every day missed for weather situations. Some years, we have mild winters and miss very few days. Some years, we get pounded with snow and ice, causing us to miss many days. rnrnAs a teacher, I know what I am responsible for teaching. The CSOs give me that information. I also know that I can effectively teach all of my CSOs in less than 180 days. If we miss a couple of weeks during the winter, it is definitely feasible to still teach everything we are supposed to.rnrnBeing from a rural county, I know many of my students live and work on farms. If the school year is extended, it will take valuable time away from the students who need to help their families on the farms.rnrnWe also host the WV State Fair here in Greenbrier County. It would be nearly impossible to have school during the fair, since MANY teachers, bus drivers, and students work at the fair. It would also crea!
te a logistical nightmare where traffic is concerned, since three of the counties largest schools are less than a mile from the fairgrounds. It would be impossible for busses to be on time.rnrnWhy is 180 the magic number for educational days? I can teach all of my CSOs easily in 160, or even less.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 5:09 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-10-31 17:09:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: William Smith
Organization: Cabell County Schools
Title: Superintendent
City/State: Huntington , WV
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2013-10-31 17:09:07
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

Flexibility has been eliminated. There is no provision for professional development and teacher collaboration and common planning. We must embed this time into the employment term - 10 days for PD and 170 days of quality instruction. Or eliminate OS days and turn them into professional development days.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

The are no non-instructional days to schedule FS meetings.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 6:55 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-01 06:55:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Susanne Gompers
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Buckhannon, wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-01 06:55:11
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am not only a parent of three children within the WV school system, but I am also employed by the BOE. I am currently on the substitute list and interested in full time employment. If the school calendar goes to a year round version, my family will be greatly disappointed. We are opposed to a year round school calendar. Having this type of calendar would greatly affect our way of life. My husband is self employed and family time is very important to us. We would lose time together, if the calendar was to change. I also would be less likely to continue being a substitute and would definitely not seek full time employment with the BOE. There are countless reasons that year round schooling is NOT a good plan. Thank you for your time.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 03, 2013 1:42 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-03 13:42:00)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Sallie
Organization: Dalton
Title: Greenbrier County Schools
City/State: LEWISBURG, WV
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2013-11-03 13:42:00
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

6.1c6 - If professional development days are required to be rescheduled for lost instructional time, then this section should read, "County boards are required to schedule all professional and service personnel employed at least 18 hours of professional development annually. Counties are encouraged to develop innovative methods of reaching this goal such as providing staff development as a result of accrued instructional time."

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

8.2 - Would prefer if it read, " Faculty Senates must be provided four additional two-hour blocks of time at least once every 45 days. Allowing for local flexibility, this time could be scheduled as part of a noninstructional day found within the calendar or it could be scheduled as an early dismissal or late arrival if the district has accrued 120 instructional minutes at every school in the district within the 45 days preceding the Faculty Senate meeting." rnrnAs a "mountain county" every noninstructional day must be available in the spring as a potential make-up day. Without the local flexibility to schedule noninstructional days, those days are diminished.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

With the provision of mandated public hearings versus local flexibility and noticing the hearings as a Class II legal advertisement, I would request that a reimbursement be considered for the cost of those advertisements for districts. The alternative to this would be written as such, (9.1) "Prior to the voting on a final school calendar for the school year 2014-15, each county board of education must hold at least two public hearings that allow all interested parties to discuss the school calendar. Unless substantial changes are made in state code regarding the calendar after school year 2014-15, county boards are encouraged to involve community, parents, students, and interested parties in the discussion of the school calendar." rnrnAs local flexibility is mentioned frequently, then trust must be placed with each district that communication among stakeholders is a given not a mandate.

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RECEIVED

BY: B Freed
OSF

404 Old Main Drive • Summersville, WV 26651
304.872.6440 • Fax: 304.872.6442 • 800.251.7372 • <http://resa4.k12.wv.us>
Charles Nichols, Executive Director

October 28, 2013

Amy Willard, Executive Director
Office of School Finance
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Building 6, Room 215
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

Dear Ms. Willard,

Herein I submit comments for WVBE Policy 3234 currently on public comment. Understanding that instructional time is paramount to student achievement, there is another essential and significant factor that is in danger of being overlooked within the law and proposed policy. That factor is professional development. The law and proposed policy stymies professional development crucial for school improvement and ultimately classroom instructional improvement.

With the recent implementation of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, the core and crust of that waiver is student growth. This will be difficult if not impossible with decreased and limited professional development time for teachers. The core of RESA work is now school improvement. One might argue that RESAs and districts could afford professional development opportunity outside of the regular school day. That is not as plausible as in the past due to teachers with second jobs, family obligations, and those who simply will not relinquish personal time. Another major issue is funding outside the regular school day. RESAs and districts are experiencing declining budgets which make this increasingly difficult.

If for no other reason, I request that you not adopt this policy until the professional development issues stated and implied by this policy can thoroughly be explored. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Charles "Chuck" Nichols
RESA 4 Interim Executive Director

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 11:51 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-05 11:50:43)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Michael Wells
Organization: Pleasants County Schools
Title: Superintendent
City/State: St. Marys, WV
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2013-11-05 11:50:43
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

180 instructional days sounds good. However, "it's not the time you put in, it's what you put in the time."

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

It will be difficult to offer Professional Development and Collaboration time, if we must use snow days to make up time beyond the 200 day employment term. We do not have the funding to extend contracts. Also, bus drivers will need to transport students, if one school has an extra day to make-up a day missed which may require to extend their contract? Why can't a 2 hr. delay count as an instructional day without extending the time? Safety should be our number one concern.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 11:23 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-05 23:23:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Gail Fleshman
Organization: Greenbrier County Board of Education
Title: Speech Pathologist
City/State: Rainelle, WV
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-11-05 23:23:11
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

7.5 The language in this section does not guarantee that teachers will retain the two preparation days in the calendar. While the preparation day at the beginning of the school year would not be affected as it occurs before students arrive, it will affect the one at the end of the year. If this is taken to make up days lost for inclement weather, teachers will not have time to file end of the year reports such as grades and permanent records as well as prepare the classrooms for summer cleaning. Since we are expected to keep students actively engaged until the last day of school these tasks must be conducted after the students leave. This day should not be able to be used to make up inclement weather days. The wording of this policy does not guarantee this. In mountain counties weather conditions can cause more days missed due to inclement weather and this is one day that needs to be guaranteed to properly close the schools.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

When Faculty Senates were first introduced it was to give the faculty local control. At that time faculties were given 2 hours a month in which to conduct the business of the school. It was a very good way to increase communication and collaboration in the school. Later it was cut to 6 meeting with one at the end of the year after school is over which is not very helpful. Now it is cut to 5 meetings with one possibly being at the end of the year. The less time faculties have to meet means less time making decisions that help a school to run smoothly. These meetings help communication between the administrators and well as between teachers. Better communication means less confusion for the students, especially in larger schools.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 2:10 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-06 14:09:54)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Jennifer Hanson
Organization:
Title: teacher
City/State: Rupert, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-06 14:09:54
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

The taking of school preparation days at the beginning and end of a school year in unacceptable. If teachers are to do a quality job, getting organized is one of those necessary areas. No professional should be treated with such disdain and disrespect.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 2:17 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-06 14:17:06)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Amber Osborne
Organization: Rupert Elementary school WVEA member
Title: Teacher
City/State: Rupert, Wv
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-06 14:17:06
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

If prep days are taken away, when are teachers supposed to prepare for the classroom and students? Teachers take enough work home now as it is and are not compensated for it. I think the suits and people that sit in an office all day, not around other faculty members or students, need to come work a few days in a teacher's job. Swallowing lunch whole in about fifteen minutes because you had students that needed help or taken care of, so you used part of your 30 minute lunch to help. We have people in positions that know nothing about the education system trying to come up with policies or change policies.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 5:59 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-06 17:59:15)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: sandra Beale
Organization:
Title: teacher
City/State: ronceverte, wv
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-06 17:59:15
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I would like to state my disapproval of allowing The teacher prep. days to be used as make up snow days. Teachers already spend at least two or more days of their own time preparing for beginning of school and closing at the end of the school term. To ask them to spend more of their own time for this is totally unfair. It will also not benefit the students. Some teachers will not spend their own time, therefore they will not be as prepared as they normally would. the students will be the ones who suffer this effect. It would be in the best interest of the students to always allow at least one prep day at the beginning of the school term.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 7:57 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-06 19:57:22)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Lisa Martin
Organization: Coalton Elementary
Title: Teacher
City/State: Elkins , WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-06 19:57:22
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Why eliminate IS days? I've taught 30 years and yearly the paperwork and committee meetings increase. When are we supposed to address these issues? Believe me the 40 minute planning period a day doesn't cut it. By the way, my school, like many small schools provided the extra 10 minutes by having students report to class 10 minutes earlier thereby reducing my before school planning time by 10 minutes. I don't blame my administrator for this action. I blame legislative action that did not take the reality of the situation into account as they did not with most of Senate Bill 359.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

It is ridiculous to expect teachers to be "held hostage" for five additional weeks each year in case we have a "bad winter". We have families and lives. Many teachers spend the summer furthering their education. This would be impossible with these restrictions. Many, also supplement their income with second jobs. Being among the lowest paid teachers in the country makes this necessary.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

The use of out of calendar days could place a severe financial burden on small rural counties where service personnel will need to be paid overtime. How will bus drivers be paid when they have worked a day driving on a two hour delay day? It is discrimination against mountain counties which experience more severe weather.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

How can Faculty Senate days be scheduled in the spring if all non-instructional days are used to make up "snow days" and IS days are eliminated?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 11:30 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 11:29:58)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Mike Saturday
Organization: Elk Garden Primary School
Title: Principal
City/State: Elk Garden, WV
Role: Principal
Posted: 2013-11-07 11:29:58
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

5.5 States the State Superintendent in any county declared a federal disaster area and where the event causes the declaration is substantially related to a reduction of instructional days. There are times the governor declares a "state of emergency." If a "state of emergency" is declared statewide or for a particular area, considerations and waivers should be made in the calendar.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

My school in particular will be impacted by this particular section. Elk Garden is in the mountains of Mineral County. My school is a feeder school for Keyser Middle School and subsequently Keyser High School. There are some days that weather is so severe in Elk Garden that we will either delay or cancel school. Are those students who go to Keyser still required to go on those days? Are they going to be counted absent? If they are given an opportunity to make the day up, how will the teachers at Keyser be compensated?rnrnI am sure there are a few other counties with similar problems.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:53 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 13:52:31)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Jackee Long
Organization: West Virginia School Service Personnel Association
Title: President
City/State: Charleston, WV
Role: Service Personnel
Posted: 2013-11-07 13:52:31
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

The public hearing should be a guide for the Board of Education to follow. Whatever the results of the hearing, the board shall vote accordingly from the voice of the public, employees and all concerned.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:57 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 13:57:23)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Annette Simmons
Organization: Alderson Elementary
Title: Supervisory Aide Special Needs
City/State: Alderson, WV
Role: Service Personnel
Posted: 2013-11-07 13:57:23
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Due to the area that we live in, we will always have snow days. We put enough of our time in now as it is. Please leave the calendar as it is.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:21 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 15:20:44)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Sue Everett
Organization: Mineral County Schools
Title: 3rd Grade Teacher at New Creek Primary
City/State: New Creek, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-07 15:20:44
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

There is NO magic number of days that will make a difference for some students. In years that our county had an above normal amount of days missed due to weather, our test scores did not suffer. How will delays of some schools be recovered when the county has already paid bus drivers for the days missed?? There has to be provisions for areas that recieve an enormous amount of snow in the winter.rnrnIf year round school is what we are going for, lets just say it. I think going 6 weeks on, 2 or 3 weeks off would make more sense. I would like someone to be more specific with this policy. Spell out exactly what it is...because as it is now...it sounds alot like Obamacare...tell us one thing... and then do what you want.....which is a big mistake...

