

**Policy 5901: Alternative Certification Programs for the Education of Teachers**  
**Comment Log**  
**January 12, 2017 – February 10, 2017**

Action  
N: No Response  
NA: Not Accepted  
A: Accepted

Type  
- Negative  
+ Positive  
o Neutral

Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/ Type	Rationale
		126-161-1. General.		
01-23	Heather Young Jefferson County Schools substitute teacher Teacher Harpers Ferry, WV	I am very interested in the Alternative Cert. Program. It was offered to me and then I was informed that it was not an option.	N/o	Content of the comment indicates that the individual may have been ineligible to participate in alternative certification under current policy guidelines. Policy 5901 criteria aligns with State Code requirements including, but not limited to §18A-3-1f, which establishes eligibility criteria.
01-30	Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher Teacher Rivesville , Wv	Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.	N/o	The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. §18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program

				for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.
02-06	<p>Hillary Adams The Marshall University College Program for Students with ASD Student Support Specialist Professional Support Huntington , WV</p>	<p>Our teachers in WV are smart, capable, and hardworking. To expect them, however, to support, teach, and care for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder without proper certification is not only a disservice to our students, but to our teachers. Teachers need specialized training, strategies, and education to work with and teach students with ASD. We cannot throw our teachers into environments they are not prepared for - to be left without thw tools to support our students, both students and teachers will become burnt out, leading to hopelessness. We cannot lose our teachers and we cannot give our students less than our very best.</p>	A/-	<p>The alternative teaching certificate is a temporary certificate, which requires rigorous training/coursework leading to an initial professional teaching certificate. §18A-3-1g indicates that special education alternative certification programs shall incorporate professional development to the maximum extent possible to obtain the required content area preparation. As a revision to current policy language, the Office of Special Programs has provided a specific list of topics which must be covered within the program of study for the autism endorsement</p>

				to ensure that individuals have been prepared to pass the endorsement's required content Praxis exam and meet the needs of these students in the classroom.
02-07	Rebecca custer Parent-Family New Cumberland , Wv	I have to teach my son at home because his school's teachers are not equipped nor trained to deal with his separation and social anxiety.	N/o	The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. Regarding special education, topics have been added to program of study requirements. §18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.

02-07	virginia walker Tolsia High Special Education Teacher Teacher Fort Gay, WV	The state has become to relaxed in giving certification to teach in all subject areas especially special education.	N/-	The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. §18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose. §18A-3-1f establishes eligibility criteria.
02-07	Kim Conway Substitute Teacher School System Staff Huntington, WV	Getting a school district to offer the jobs that they have available is proving to be very complicated. I have asked both Cabell and Wayne counties who have posted the same jobs over three times each to consider me for a position. The counties do not appear to be eager to fill their positions.	N/-	The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. While policy language indicates that alternative certification may be used in instances of critical need and shortage, school districts as the employers and program providers must decide when to use alternative certification

				as a means of employment. §18A-3-1f establishes eligibility criteria.
02-08	Jennifer McFarland-Whisman Marshall University Assistant Professor Higher Education Faculty HUNTINGTON, WV	I would like to encourage those reviewing policy 5901 to consider adding specific language related to autism coursework that individuals going through the alternative certification should receive. As you know, students with ASD may have significant learning and behavioral difficulties that can challenge even the most experienced educator. It is imperative that newly hired teachers, with little to no experience with this population, receive additional training and support.	A/o	The alternative teaching certificate is a temporary certificate, which requires rigorous training/coursework leading to an initial professional teaching certificate. §18A-3-1g indicates that special education alternative certification programs shall incorporate professional development to the maximum extent possible to obtain the required content area preparation. As a revision to current policy language, the Office of Special Programs has provided a specific list of topics which must be covered within the program of study for the autism endorsement to ensure that individuals have been adequately prepared to pass the endorsement's required content Praxis exam and meet the needs of these students in the classroom.
02-09	Angela Trader Wayne County Special Programs, Specialist	As a special programs specialist, I see the need for creative ways to get people into teaching roles. However, as a mother of a child with autism, it is very	A/-	The alternative teaching certificate is a temporary certificate, which requires

	Parent-Family Wayne, WV	important to me that the teachers are highly qualified. Autism is a field that needs to require the most training as we are dealing with such issues as behavior and executive functioning in addition to instruction. It is my job to guide teachers in my county who are teaching students with autism. Those who lack the basics are not effective teachers.		rigorous training/coursework leading to an initial professional teaching certificate. §18A-3-1g indicates that special education alternative certification programs shall incorporate professional development to the maximum extent possible to obtain the required content area preparation. As a revision to current policy language, the Office of Special Programs has provided a specific list of topics which must be covered within the program of study for the autism endorsement to ensure that individuals have been adequately prepared to pass the endorsement's required content Praxis exam and meet the needs of these students in the classroom.
		126-161-2. Purpose.		
		126-161-3. Definitions.		
01-30	Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher	Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive	N/o	The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy.