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 5:38 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 17:37:35)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Debra Novallis
Organization: School
Title: Teacher
City/State: Elk Garden, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-07 17:37:35
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I teach at Elk Garden Primary in Mineral County. Elk Garden is at the top of the mountain unlike the rest of the county. Therefore our weather is more severe than the other parts of the county. It is not safe for the students or teachers to travel in snowy weather. The state road has said in other years it was not safe to be out but the county did not listen. Our middle and high school students have to travel up and down the mountain which is scary. What is going to happen when our school is called off for the day and the buses do not go off the mountain. They say we will have to make it up but who is going to teach them off the mountain, when they had school and we didn't? What is it going to take? A bus full of kids getting hurt and a law suit for someone to listen to us! Oh yeah, we are a SUCCESS school!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 6:54 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 18:53:41)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Julie Burns
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-07 18:53:41
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not feel that the 2014-2015 school year should begin August 3. This will hinder many activities that families have planned. Summer camps, vacations, bible schools, cub scouting, just to mention a few will still be holding summer time events.
What is so wrong with how it used to be? Start school at the end of August, right before Labor Day?
The students, parents and school staff will have to cut their summer vacations short.
Who wants to attend camp or go to the beach in May?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 7:06 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 19:05:30)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Jennifer Self
Organization:
Title:
City/State: New Creek, WV
Role: Service Personnel
Posted: 2013-11-07 19:05:30
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am strongly against this school calendar. When you live in farm communities, the children need to help their families with farm work. They are needed to help support their families economically, by making hay or harvesting produce. Also School would be starting before County and State fairs. Students work all summer on their FFA/4-H projects and by starting school prior to these events will cause interference with their studying.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 7:34 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 19:34:08)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Bobby Ratliff
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Burlington , Wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-07 19:34:08
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

Let the kids enjoy the warm weather. Kids need to be kids. Starting school early is taking away from kids. I feel that they start to early now and you are wanting them to start earlier, that is just wrong. I feel like kids get more exercise in the summer with swimming, riding bikes, so if you want to fight obesity, don't take that from them

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Let the kids enjoy the warm weather. Kids need to be kids. Starting school early is taking away from kids. I feel that they start to early now and you are wanting them to start earlier, that is just wrong. I feel like kids get more exercise in the summer with swimming, riding bikes, so if you want to fight obesity, don't take that from them

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 7:43 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 19:42:37)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Samantha Strother

Organization:

Title:

City/State: Keyser,

Role: Parent-Family

Posted: 2013-11-07 19:42:37

Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not think these kids should go back to school so early. More kids will miss school than normal due to vacations and bible school. That's just a few. Kids would rather be off in August than May because the weather is much nicer in August and therefore will enjoy their time off. No one wants to spend their summer vacation indoors! Thank you

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 8:42 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-07 20:41:51)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Melissa Nesselrodt
Organization:
Title:
City/State: New Creek, West Virginia
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-07 20:41:51
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I would like the board to think about the thought of staying school earlier each year. I feel that if they need more instructional days in the calendar that the kids should go to school longer into June add it is not as hot and family functions are not taking place. In June when kids are out of school it is not even warm enough for kids to swim or enjoy the outdoors. August there are still activities taking place. Keep then longer in June and go back Lauer in August!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 8:25 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 08:25:03)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Kim Root
Organization: Fort Ashby Primary School
Title: Parent
City/State: Keyser, WEST VIRGINIA
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 08:25:03
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I DISAGREE with this change. I feel that all students, teachers and facility work hard during the school year and look forward to this time off to relax and prepare for the next year. This would have a very negative effect of family vacation time and quality time with the children.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 8:51 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 08:51:05)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Wanda Weaver
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Fort Ashby, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 08:51:05
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I'm totally opposed to changing our school calendar to year round. I grew up in California and we had year round school, it worked there, however we never had season's. Our students and their families need the summer off to enjoy our only months where we can enjoy the outdoors/beaches. I will take my child out of school and home school her if this shall go through.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:07 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 10:07:15)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Kandi Resh
Organization: Mineral County Schools
Title: Mental Health/Disabilitlities/Transition Coordinator
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2013-11-08 10:07:15
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

I am opposed to the changes in the school calendar, employment term and instructional term.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Adding in snow days is not wise. We could go from Aug to Aug. Many students live in an area where it snows much more and are bussed to another school. This will cause much confusion with different areas having different amounts of snow and all in the same county. Who will teach the kids extra days? We will see many absences with families taking vacations. It will interrupt church and bible school, 4H, fairs, etc.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

We are already under paid. If you add days to our employment term and time on each day, we will come out with less money. The raise equals a minus 7% when you add it all up. Many of us will go to neighboring states for other employment or take different jobs outside of the school system.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

We are already under paid. If you add days to our employment term and time on each day, we will come out with less money. The raise equals a minus 7% when you add it all up. Many of us will go to neighboring states for other employment or take different jobs outside of the school system.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

These need to be inside calendar.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:13 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 10:12:48)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Richard Thompson
Organization: Mineral County Schools
Title: School Counselor
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-11-08 10:12:48
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I have serious concerns with the school calender up for discussion. July 23 is way too early to send students back to school. I realize there is a push to move towards "year round schools" but this calendar doesn't make sense. Taking (3) intercession weeks combined with a fall break interrupts the flow of education provided to the students, especially when(3) of those weeks fall when the weather isn't a threat to cancel school (Sept. 29-Oct. 10 & March 23-27)Having the students attend school those (3) weeks along with the January intercession (Jan. 5-9) you could move the start date back to Aug. 20, which I (and many others) still think is too early for students to go back but at least its better than July 24. Also what if the week you have your January intercession is the only good week of weather in that month of January? You just wasted a week that students could be attending school. rn As for making up 2 hour delays, why not just get rid of 2 hour delays? In my count!
y they are usually used in the event of cold weather. If its 5 degrees at 6:30 in the a.m. chances are two hours later the temperature will only rise to be 12-15 degrees, what did the delay accomplish? Get rid of it. Most superintendents and transportation directors monitor the weather and roads religiously during the winter months, make the decision early and live with it. Get rid of the two hour delays! I believe most parents would not like this calendar but the problem is they are unaware of it being out for public comment and/or they aren't sure how to access this site in which to voice their opinions.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval

I have serious concerns with the school calender up for discussion. July 23 is way too early to send students back to school. I realize there is a push to move towards "year round schools" but this calendar doesn't make sense. Taking (3) intercession weeks combined with a fall break interrupts the flow of education provided to the students, especially when(3) of those weeks fall when the weather isn't a threat to cancel school (Sept. 29-Oct. 10 & March 23-27)Having the students attend school those (3) weeks along with the January intercession (Jan. 5-9) you could move the start date back to Aug. 20, which I (and many others) still think is too early for students to go back but at least its better than July 24. Also what if the week you have your January intercession is the only good week of weather in that month of January?

You just wasted a week that students could be attending school. rn As for making up 2 hour delays, why not just get rid of 2 hour delays? In my count!

y they are usually used in the event of cold weather. If its 5 degrees at 6:30 in the a.m. chances are two hours later the temperature will only rise to be 12-15 degrees, what did the delay accomplish? Get rid of it. Most superintendents and transportation directors monitor the weather and roads religiously during the winter months, make the decision early and live with it. Get rid of the two hour delays! I believe most parents would not like this calendar but the problem is they are unaware of it being out for public comment and/or they aren't sure how to access this site in which to voice their opinions.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:46 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 10:46:25)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Ashlee Hoppert
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Ridgeley, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 10:46:25
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

I am totally against a year round school calendar. The children started school on August 15th this year and weren't even let out until the beginning of June. They had no summer!!! Kids should be allowed to be children. Everything is becoming so strict and rigid. We wonder why the world is the way that it is now. Well, lets start doing things the way that we used to. Kids go to school during the winter, and they have the summers off to enjoy their childhood. Simple! These years go by fast, and I don't know about other parents, but I want my child to remain young, free, innocent for as long as possible. I don't want him overwhelmed by strict guidelines that force him to become miserable. I want him to swim, play, ride his bike, catch bugs, watch fireworks, have picnics, climb trees, and do all the other things that a summer allows a child to do.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 11:01 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 11:01:06)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: frederick f. pritts II
Organization:
Title: Mr.
City/State: fort ashby, wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 11:01:06
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

seriously, year round school. If your considering this I might have to consider voting for new school board members and senators. Our children work hard at school and they deserve the same break from June to September they always have. They will be adults soon enough and have to work every single day. How much more in taxes will this cost for the extra months and teachers salaries?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 12:48 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 12:48:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Blake Pritts
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Fort Ashby, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 12:48:19
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am opposed to year round schooling. Please take into consideration the dramatic impact this would have on many families in the State of West Virginia.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval

I am opposed to year round schooling. Please take into consideration the dramatic impact this would have on many families in the State of West Virginia.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 1:19 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 13:19:28)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Chris Kellermeyer
Organization: Frankfort Middle School
Title: Band Director
City/State: Ridgeley, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-08 13:19:28
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

40 unpaid days is unacceptable to me. 48 weeks covers 240 days excluding Saturday and Sunday. I cannot see how you can contract someone to work for 200 days and then spread it out to cover 240. I need the days off in the summer so that I can get a second job to make enough money to take care of my family.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 1:43 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 13:42:29)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Cynthia Ketterman
Organization: Mineral County Pre-K\Head Start
Title: Secretary\Accountant
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Service Personnel
Posted: 2013-11-08 13:42:29
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Please leave the school calendar as is. Changing the school calendar would cause many problems for our school system, Pre-K\Head Start, students that are struggling, parents, staff members and families.
Making a so-called Flexible calendar which is just another way of saying, Year Around School, is not feasible for anyone. All the summer programs like summer school for struggling children to get extra help, Energy Express, summer reading programs, 4-H, band camps, church camps, and bible school, etc., will be affected. Children and staff need quality family time. Families don't do enough together as it is. Some families only get to sit and eat a meal as a family on a family vacation because of work schedules.
West Virginia has many farms. Children are needed at home in the summer to pick crops for food for the winter, sale crops for money and sale cattle for money to pay bills. Many bus drivers have 2nd jobs or are farmers.
We have heard in our area that there is no money for overtime for the state road to clear snow off of the roads this winter at night. Plowing will only be done during the day. Not counting 2 hour delays as a school day is ridiculous. Then why send staff to school to work without pay and send students to school if the work they do isn't going to count.
School systems do not have the money to pay staff, pay for extra electric, water, sewer, gas, food and supplies to keep schools open for longer hours in the day or for a longer school year. Our Pre-K\Head is part of our county school system. Where is the money going to come from to pay out more money for staff wages and more supplies. These 3 and 4 year olds are asleep by 2:00 p.m. They can't take a longer day or more days in the year. These small children are done with school by the 3rd week in May as many of them play T-ball. After the 1st of May, they come to school and sleep because they are so tired. It is daylight longer and they stay outside and play longer!
I beleive that if the calendar changes, more people will be moving out of the state, children will be missing more school for family functions and more high schoolers will be dropping out of school.
No amount of education can replace children missing socialization, learning skills to be independent, missing summer programs or taking time away from children and their families. There are some things in life that can't be replaced. Thank you.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 2:24 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 14:23:36)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Staci Calder
Organization: Public School Employee
Title: Teacher
City/State: Ridgeley, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-08 14:23:36
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Many teachers rely on summer jobs because salaries within the lower paying counties are not enough to cover student loans and other necessary expenses. Not only will you lose highly qualified teachers because they simply cannot afford to live on the current pay scale, but it will make recruitment of new teachers that much more difficult.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 2:30 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 14:30:17)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Travis Smith
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Ridgely, wv
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2013-11-08 14:30:17
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Keep the school schedule the way its been. Starting school in july makes it incredibly difficult to plan family vacations and spend extended time with my children.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 3:43 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 15:43:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Janie
Organization: Merendino
Title: Academic Coach
City/State: Fairmont, wv
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-11-08 15:43:19
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

As I read the proposed changes to school calendars, I am wondering if the ones that wrote this policy are aware of the latest research on what enhances student achievement. Teachers having time devoted to professional development is a must. As I work in teacher's classrooms I see a great need for teacher content knowledge in the area of mathematics. Elementary teachers do not know what some of the standards for elementary math mean. Coaching is a wonderful opportunity to build this knowledge and it does happen in the classroom. However finding time for those courageous conversations that need to follow is a hardship as our calendar is fixed. Taking away time for this is going backwards in our concept of what a good schedule includes. A few days for instructional support can make significant increases in teacher content and teacher behaviors that lead to student behaviors that leads to student achievement.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 8:57 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 20:56:39)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Danielle Plum
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 20:56:39
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not believe that instituting year round school would be beneficial to our area. Instead it would create a great hardship for the parents due to missing work or trying to find childcare. As a former employee of Mineral County Schools, I also know the importance of giving children a break over the summer, not to mention give the teachers and other staff a chance to regroup. We expect a lot of the kids, and they rise to those expectations, but they do need a break too. Most parents are able to find long-term childcare over the summer while they work. However, many childcare facilities will not hold a spot for a child that would just be there every several weeks when the schools have an extended break. The parents would either have to pay to reserve that spot or miss work. I do not know too many parents that could afford either of those options. Please consider keeping our school year as it is. Thank you.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 9:27 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 21:27:28)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Janie Simmons
Organization:
Title: Parent
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 21:27:28
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval

I sure hope this does not pass, children need that long summer break, to grow and learn, a lot of childhood adventures happen during the summer, if we take that away we will be taking away part of their childhood, also the dropout rate will go way up, The board themselves was children once, and they need to remember how it felt on that last day of school before summer break. PLEASE SAY NO .If it passes I will home school my children and encourage others to do the same. Its just sad.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:01 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 22:01:01)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Julianne Duckworth
Organization:
Title: Parent
City/State: Keyser, Wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 22:01:01
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I strongly DISAGREE with moving on with yr round schooling. Children need a continuous break, not just a week here and there. Many families plan vacations at this time. How will that be possible? rnAs of right now, I have two children in Mineral County school system. I am very satisfied with the way things are being taught and would NOT want to see anything tgat drastic change. It's unnecessary! rnThese are our children. We should not rush them to grow up!!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:23 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 22:23:27)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Cathy Tasker
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Keyser, West Virginia
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 22:23:27
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I really do nit agree with making the our children make up snow days.. There are times that my children do not go to school on these days because the roads are just to bad in the winter time... If you don't like the idea of the Keyser kids that ride the mountain buses then put Elk Garden back to the way it was 17 years ago.. Make it once again a complete school.. K through 12... I know that if the roads are bad here then my children will not be in school..

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:25 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 22:24:30)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Debra Knotts
Organization: Against 3234 Senate Bill (SB359)
Title: Parent
City/State: Ridgeley, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 22:24:30
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am against Senate bill(SB359). Proposal 3234 in the Mineral County School District.rnWV is already a poverty state,which would lead to more poverty,by not allowing Parents to stick to their Work Schedule.As well as using more energy during the hotter months of the year,as well as planned family vacations taken during the summer months,so I believe there will be a lot of absent students.If you really want to improve education in WV make it mandatory to do school work through the computer,through the school system during the summer months,we all know students love and enjoy the computer,then give the students a test to what they have learned.Thank You,Sincerely Debra Knotts/NF

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:26 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 22:25:30)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Mistee Bland
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Morgantown, Wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-08 22:25:30
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

The idea of year-round school has been tried in other states with very little success. Why does West Virginia insist on using dated practices? Children need time to be children and teachers need time to recharge and train in better practices. Where does this fit in year-round school?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

Salaries are not competitive. Summers offer the time to recharge and further education for better practices. If WV goes to year-round school, how many teachers will simply walk away and into another, better paying profession? How do you plan to keep qualified teachers in the classroom?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:57 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-08 22:57:17)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

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Name: Adrienne Minard
Organization:
Title: Teacher
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-08 22:57:17
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

The move to year-round school isn't wanted by parents or teachers! If the WV school system really values parents as a partners in their children's education, then they should put year-round school (and the new calendar changes) out for vote during the next election.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I think that this policy has completely forgotten that we work with children. Children who need to run and play outside, who need to swim and play in the water with friends, and who need to be given time to be CHILDREN. This calendar policy has children in school during the best times for children to be outside playing. It doesn't allow children enough time to fully recharge their batteries. They will never feel refreshed and ready to start giving school their best, again. Instead, they will always be relearning the routines of school, because the new proposed calendar has them in and out so much. We'll constantly be starting over with the students; and there will be no continuity to units as they get separated by these mini breaks. Clearly, anyone who is proposing these in and out breaks has never worked with small children. rnrnFurthermore, this policy has completely ignores what it will be like for parents dealing with childcare. I feel for parents when they have to fi!

nd someone to watch their children for a week in October, a week in November, a week in January, another week in March, and etc... Daycares won't hold spots for "here and there" children for free which means parents will have to miss work or pay to hold a fulltime spot!rnrnAlso, how many children will be missing whole weeks of school, because parents can no longer figure out what breaks their children will have for sure to schedule vacations. If they don't know when their kids will be out of school for sure, they will just start taking vacations whenever having to look the other way as to how much their children will be missing during a whole week of school. (Being realistic, the only breaks that will be guaranteed will be those before November, because snow is just a fact of life in West Virginia.)rnrnWhile I truly believe that Mineral County would never do anything to purposely endanger students, I have to wonder will counties send students to school in weather that is da!

ngerous just to avoid having to deal with making up these time!

s that a

re going to be a logistics nightmare. Will counties keep schools open to avoid losing more break time? And if the schools are open in treacherous weather, how many parents will just keep their kids at home? It also seems ridiculous to not allow State of Emergency days to be forgiven when the government is basically telling you to stay off the road. These are extreme situations and have to be dealt with as exceptions. Policies have to allow for these exceptions in life! It is also ridiculous to have parents with children in different schools making up different amounts of days. This, again, goes back to making life even more difficult for parents which gives them yet another reason to dislike the school system.

Overall, the proposed calendar changes are over the top. I have spoken to numerous parents about this policy and moving to year-round school, and they don't want it! They don't want a schedule that basically eliminates their children having a summer of fun and endangers their children's safety during the winter.

If the WV school system really values parents as a partners in their children's education, then they should put year-round school (and the new calendar changes) out for vote during the next election.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

As we move toward year round school, WV will seriously need to look at how teachers are given personal days. Government employees and people working in the private sector earn so much vacation time. When they request time off, they know that they can make vacation plans or plans to have medical procedures done. Making up all the days will make all break uncertain. This will not guarantee your professional employees any vacation time. How will we make plans for our own family when any break can be taken for make-up and schedules for the following year aren't made until May? It is only fair that we be given five personal days, so we are able to schedule our vacations without fear that we may have to take the days without pay, because the calendar has to change. We are professionals and we need to be treated as such! When you cancel school, that is school board's choice not our choice to take that day off. There is NO employee of the STATE BOARD of ED that would want to take days without pay, because their planned vacation time was suddenly take from them! Even more important than this is the fact that MOST of the teachers in our system don't want to be gone from our classrooms. We don't want to leave our students to someone else who may or may not be qualified to teach in our area and who definitely does not know our students and their stories! Not having some amount of guaranteed breaks is bad for our students as it will very likely cause more teacher absenteeism!

Furthermore, I understand that State Board of Ed wants their money worth out of us. However, they have, again, forgotten all the paperwork that we take home on a regular basis or the calls that we make at night. They only think about the slacker "teachers" they see being made fun of on t.v. They easily look away from the fact that most teachers (especially elementary teachers) arrive early, stay late, and carry a ton of their work home. I personally spend every Sunday afternoon! or evening checking papers and planning for the week to come;!

because there is no time for this during planning due to parent conferences, cleaning, organizing, and preparing classroom materials, team meetings, IEP meetings, etc... I have always looked the other way figuring that I got my time back in other places. I, though, will definitely NOT be doing work for free and taking time from my own family if the new policy ignores the value of the personal time that teachers spend on our classrooms and students. Sadly, it is my hope that WVEA will call for a work stoppage if the new calendar goes in as proposed. If it isn't done at school, then it won't be done which will definitely not be good for our students! However, at some point, teachers have to say, "No!", too!

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

My mother walked the strike line many years ago for the right to have more site based management. These days were originally every month - now, they are every 45 days. Maybe, this is enough for small schools. However, for larger schools like the one that I work in, this is just not enough! We need time to work with each other on school-wide projects, to help align curriculum and teaching strategies across all grade levels in our schools, to hold IEP meetings that require many teachers to be involved, and to work to make our schools the best that they can be! You gave this as part of an agreement when teachers took less money. Now, you haven't kept up with our salaries putting us right back where we were when the strike occurred, and now, you are taking away this! I really have to wonder if you want your good

teachers to head across the stateliness to states that pay more (\$15,000+ more) and value their teachers! I think the STATE BOARD of ED along with the state legislature ! have made it quite clear that they have no value for their teachers and have forgotten we are the ones that work, day in and day out, to get the best out of our students by overcoming many factors that should make it impossible for them to be successful!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 7:31 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 07:31:10)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Robyn Carlson
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-09 07:31:10
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I hope that they are going to add WORKING AC to all schools. A classroom with temps in the high 90's (many with windows that don't open) is a safety hazard, not a learning environment.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 8:41 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 08:41:09)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Frank I. Hamrick
Organization: w.v. resident
Title: taxpayer
City/State: norton, wv
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2013-11-09 08:41:09
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Does extending the calander year as far as weeks of instruction come with a increase in pay for the teachers who are required to work these additional work weeks?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 8:59 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 08:59:09)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Rebecca Jones
Organization: WVEA
Title: Teacher
City/State: Terra Alta, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-09 08:59:09
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Because I teach in Preston County, I am very concerned about the proposals to essentially extend the school term to year round. If you are planning to have school during days when the weather is wicked, then you MUST invest in the manpower and equipment needed to keep the roads clear and passable in our county!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 9:33 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 09:32:45)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Toni Dell
Organization: Frankfort intermediate school
Title: Teacher
City/State: Fort ashby, Wv
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-09 09:32:45
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

We should not go to school year round. The students need their summers to be able to relax and have fun. Teachers need to be able to decompress for the summer so they are ready to go back and teach.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 11:03 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 11:03:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Roy Boyle
Organization: Keyser Middle School
Title: Teacher
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-09 11:03:07
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

If an out-of-calendar day is used as a make-up day, I feel that by including weeks and weeks of out-of-calendar days you have extended our commitment and thus our employment well beyond the 200 day contract. You have eliminated our chance to seek alternative employment opportunities outside of our contracted year by slicing and dicing our commitment to our contract. You need to provide a large chunk of time (months) to seek alternative employment or compensate us financially for the lost opportunity for income proportional to the loss of a three month summer. With the lower pay of West Virginia the exodus of teachers to border states will accelerate.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 12:57 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 12:56:58)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Tammy
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Ridgeley, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-09 12:56:58
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I would oppose the drastic change to our children's school calendar. The benefits do not out-way the cons. of having school all-year round. I foresee a lot of family difficulties stemming from Daycare, Jobs, Extra Curricular activities, esp. when we are so close to the boarder of other states. Our families would not have the same time off from school to be able to participate in family gatherings. We personally camp a lot over the summer and this would make our Summers so much shorter. I would think that everyone would be on board with the idea that families need to spend this quality time together. The summer months can be very hot and most schools and all the buses are not equipped with A/C. Our children would be miserable, not mentioning the fact it is sunny outside and they would rather be outside and not in a classroom. The swimming time for families would be shorten. So as for me and my family please consider the family units that do appreciate the time we do !

share "AS a FAMILY". If it isn't broke don't fix it. We have lived with the changes of our children going to school earlier and earlier every year. As a parent, I look at how the schedule was then; and how the changes though small, and think "We all survived, so why mess with it". Kids will still be kids and the world isn't getting better by not having the family time we all so desperately need.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 6:11 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 18:10:45)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Amy Marley
Organization: Mineral County Schools
Title: Teacher
City/State: Fort Ashby, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-09 18:10:45
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Year round schooling is not kid friendly. Since West Virginia is working hard to reduce childhood obesity, being off for several weeks in colder weather greatly reduces the chances of being outside for exercise. Many families take vacations in the summer months and attendance will be greatly affected by these family vacations. What will happend to summer enrichment programs? Kids need a summer break, not a break in the winter when the opportunities for fresh air and natural sunlight are greatly diminished.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 6:44 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 18:44:05)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Barbara Coffman
Organization: Mineral County Schools
Title: PreK teacher
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-09 18:44:05
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am opposed to the changes in this policy. I believe that the provision for the extension of the number of weeks in which employment shall occur will be problematic for students and for staff. Unfortunately with salaries which place us forty-eighth among the states in the union many of our young faculty members supplement their income with summer employment outside the school system. With no firm starting and ending dates how can they become supplementally employed? Many of our young teaching professionals take summer courses to obtain advanced degrees, how will they be able to schedule these classes when the terms can fluctuate wildly year to year. Many higher education programs only offer courses by rotation, if the rotation is missed it becomes very problematic in finishing the degree. Many counties also use the summer to offer teacher academies or leadership conferences, with so many varied local calendars around the state, how will those programs occur?rn I also!

believe these changes in policy will negatively impact the students. Energy Express has operated in our county for many years. this quality program enhances the reading curriculum for our elementary students, but more importantly for many of our students it provides the needed nourishment of two meals a day. With the need for quick maintenance turn around of our facilities, these programs will be lost. Many of our students have also benefitted from remedial summer programs or student internships, these valuable programs will be lost to varied scheduling.rn Lastly, I have heard from many members of the community who are opposed to the changes in family life these calendar changes will enact. Many members of the community are opposed to losing what they hold dear, Four H, scout and church camps, Bible school programs and family reunions and vacations. rn I come from a family of educators and I do highly value education, but I also value childhood which in our societ!

y today I feel is quickly disappearing and will more rapidly d!

isappear

if these changes are enacted. A wise scholar once said, "We need to educate our children, but what we may need more is to give them the time to educate themselves." rnBarbara Coffman, Nationally Board Certified Early Childhood Generalist

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 7:33 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 19:33:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Kacia
Organization: Elk Garden Primary
Title: Parent
City/State: Elk Garden, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-09 19:33:11
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

The school system has operated successfully under the original scheduling for many years. Maybe the change should be curriculum and teaching and support staff instead of student and staff members time.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

This change in calendar scheduling will not fairly affect all schools. Areas like my own have more severe weather problems which do not always allow for clear roads at 7 am. If the students are meeting the standards required for their grade and age levels (because their education is supposed to be the important thing, right?) then the lack of "full instructional days" does not fairly apply to them, because they will be required to sit in school when other schools in the area are already dismissed. Not only that, but their opportunity for extracurricular activities (sports, camps, etc.)will be sorely limited, even though we are supposed to be promoting healthier children. The concern for the amount of weeks or days students and teachers maintain is slightly ridiculous considering no one is taking steps to alter or improve the curriculum and required teaching strategies that obviously have begun to create a much lazier and less economically intelligent structure for our childr!
en. Why can we not focus on their education instead of whether or not we can eventually force year-round schooling?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

Again, ridiculous. Is altering the amount of weeks teachers are going to be required to work going to alter their salaries? Also, is it going to change the fact that some teachers are only concerned about their paychecks and titles, instead of our children? For some teachers, the majority of their "summer break" is spent restructuring their rooms, buying supplies (out-of-pocket) and preparing for their next class of students. For those teachers, extending their employment term is unfair. For those teachers (as well as other school staff)who only work for the paycheck (and there are plenty), why bother? They don't care anyway, so what more work do you really feel that you will be getting from them? Do the BOE staff (other than support staff and a few dedicated members)work this same proposed schedule? Has no one else

noticed that the constant altering of a system that has produced many hardworking adults has now brought us a generation of teenagers and young adults that are n!

o longer even capable of making change for a dollar?! Will making the teachers work their summers provide them with better teaching curriculum standards to follow that may somehow miraculously provide future generations with some common sense? Why are we restructuring the unimportant and ignoring the problems?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

The only people who will be in support of an extended instructional term will be those parents who use the school system as free day care. For those of us who appreciate and understand the necessity and benefit of family time, this possible extension is depriving us of time that we have always used for our families. Family outings are all required to be within a summer break, and are a horrible issue to request during the school year, but lets limit the time available for our families. We are so worried about our generation of obese students, but lets extend the amount of time we force them to sit at desks, taking away the time where they may actually get some real exercise. For a system that relies on families to help enforce what the children are being taught, and are expected to abide by school guidelines that leave our children hungry and insecure, your priorities seem to be amazingly misguided. Can anyone honestly explain to us why you lack concern for the important yet!

push so hard to alter what is important to our children and their families?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 11:06 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-09 23:05:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Michelle McRae
Organization: Mineral County Schools
Title: Title I Reading Specialist
City/State: Cumberland, Maryland
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-09 23:05:55
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

The proposed state calendar for 2014-15 is a farce. The dates for school and breaks are completely unrealistic for families to adhere. How are summer school, Bible school, camp experiences, teacher graduate summer courses and workshops able to fit in this frame. There are too numerous pitfalls to list here. My colleagues, friends and family are all shaking their heads in disbelief. Why all of a sudden, is it a priority to shake up the entire school year. There has to be a better way. We are charged with attending 180 days. I really cannot see this law being ignored. We need to work smarter, not year round.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 7:26 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-10 07:25:36)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Michelle
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Buckhannon, Wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-10 07:25:36
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am against year round school. This would affect our family in so many different way. My child works in the summer months in the hay fields and would be unable to do this with school in the summer months. Please don't force us to leave upshur co!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 9:02 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-10 09:01:40)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Beverly Kingery
Organization: Nicholas County Schools
Title: Superintendent
City/State: Summersville , WV
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2013-11-10 09:01:40
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

The waiver option appears to be a realistic option for mountainous, "snow belt" counties that in some years may never be able to fulfill 180 instructional days. The waiver affords the option to address quality as well as quantity of education and allow counties to demonstrate how they have realistically attempted to meet the 180 days.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

A major issue to be resolved (and will need to be resolved before any new calendar structure guidelines or implementation occurs) is the employment term for professional AND service personnel. WV Code dictates the employment term and how employees are to be paid. With the new calendar structure, will employees be paid on a regular ten month pay period OR at the time of service/work? If on a regular ten month pay period, then what legal measures would a county have to require employees to work beyond time already paid? There are legal implications associated with the pay of employees that must be addressed. 6.1.c.6 If local boards of education are to be responsible for student achievement, then they need to be given local control to adequately provide professional development to meet the instructional needs and alignment to the strategic plan. The proposed calendar structure virtually eliminates delays, early out, or other PD means for teachers to work and plan together!
especially in "snow belt" counties. How can this be "fair and equitable" in improving student achievement for all students in WV? In reality, paying teachers to stay after school, Saturdays, or summer affects two groups of teachers - the best teachers and those who just want extra money.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

The definition of instructional time coupled with employment term requirements in section six are severely prohibitive to adequate professional development time to address school improvement. The proposed policy virtually eliminates delays, early outs, or other professional development time for teachers to work and plan together, especially in "snow belt" counties. How can this be "fair and equitable" in improving student achievement for all students in WV? Everyone doesn't live in lower elevation areas of WV. How can we fully implement Next Generation Standards and Smarter

Balanced Assessment without providing teachers sufficient time to study and implement in the classroom? WV Legislature, WVBE, and WVDE yearly require specific trainings for teachers (e.g. crisis prevention, IEP, multicultural, etc.). Where will the time be for all required and needed instructional professional development? With the current structure, it is nearly impossible to schedule all the requ!

ired trainings in a county. I can foresee taking teachers out of classrooms more for training and paying substitutes during the day, which is not best for students. One always hears technology can bridge the learning gap for students during inclement weather and provide a "flipped classroom" structure. In reality, a fair number of students in many counties do not have access to technology at home and/or ability to connect. Is providing these students paper and pencil assignments fair when others have technology at their disposal for learning?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

With the proposed calendar limiting professional development opportunities, I would propose restructuring the two hour Faculty Senate time. As many FS are not much more than discussing the color of paint in the school or the copier problems, perhaps a better use of this time could be one hour for general content and one hour for PD/teacher collaboration.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:50 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-10 00:50:13)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Sherry Claypool
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Buckhannon, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-10 00:50:13
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

I am writing this concerning the new discussion that has come upon us about the 'year-round' school. My family and I live in Upshur County, and we are one of the smaller communities. I am against year round school/policy 3234 and I feel that this is a decision that the parents should have a say in and not quietly announced online or meetings held in one area. I have recently read some information on a study conducted on the year-round school and it stated that the year-round school was started to alleviate overcrowding but someone decided that it would provide academic benefits for students. However, the results they came up with did not support that claim. Instead of having to review things at just the beginning of the year, they ended up having to review several times a year. To me, that seems even worse than what we have now. I feel that there are way too many issues to consider before pushing everyone to do this year-round school, which is what we were informed by our lo!

cal BOE that they have been told. They did not have a decision in this and they were given a time limit to do so. But then I also heard a contradiction to that by a letter from Dr. Phares' office that indicated that all 55 counties have control of their own school calendars which was sent to another local parent who does not agree with the 'balanced' calendar. It also stated that this 'year-round' calendar was an exploratory situation. But my concerns are for the children and nothing else. rnThe many issues I feel that need to be considered in this begins with a few scenarios which does not apply to me personally but will apply to several of the children in this situation. Let's say "little Joe" has parents who have divorced and he flies out every summer to California to spend with his father. This is one of the few times he gets to spend with that parent. After going through, I am sure already, a disappointment considering the separation of his parents and now if we cons!

ider a 'balanced' calendar this could interfere with him seein!

g his fa

ther because maybe the parents cannot afford to fly "little Joe" out several times a year just to spend time with his father. So "little Joe" suffers, meaning some children will suffer. Also, another concern is older children who may get a job in the summer to help their families with expenses they may have and are suffering from. Maybe these children help pay for their own school clothes or supplies and they will not have that opportunity while attending school during summer months, so once again the children suffer. Another example will be the added expense to some parents that they will accumulate due to the new 'balanced' calendar. Most day cares that they used for the summer months will not

hold a spot for that child while they are in school on and off during the year. The day care has to make money so then these families will have to find other means of care for their child, which causes maybe more expense. Therefore, the parents will have to budget that money from some-

ewhere, which may be their family vacation fund or their grocery fund which means the children once again will suffer. We all also know that this will end up costing more in the long run with the air conditioning having to be used through those hot summer times more often than what is used now. How is the state going to fund all these new costs? Another concern I have encountered is that in our local schools, we do not have any air conditioning in the gyms, our local Middle School is an example and from experience attending some end of the year school functions, sitting in that gym is unbearable. I couldn't imagine children trying to have gym in that area during some of the hottest months. During our BOE meetings, I have noticed, not one, but two window air conditioning units in the art room of our local elementary school used for these meetings. When summer rolls around with its scorching ninety-eight degree weather, how many air conditioners will the state be able to afford?

for each school in our county? Once again, the children are!

the one
s who will suffer. In other words, a major update of the air conditioning systems will have to be done in most of our schools in this county. Who will foot the bill for that expense? I personally have a son with severe allergies which he receives shots monthly for. He had become very sick and we couldn't understand why. After months of missed school and confusion, we had him tested for allergies and he tested positive to several. We noticed that he was getting sick during school months, but was functionally healthy during summer. After receiving the test results, everything started to make sense. The doctor said the reason our son was suffering heavily during the school year was his allergies, which include dust mites, feathers, mice and cockroaches, are often found in the ventilation systems of most schools. While our son is attending school and the air or heating system is running constantly, he is allergic to the air that he is breathing. In our particular situation!

, summer is a time for him to recover and receive some relief from the constant battle of allergies. The point I am trying to get across is that all children are different, and not one "balanced" calendar is going to fit every child's needs. It was something started for solving the issue of overcrowding, a problem our schools don't encounter. This solution would be like giving one medication to every single person in hopes that it will affect every person the same. Also, referring back to the study I indicated previously in my letter, I will now quote how they ended their report. "On purely academic grounds, I wouldn't advocate a year-round calendar, but I can't recommend against it, either. If a school has a non-academic reason for adopting a year-round calendar--such as coping with overcrowding-- it can do so without any major harm to academics. And if it already has a year-round calendar, there is no academic reason to switch back. On the other hand, if a school is considering

dering a year-round calendar in hope of boosting academic achievement,

event,

it seems unlikely that these hopes will be realized" Once again I vote NO for policy 3234.

(<http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/yearrnd.htm>).rn

Claypool

Sincerely, Sherry

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:52 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-10 00:52:06)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

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Name: Sherry Claypool
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Buckhannon, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-10 00:52:06
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

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dering a year-round calendar in hope of boosting academic achievement,

event,

it seems unlikely that these hopes will be realized" Once again I vote NO for policy 3234.

(<http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/yearrnd.htm>).rn

Claypool

Sincerely, Sherry

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 4:45 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-10 16:45:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Mollie Arnold
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Wiley Ford, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-10 16:45:19
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I respectfully request that you do not pass this policy. I feel it would be detrimental to the communities as well as the families. Living in a rural community, we must get many of our programs in MD because that is the closest city. Our children would miss out on summer camps and opportunities available when their classes are out and we are still in school. I would also be very angry to miss summer with my kids. We take many family trips and this is our time to educate our kids on things that are not taught in school. We need our family time. The school year is so hectic with sports, after school activities, homework and the extra things we are teaching our kids, such as horseback riding and karate. The summer is the only time that things slow down and we can enjoy ourselves as a family unit. If you change the schedule, we will all suffer as a result. I also hate the idea that my kids would be wasting the little bit of good weather sitting in a classroom. We live in the mou!

ntains and our weather is terrible in the winter. Our kids need a chance to go swimming, ride their bikes and play on the playgrounds. The can't do that in December, no matter how tightly we bundle them up. I think this is a terrible idea and I sincerely hope you do not pass it. Education is important to me. I have drilled reading into my children from the moment they were born and I will do anything that I think will help them succeed. Not this. Not at the expense of our family time and the memories they should have of carefree summers with us. Please do not pass this policy.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 8:07 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-10 20:06:56)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: lkraus
Organization: aarp
Title: teacher-retired
City/State: Ridgeley, wv
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-10 20:06:56
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

As a retired professional teacher I can speak from experience. The length of the school year...adding more days to meet the "magic 180 days" does NOT add to the quality of learning. When days are missed for whatever reason, teachers TEACH the missing content material by adjusting their schedules and using their teaching skills to see that all the necessary content is taught. It is not the QUANTITY of time, but the QUALITY of time that is important. Continually changing the school calendar to add more days to it is not productive. Children need time to be with their families for holidays and vacations. The inclement weather days are days when it is not safe for teachers or students to attend. Again, saying that these days must be "made up" to meet a certain amount of days is counterproductive. The content material IS covered on other days when school IS in session. Why not the educators who work with the students set the calendar? Legislators who have not taught sho!

uld allow educators to tell THEM what is working best with the school calendar. West Virginia has a great school system! Why try to fix something that isn't "broken"? Abraham Lincoln had no more than 2 years formal schooling total and look where he went! It isn't the amount of time IN school that is important, it is the quality of the teaching experience that counts!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:03 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 09:02:53)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: James D. Hannah
Organization: Citizen Taxpayer Veteran
Title: Mr.
City/State: Romney, WV
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2013-11-11 09:02:53
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

My comment pertains to the requirement to make up MINUTES lost for DELAYS and EARLY DISMISSALS. It is my concern that DELAYS and DISMISSALS which NEED TO OCCUR WILL NOT as superintendents weigh the possible dangers against the challenges of making up the additional minutes. More equivocation will occur and instead of erring on the side of safety, it will be on the side of looking good with regard to adherence to the drive for rigor, rigor, and more rigor. Because of that, decisions may be made that place STUDENTS and TEACHERS in positions of UNDUE RISK. As a parent of a dedicated teacher who gives her all ever day, I do not want to see my child's or any other parent's much loved child placed at risk. rnIt is sensible to have personnel and students MAKE UP LOST DAYS. However, to get so precise as to make up EACH MINUTE of DELAY or EARLY DISMISSAL even when cumulatively they result in days may create poor choices on the part of decision makers. Besides placing lives at risk, !
this could actually cost the taxpayer more. This would be because buses will make extra runs on Saturdays or days added to the school year to account for minutes lost on days when buses already ran. Couple that with the fact that many people will not send their children when it looks bad and school has not been called NOR on a Saturday if school is planned then to make up for lost minutes and all in all it is a lose/lose situation for both taxpayers and those concerned for students and teachers. rnLastly, Saturday school and a prolonged school day would also create problems for students who are responsible enough to assist family income by having a job. rnI urge you to delete the proposed requirement to make up each minutes of delays and early dismissals. rnThank you.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:55 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 09:54:57)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Charlotte Woodford

Organization:

Title:

City/State: Alpena, WV

Role: Parent-Family

Posted: 2013-11-11 09:54:57

Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Making up 2 hour delays? We live in a mountainous and very snowy county--those 2 hour delays give the state road workers time to clear secondary roads and make it safe for my children to travel to school. They receive instruction when they arrive. Having to make up the 2 hour delays seems like a punishment to us for living in an area where the weather is not as mild as Kanawha County. I don't think my county superintendent would decide to risk students' lives to avoid 2 hour delays, but would all do this, and why should that even be an issue? I believe the elementary schools in my county have more "bank" time due to scheduling. So will they be able to skip making up the 2 hour delays while the high school has to make them up? This whole idea is ludicrous.rnrn48 weeks instead of 45? Again, punishment for some counties. In theory, this means that my kids could have to go to school until the end of June and return at the end of July. While students in counties with le!

ss snow, fewer mountains, smaller distances to travel, will get a longer summer break---allowing for a better chance of employment for high school students, planned family vacations. (We had to cancel vacation plans last summer because of making up snow days. I know of several families whose children missed the last week of school because they had already make reservations and paid deposits for family trips. What good did the longer year make for them?)rnrnI did choose to live in Randolph County. But I don't make the weather; I didn't consolidate schools making for longer travel; I don't want to be punished (or have my kids punished) for those things. These crazy ideas affect the ENTIRE state, not just those counties in milder areas.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

If counties accommodate these by having the schools run on a 2-hour delay schedule, does that time have to be made up? Now, that's a bad idea.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:50 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 12:50:22)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Tabitha
Organization: Jones
Title:
City/State: Elk Garden, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-11 12:50:22
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am a concerned parent regarding the proposed school calendar changes for the 2013-14 school year. We live in the mountains of WV and get more snow then any other area of the county. Due to this our kids tend to miss more days and have more 2 hour delays then the rest of the county. With that being said our kids have still had great test scores (in fact, we were higher then most in the entire state), and we received the "SUCCESS SCHOOL" title last year. I don't think the snow days/2 hour delays have effected our learning process and therefore I am opposed to the proposal of having our kids make these days up into the summer months.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:53 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 12:53:01)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: David Jones
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Elk Garden, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-11 12:53:01
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am opposed to the new policy that would require our students to make up every snow and 2 hour delay days that they encounter. Our students have been above and beyond in test scores with the way things are now. They are doing great as a school now and have also been named a Success School.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 2:10 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 14:09:59)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Dan Snider
Organization: Application Programming
Title: Application Programmer
City/State: Bowden, wv
Role: Business-Industry
Posted: 2013-11-11 14:09:59
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Keep the Summer free of school sessions. There is no compelling reason to eliminate vacation time for family and students. This time in the Summer is also used for youth to work at jobs and in households.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 2:45 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 14:44:45)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Keith Foster
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Beckley, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-11 14:44:45
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am a concerned parent, taxpayer and registered voter. I strongly urge you to reconsider implementation of this proposed policy and VOTE AGAINST this policy. rnYou say that this calendar policy gives the county more freedom. I do not agree. This looks like your way of implementing a year round calendar.rnl agree, education is vital and I want my children to be prepared for college. However, I believe children need time to be children and to have family time together. This policy impacts both of these. It also will make it difficult for child day care with a week off here and there. Leave the calendar alone, it has worked for many, many years. I am a professional, university graduate and I received an excellent education under the current calendar. VOTE NO!!!

Comments for section 126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval

VOTE NO if this school calendar is based on your proposed new school calendar policy

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 4:55 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 16:54:53)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Kathy Jacquez
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Barrackville, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-11 16:54:53
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

If the faculty senates are limited to five two hour meetings, when will teachers receive the mandatory trainings that are required? When will principals pass along information that they receive from their meetings? When will teachers meet as a group to discuss the results of standardized testing, benchmark results, needs of students, and exchange information of school activities? With a calendar this explicit, the state does not possibly think that teachers will be willing to meet on their own time to accomplish any of the above activities!

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

Why is the public hearing needed? Why are two public hearings required to accomplish allowing the public to determine the employment term of, in most cases, the county's largest employer?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:13 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 19:13:14)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Dorothy Parli
Organization: Randolph County Board of Educ
Title: Teacher
City/State: Elkins, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-11 19:13:14
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

In mountainous counties where more snow storms and ice storms occur consideration needs to be given to modifying makeup days to accomodate dangerous working conditions that are caused by weather. Less days should have to be made up and assignments can be posted online on work packets can be distributed for dangerous traveling conditions.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:18 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 20:17:47)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Jennifer Rich
Organization:
Title: Teacher
City/State: Lewisburg, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-11 20:17:47
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Out of dedication to our profession, a majority of teachers currently spend many unpaid hours before the official calendar begins and after the official calendar has ended (not to mention evenings and weekends) to complete the tasks that make students' school experiences as high quality as is possible. Perhaps the state of WV needs to "take the plunge" into a more year-round calendar if the mandate for 180 days must be addressed. It is yet another disrespect to this state's educators to take professional preparation days and use them for snow day make-ups!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:03 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 21:03:04)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: savannah johnson
Organization: mineral county school
Title: ms
City/State: ridgeley, wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-11 21:03:04
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not wish for school to be year round... My family and I are used to summer vacations and having family time in the summer months, I do not think that going all year could better my education.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:11 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-11 21:10:47)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Stacey Strawderman
Organization:
Title: teacher
City/State: Fairmont, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-11 21:10:47
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(4) Definitions

4.9 School year - maybe add here within 48 weeks.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

6.1.c. Why do we have to put 4 OS days after 130 days? What happened to the "local control"? Why can't each county put the days where it most benefits the schools? What is the purpose of this?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

7.8 So there will be no more extracurricular activities??? Is this what I'm reading here? Or is it that we can have an assembly during the day and we don't have to use accrued time for that assembly?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

8.4 What non-instructional days are you talking about here? All non-instructional days have a purpose and NONE OF THEM have any time for faculty senate. The 2 P-preparation for beginning and ending school, the PTC day for parent teacher conference, the 3 CE days that we are required to get 18 hours of staff development, and the 6 OS days given in lieu of a pay raise and for teachers to get time for working at home - These days are used - there are NOT any non-instructional days to have Faculty Senate on!!! Early release days or putting ISE days back into the schedule are the only ways to do Faculty senate. Those days are so important to collaboration and professional development for teachers.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(9) Public Hearings

9.2 This will cost the counties extra money that many of them do not have.



11/7/2013

From: Doug Lambert
Phone: 304-358-2207 XT121
Fax: 304-358-2936
Company Name: Pendleton County Schools

To: Amy Willard
Phone: 304-558-6300
Fax: 304-558-8867
Company Name: West Virginia Department of Education

Comments:

Enclosed please find my comments on Policy 3234 – School Calendar.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Lambert".

Doug Lambert, Superintendent

Pendleton County Schools



Urgent



For Review



Please Comment



Please Reply



Please Recycle

126CSR73

POLICY 3234: School Calendar

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: November 12, 2013

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

NOTICE: Comments, as submitted, shall be filed with the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office and open for public inspection and copying for a period of not less than five years.

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on Policy 3234: School Calendar. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name: Doug Hamberger Organization: Pendleton Land
Title: Superintendent
City: Franklin State: WV

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

*** 7 PAGES ***

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

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

§126-(73)-(1). General.

§126-(73)-(2). Purpose

126CSR73

	§126-(73)-(3). Application
x	§126-(73)-(4). Definitions <i>See Attached</i>
x	§126-(73)-(5). School Calendar <i>See Attached</i>
	§126-(73)-(6). Employment Term <i>See Attached</i>
x	§126-(73)-(7). Instructional Term <i>See Attached</i>
x	§126-(73)-(8). Faculty Senate Meetings <i>See Attached</i>

126CSR73**§126-(73)-(9). Public Hearings****§126-(73)-(10). Submission of School Calendar to WVBE for Approval****§126-(73)-(11). Severability**

Please direct all comments to:

Amy Willard, Executive Director
Office of School Finance
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Building 6, Room 215
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
E-Mail Address: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Fax No.: (304) 558-8867

126-(73)-(4). Definitions:**4.1 Accrued Instructional Time:**

While here in Pendleton County we have accrued time that will equal an additional 6 days on time that can be used for Professional Development (PD) activities for staff, 2 hour delays and early dismissals due to inclement weather, I am concerned that this time will be used in a quick manner due to our interesting weather patterns. It may come to pass that we possibly will cancel school altogether for a day when such a delay or early dismissal would suffice. Obviously, that will add extra days to the end of the calendar to satisfy the 180 day requirement but why cancel/dismiss for just a small period of time due to the constrictions of the policy?

126-(73)-(5). School Calendar:

5.3 Our instructional day is currently pushing the limits of time allowed with many of our children boarding the bus between 6:30 am – 6:45 am and not getting home until 4:30 pm. Consolidation forced Pendleton County to have one county wide transportation system which greatly limits the flexibility to creatively adjust due to the geographic weather patterns we have.

126-(73)-6. Employment Term

The presumption that was put forth in the calendar bill simply was the notion that local school systems would have greater flexibility in designing the calendar to meet each county's need. If you look closely and read carefully, one would think that is the prevailing argument. However, when you have the prescribed days under this section, it becomes increasingly difficult to schedule professional development in a consistent manner to meet the needs of staff and students.

With seven (7) holidays, one (1) Election Day, six (6) OS days, one (1) opening and one (1) closing day, three (3) CE days, and one (1) PTC day, we have successfully met the mandated 200 days of employment. As I mentioned above, we can use Accrued Instructional Time for Faculty Senate meetings – four (4) half days during the school term which equates to two (2) of my six (6) accumulated days. With this scenario, other than the three (3) days of required professional development (PD)/continuing education (CE), I see no room for ongoing, sustained PD for staff unless we take teachers out of the classroom during the instructional day.....something that I

thought we are attempting to monitor and control more efficiently and effectively. Yes, we could pay for after school hours training but where would the funds come from since most of our counties are financially tight. Additionally, of the three (3) CE days mentioned, one is earmarked to satisfy state code and/or state board requirements to cover particular codes and policies that must occur each year. This leaves only two days remaining to cover the many trainings and such that are vital and essential to assist in our mandate and desire to improve student achievement.

126-(73)-(7). Instructional Term:

7.4

I would ask that those days that have late arrival, early dismissal, Faculty Senate two (2) hour blocks, and other causes of lost instructional time be treated and subject to those practices that have occurred in the past...counting those days as full instructional days.

I am also concerned about those students that attend Multi-County Career and Technical Centers. If one of the three contributing counties do not have school and the host county does, how can we make the time to equal the required 180 days? For example, South Branch Career and Technical Center is located in Grant County with students attending from Grant, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties. If Pendleton has a two hour delay or we have no school due to inclement weather, our students miss a day of instruction as our kids come to South Branch in the morning. IF we have school and Grant County doesn't, South Branch is closed and our kids miss a day of instruction. The same holds true for the students from Hardy County. As stated above, our Accrued Instructional Time can only go so far in the time provided to allow for such time away from school. I ask again that past practices allowed in that those days that that our students miss attending South Brfanch be allowed to count as full instructional days. South Branch, nor the three counties that participate in the attendance of student, cannot afford to extend the instructional day as all three counties have their instances of school not being in session that are unique and different.

Our teachers and staff personnel have and will continue to expect children to excel in the time they have allotted. Giving local county boards this option will give those counties (like Pendleton) the ability to make informed decisions in regards to weather conditions and calamitous conditions we all face. I would certainly hope school in not kept in session or a early arrival/dismissal would not occur due to this scenario.

126-(73)-(8). Faculty Senate Meetings:

I would ask and suggest allowing county boards to keep the same practice in place that has occurred in the past.....allow those days that have Faculty Senate Meetings to count as full instructional days.

In closing please be advised that I fully support the rule of 180 days of instruction. I do not see the local flexibility that allows this to occur. One idea that was mentioned was taking the two (2) hour late arrival and add those to equal one day, then add a day to the end of the calendar. Our service personnel arrive on time each and every day...where would I find the funds to pay those folks for an additional day along with the professional staff that would need to be paid for both the day in school after the two (2) hour delay and the extra day that would come as a result of the accumulation of the two (2) hour delays to equal one additional day added at the end of the term?

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 6:08 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 06:07:30)

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#####

Name: Charles Hedrick
Organization: Pendleton County Schools
Title: Director of Administrative Support Services
City/State: Franklin, WV
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2013-11-12 06:07:30
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(7) Instructional Term

126-(73)-(7). Instructional Term:
7.4 rnl would ask that those days that have late arrival, early dismissal, Faculty Senate two (2) hour blocks, and other causes of lost instructional time be treated and subject to those practices that have occurred in the past...counting those days as full instructional days. One idea that was mentioned was taking the two (2) hour late arrival and add those to equal one day, then add a day to the end of the calendar. Our service personnel arrive on time each and every day...where would Pendleton County find the funds to pay staff for an additional day along with the professional staff that would need to be paid for both the day in school after the two (2) hour delay and the extra day that would come as a result of the accumulation of the two (2) hour delays to equal one additional day added at the end of the term? What would happen is that we would be forced to cancel school for an entire day - when a two hour delay would have suffice.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 8:14 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 08:13:44)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Mary Ann Pannone
Organization: Wiley Ford Primary
Title: Teacher
City/State: Wiley Ford, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-12 08:13:44
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Our students need a summer vacation. Keep our school calendar the way it has been. Coming back to school in July is not good for our students.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

We need time to meet as a faculty senate.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:01 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 09:00:53)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Betsy Anderson
Organization:
Title: Executive Secretary
City/State: New Cumberland, wv
Role: Service Personnel
Posted: 2013-11-12 09:00:53
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I believe that when something isn't broken, it doesn't need fixed. The current school calendar law is working. Counties have enough room already built in the calendar to make up snow days. Why do we need to start making up the time for 2 hour delays? rnrnHaving worked on our school calendar for over 18 years, I get most of the calls pertaining to the calendar. Most are from our employees that do not understand all the codes currently in the calendar, I can't imagine trying to get the public to understand them. Having the public's input might take more that two public meetings, and I really don't understand the need for public input. I can only speak for my county, but we have only had people complain about our calendar having school on Columbus Day, and President's Day, luckily we are able to either have CE day or the current IS days on those specific dates, so staff attends but the students have those days off. The IS days are important for two factors - staff develo!

pment and faculty senates and for allowing us to honor those days. Thank you for reading my comment. I do not believe we need to change anything and we need to leave the school calendar as is.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:47 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 09:47:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Paula Athey
Organization: mineral co schools
Title: Principal
City/State: Wiley Ford , wv
Role: Principal
Posted: 2013-11-12 09:47:11
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

We are in need of scheduled professional development days that are built into the calender. We have so much to cover with our staff that without these its difficult to teach and re teach concepts.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 11:59 AM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 11:58:56)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Brenda M. Pruett
Organization: WVU Mercer County Extension
Title: WVU Extension Agent
City/State: Princeton, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 11:58:56
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

I am really concerned at the 180 day requirement and flexibility or really lack thereof in this bill. Young people need time to do activities other than school. Although the magic 180 days sounds reasonable, you have to have a starting and stopping date for those of us outside the school system. In addition, there is extra cost involved-- school bus drivers and cooks get paid on late days-- they will need to be paid extra to "make up" these days. If you go to this almost "year round" calendar, you are denying middle class and low income children affordable opportunities. Our weather is not conducive for children to be in school all summer. Children are limited in outside activities in much of the year. In summer this is not the case. However, calendars are being adapted so that the 180 days won't be missed virtually making children go year round to school. This policy needs public hearings and practical people to review and rework it. What : "sounds good" when one l!

ooks at it is not necessarily practical when put into practice. In addition, there are many extra curricular and outside activities that are much more effective for children to participate in than a day or two sitting in a classroom but school systems punish children for participating in these activities. For example, I take 40 plus children to WVU Day at the Legislature and then on to the science center. I seldom have High School students because if they miss too much they must take finals. Therefore, the really conscientious ones don't attend and miss out on a very worthwhile activity because it is not seen as school activity and is not an excused absence from taking finals. Policies that are intended on the surface to force children/families into making good decisions are punishing those of us who value education and doing little for those who do not.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:05 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 12:05:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Kara Arthur
Organization:
Title: Secretary/Accountant
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Service Personnel
Posted: 2013-11-12 12:05:07
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

I do not agree with changing the school year from a 43 week term to a 48 week term. I believe this would cause a chain reaction of inconveniences and well as would not be in the best interest of the students. (1) Many parents have full time jobs and this could cause great distress on many families in the way of finding daycare providers who are willing to only take on children during the "off-times" of the school year. (2) Many families have already planned vacations around the traditional time off and therefore would cause a great number of absences. To begin this change for the 2014-2015 school year isn't fair to those parents/staff members who have already planned and possibly paid for those vacations. Family vacations are a very important part of the family life and this could definitely put a wrench in their plans. At least if it were to be proposed for the 2015-2016 school year, families and staff throughout WV would have a proper chance to prepare for how this!

will alter their planning/lifestyles. (3) I feel that year round schooling would possibly be okay for older students but I feel that younger students would not benefit from this proposal. My experience has been that children that young take a while to get back on track after a long period of absence so increasing those absences would be a detriment to their education. (4) As far as enrolling students and transferring, it makes it very difficult for parents who are transferring from one school (state) to another would have a difficult time knowing when school was in session. For instance, if a child moves from another state in August, they would have already missed a possible 2 months at that point simply because our school was on a different schedule.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not agree with changing the school year from a 43 week term to a 48 week term. I believe this would cause a chain reaction of inconveniences and well as would not be in the best interest of the students. (1) Many parents have full time jobs and this could cause great distress on many families in the way of finding daycare providers who are willing to only take on children during the "off-times" of the school year. (2) Many families have already planned vacations around the traditional time off and therefore would cause a great number of absences. To begin this change for the 2014-2015 school year isn't fair to those parents/staff members who have already planned and possibly paid for those vacations. Family vacations are a very important part of the family life and this could definitely put a wrench in their

plans. At least if it were to be proposed for the 2015-2016 school year, families and staff throughout WV would have a proper chance to prepare for how this!

will alter their planning/lifestyles. (3) I feel that year round schooling would possibly be okay for older students but I feel that younger students would not benefit from this proposal. My experience has been that children that young take a while to get back on track after a long period of absence so increasing those absences would be a detriment to their education. (4) As far as enrolling students and transferring, it makes it very difficult for parents who are transferring from one school (state) to another would have a difficult time knowing when school was in session. For instance, if a child moves from another state in August, they would have already missed a possible 2 months at that point simply because our school was on a different schedule.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

The proposed schedule would no longer allow those teachers/staff who have obtained summer employment to do so. The school staff sometimes use the summer time off to supplement their income by obtaining jobs while school is not in session.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:06 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 12:06:26)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Deborah Johnson
Organization: BOE
Title: Teacher
City/State: Ronceverte, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-12 12:06:26
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I'd like to ask that the days before school starts and the days the teachers have at the end of the year to shut their classroom down....be left alone and not included in the making up of snow days. I don't think it would affect middle school and high school the way it would elementary. Elementary teachers have the custodians numbers and call them to find out when their floors are finished (dry) so they can go into their classrooms and start preparing. This happens way before school starts for teachers. Elementary teachers already work days and days without pay (not including the nights at home they are labeling and making items for the beginning of school) ... please don't take anymore days from us.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:15 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 12:15:11)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Margaret Miltenberger
Organization: WVU Extension Service
Title: Extension Agent
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Higher Education Faculty
Posted: 2013-11-12 12:15:11
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

The proposed changes to the school calendar impact youth and families on a broad scope. rn(1) There is a large range of summer camps that will be affected - 4-H camps, scouting camps, all youth summer camps, youth sports camps, and etc. These program provide excellent learning opportunities, outdoor recreation, leadership development and many other skills. The challenge in West Virginia is that many of our local camps are only operational during warmer weather. The best weather for camp programs in West Virginia is during warmer weather. A shorter summer greatly restricts the ability to offer outdoor camping programs in West Virginia. rn2) Fair programs - 4-H and FFA are involved with county, state, and regional fairs that operate during the summer months. Significant changes in the school calendar will pose a challenge to offering these programs. County fairs and the WV state fair support local economies, youth programs, small businesses and local development. Many of these!

fairs bid for the same amusement park services and therefore are staggered throughout the summer. rn(3) Low-income families have restricted income that allow for little or no vacations. For their children local outdoor recreation will be the highlight of there break time. If summer is compressed and other breaks are offered during off weather times it severely limits these opportunities for outdoor recreation. One of these outdoor options is swimming. West Virginia weather is most conducive for swimming between late May and early September. This of course will impact the ability of local pools to operate. rn(4)Summer Employment - many older youths rely on the summer months to find jobs to help support themselves or to save money for college. A shortened summer eliminates the opportunity for good summer employment. It will also effect those employers who seek extra summer help. rn(5)Snow day make up time that could extend for a month beyond the planned end of the school yea!

r effects family vacation planning and summer programs. How ca!

n famili

es plan and other educational programs such as 4-H plan when an entire month has to be kept on hold? This is ridiculous for the state of West Virginia to put children, families, and other organizations in this position. When people are under the crunch in the rest of the working world to make up lost time we do it. rn(5) Extending the school calendar and allowing year round school may really not be the best thing to improve education in West Virginia. Our local school system is doing a great job and they get it done within the current school calendar. rn(6) The proposed changes to the school calendar massively impact West Virginia children, families, youth organizations, county and state events, local

economies, and many other groups beyond the school system. These decisions should not be made without a full understanding of the broad scope of the impact with our communities.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 12:33 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 12:32:49)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Amanda
Organization:
Title: Teacher
City/State: Clay, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-12 12:32:49
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(6) Employment Term

Lengthening the contracted term of employment takes away from teachers ability to work a summer job that many of us depend on. I believe this proposal has benefits for education but it also opens the conversation for teacher pay raise.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(8) Faculty Senate Meetings

Faculty Senate meetings are times when we can collaborate as a staff and catch up with the endless amounts of paperwork (daily and required by the state!) These days are invaluable and should be increased rather than decreased.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:03 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 13:03:04)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Tamra L. Hansford
Organization: Mineral County Schools
Title: School Nurse
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2013-11-12 13:03:04
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not agree with the school year round policy. With neighboring states not implementing this, we will lose good teachers. Is it not enough the income is not up to par with these neighboring states?! As a school nurse, I do look forward to the summers off, and yes, I will be honest - it's what keeps me in this job. But I love the children and working with them. But I love all my patients and am an excellent nurse. In fact, as a nurse practitioner, if we go to school year round, I, among others, will be looking for better paying jobs. (and they are out there) You are going to have a sparse team. Also, when the weather is bad, the employee has a choice whether to take a vacation day or not at other work sites. Some work places have until a certain time to get there. You are punishing many people for those that do not make up days for inclement weather. In addition, this will have a domino effect on many businesses such as day cares, resort places, etc. There needs to be much!
thinking behind this decision before a final decision is made.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:04 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 13:03:41)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: angela west
Organization:
Title:
City/State: ridgeley, wv
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 13:03:41
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

The school calender should remain the same. Do not change it so that the school year goes year-round. The kids need a break between grades. Families use that summer break for vacations and family time. Children should be able to be outdoors during the summer not stuck inside doing homework for school.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:22 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 13:22:21)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Krisinda Heavener
Organization:
Title:
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 13:22:21
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

While the proposed calendar may work for the minority of students, I ask you to reconsider your proposal. WV is a rural State, and as such, agriculture is still an important part of our culture and economy. While it is certainly not to the extent that it used to be, I know many families, including my own, who spend the summer tending gardens, plowing fields, mowing and putting in hay, etc. These are family farms without employees. Many of these families work secondary jobs and take vacations during the summer months to accomplish these task and also depend on the help of their children to work on the farm as well. Not only does this help the children learn things like responsibility, a strong work ethic, and family unity, it also helps to keep healthy food on the table. Other families use the summer to relax and/or take family vacations. With the way that the proposed school calendar is set up, it will be more difficult to plan those vacations because everyone will want the s!

ame time off for work to coincide with their kids' vacations, and that is just not feasible. A longer summer allows for more flexibility. Family vacations=family unity=less instances of child abuse and neglect. Also, the longer break helps students to be less burned out. The less traditional academic calendar can make things more difficult for sports, band, and even students who are taking accelerated college courses. In the interest of the students and the parents who are supporting them, I ask that you reconsider the proposed changes. Thank you.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:44 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 13:44:15)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Tammy Dunn
Organization:
Title: Parent
City/State: Ridgeley, ww
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 13:44:15
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

Keep the school calendar the way it is, some of us like having our children home for a full month or better. We like to teach the common sense items to our children.

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

see general comments

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:47 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 13:46:42)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Paul Dunn
Organization:
Title: Parent
City/State: Ridgeley, ww
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 13:46:42
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

Your idea for having our children go to school all year is not your brightess idea. I am not for the all year round program.
Even my wife and I like to spend time with our child.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:21 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 14:20:35)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: Karen
Organization:
Title: Keyser
City/State: West Virginia,
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 14:20:35
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I have saw a proposed calendar for basically a year round school year for 2014-2015. I enjoy spending time with our family during the summer taking in several trips and vacations and this calendar would definitely cut into our plans. I would very much consider home schooling my children if this calendar was set. I have seen children that have a hard time with short breaks and then going back and this would increase their anxiety more with the continuous breaks scheduled. I believe our normal school calendar should remain in place. Thank You!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:52 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 14:52:20)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

Name: June DiIrolanio
Organization:
Title: Teacher
City/State: Chester, WV
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2013-11-12 14:52:20
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(1) General

I do not approve of the make up of 2 hr delays. Inclemment weather is totally an unpredictable event. I feel the current way suffices.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:03 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 15:03:29)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Kara Lyons
Organization: Elk Garden Primary School
Title: Teacher
City/State: Elk Garden, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-12 15:03:29
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not agree with having each seperate school make up instructional time. This is going to be too difficult to do for an area such as Elk Garden that has both middle and high school students as well as the primary students. How are you going to provide instruction for the middle and high schoolers when the rest of the county has already had their instructional time. I fear that this is going to result in sending students and staff to school when the road conditions are unsafe just to meet the 180 days. Our county has schools that have very dangerous weather conditions when other parts of the county are fine. You can not send these students and staff to school in those types of dangerous conditions. Students and staff are going to be put at risk in order to meet the 180 days. Elk Garden Primary School has had cancellations when the rest of the county did not, and they are considered a Success School. It has always been the case that if you feed them lunch, it is considered !
a whole day of instruction. I would like for you to rethink making students and staff make up their seperate 180 days of instruction.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:08 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 15:08:01)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.
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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Valerie Durr
Organization: Elk Garden Primary School
Title: Teacher
City/State: Elk Garden, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-12 15:08:01
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not agree with Section 7.2 which states that additional minutes of instruction be added to the school day or entire additional days be added to recover lost time for early dismissals or late arrivals. Our county has schools in the mountainous areas; and our Middle and High School Students attend school off of the mountain. How can these students make up loss of time in this event? It is not the fault of our school or students that the weather on the mountain is worse than the weather off the mountain. It was always a law that if the students were fed lunch then it was considered a whole day. What happened to this law? Isn't it still in effect? As a Primary Teacher I always make decisions that are in my students best interest when it comes to the curriculum. I ask that the same is made when safety is an issue as well.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:35 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 15:35:08)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Martha Randolph
Organization: Hancock County Schools
Title:
City/State: New Cumberland, WV
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2013-11-12 15:35:08
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I do not want to see the calendar extended from 43 to 48 weeks. It is too difficult for teachers to recertify by taking classes in only a 4 week summer period. The students need more than 4 weeks off in the summer. Not all WV schools are air conditioned and this would be a hardship. rnI realize it was legislated to make up 2 hour delays. However, I do not agree with this policy and will address it through my legislators. rnPlease put language in to protect the Faculty Senate time. Our county sometimes schedules meetings for teachers that conflict with Faculty Senate, and Faculty Senate is intended to give teachers a voice. I would like to see language that prohibits conflicts so all teachers have the opportunity to attend.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:39 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 15:39:24)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: Margaret Milltenberger
Organization: WVU Extension Service
Title: Extension Agent
City/State: Keyser, WV
Role: Higher Education Faculty
Posted: 2013-11-12 15:39:24
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

How will state parks in West Virginia continue to operate and maintain their budgets with this proposed calendar? Most
relay on good summer weather.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:58 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 15:58:29)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

#####

Name: James Jewell
Organization:
Title: Mr.
City/State: Short Gap, W.V.
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 15:58:29
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am a parent of two daughters. I find absolutely no reason why school should be all year. From what I have seen; when children go to school longer, they seem to have absolutely NO common sense. I see a lack of common sense as of late in society these days. Lots of book smarts. Yet, with everyone having bachelor degrees or higher. The amount of jobs to meet those number of students with degrees are not around. As if our local government and federal government does not have enough say in our lives all ready!! This country was founded on freedom. Yet, we have schools that do not teach cursive writing. Yet, our founding documents are all written in cursive. This is another fine example of the schools and government trying to dictate and control lives of FREE people. What happened to the parents teaching their children during the summer while on vacation? What has happened to the values and morals in this country?? Yet, we do away with these morals, values and replace them with !
dictatorship and more rules. I could go on, but starting to bring up more then just reasons why the school calender all year is WRONG, and if you and the others voting on this can not see this fact, then maybe it is time that you are all voted out of office. I am not the only parent in W.V. that feels this way. Had I know of this site before hand, you would be receiving many more comments on this site, but if you choose not to believe me, that is okay. You will see the results come next election for all those that vote for this.

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:59 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 15:58:49)

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This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 3234

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Name: Jenny Keech
Organization: Mineral Co Schools
Title: Parent
City/State: Fort Ashby, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 15:58:49
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-(73)-(5) School Calendar

I am opposed to year around school and feel that our government agencies are not representing the people of this state and country. Education and society are pushing our children into an adult world that their brains are not ready for. Child development studies show that we are putting more demands on out children and forgetting about teaching them fundamentals and the basics. My son is overwhelmed by the 5th grade curriculum already. Please don't take away his summer and time to be a child while he is still one. Why does education have to change constantly?

Comments for section 126-(73)-(10) Submission of School Calendar to State Board for Approval

No year around school!

Amy Willard

From: Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 3:59 PM
To: awillard@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 3234 (2013-11-12 15:59:17)

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Comment Received for Policy 3234

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Name: Jenny Keech
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Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2013-11-12 15:59:17
Posted from IP:

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No year around school!