	Teacher Rivesville , Wv	to learning.		§18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with state code requirements which serve this purpose.
02-01	Justin Schooley Berkeley County Schools Associate Superintendent of HR School System Staff Martinsburg, WV	Adding section 3.1.e.5. does help counties determine somewhat where the Alt. Cert. teacher falls in a RIF. However, it does still leave a question in regards to WV Code 18A-4-7a(k)(1) in trying to determine if permit/out-of-field is equal to, greater, or lesser status than an alt. cert. teacher in in a RIF since all are less than a fully certified teacher. • Personally, I am inclined to think that permit and alt cert teachers are of equal weight (since either of completed a full program of study) and if the teachers have identical seniority, then normal procedures for a random drawing would occur to determine who is on the RIF list. Without policy or code to guide this, it leaves the county subject to a grievance.	N/o	The comment indicates that the added piece of language in section 3.1.e.5. clarifies licensure requirements for reduction in force situations. A concern is raised about clearly addressing employment requirements. Since Policy 5901 is designed to primarily address licensure and not employment criteria, rather than making changes to policy language, the frequently asked questions guidance document will be updated to address this

				scenario.
02-07	Duane Dober Tyler County Schools Director of HR and Federal Programs School System Staff Middlebourne, WV	1. Consider defining "additional instruction" as used in 5.2.c.rn2. 3.1.e.5 appears to simply "cut loose" the individual who committed to this program which seems to me to be completely counterproductive; however, I must admit I don't have a better idea given the restrictions and limitations of personnel laws in our state.	N/o	The comment suggests adding additional instruction to allow for completion of an approved alternative certification program if the individual cannot find qualifying employment to continue in the program. Qualifying employment is a requirement of state code and therefore WVBE policy. Individuals must complete the approved program in its entirety as approved by the WVBE while they have qualifying employment.
		126-161-4. Alternative program partnerships; partnership agreements.		
		126-161-5. Alternative program instruction; methods of instruction.		
01-19	Mary Sue Burns Pocahontas County Schools substitute teacher Teacher Marlinton WV	In section 5.3, is this saying that to get alternate certification in Special Education, one must already hold a certificate (in some other area)? This different from other areas in which alternative certification can be obtained without having another prior certificate.	A/o	Policy sections 5.2 and 5.3 are being revised to clarify alternative certification program requirements for individuals who possess certifications and those who do not. Previous language in this section was revised to

				account for requirements of corresponding core general education content for special education certification being eliminated.
01-23	Heather Young Jefferson County Schools substitute teacher Teacher Harpers Ferry, WV	I would like to continue teaching in the current position I have been a long term sub for. It is Special Education, Social Studies. I have a bachelors degree in Communication, I would like to do the Alternative Certification Program. It is frustrating that it is offered in many counties in WV, but for the moment, not in Jefferson Co. It will cost me thousands of dollars to get my certification through another University. I hope you will consider offering the Alternative Cert. Program in Jefferson County to encourage people like myself to teach.	NA/-	The comment indicates that Jefferson County School District does not have an approved alternative certification program and that a program should be offered. On July 13, 2016 the West Virginia Board of Education approved both special education and general education alternative certification programs for Jefferson County Schools in partnership with RESA 8.
01-23	Tina Rimmer Williamson WV	WV already has an alternate pathway to certification. For example, ACT found in Logan County. I feel that any pathway less rigorous than ACT will inadequately prepare teachers for the classroom.	N/-	The comment refers to an "ACT" alternative pathway program offered by Logan County Schools, but does not describe the meaning of each letter within the acronym. The only West Virginia Board of Education approved alternative certification programs offered by Logan County schools are the Alternative Certification Through Innovation programs for general education and special education. Both

				programs align with requirements of State Code and Policy 5901. Policy 5901 criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements including, but not limited to §18A-3-1f.
01-23	Tina Rimmer Teacher Williamson, WV	WV already has an alternate pathway to certification. For example, ACT found in Logan County. I feel that any pathway less rigorous than ACT will inadequately prepare teachers for the classroom.	N/-	The comment refers to an “ACT” alternative pathway program offered by Logan County Schools, but does not describe the meaning of each letter within the acronym. The only West Virginia Board of Education approved alternative certification programs offered by Logan County schools are the Alternative Certification Through Innovation programs for general education and special education. Both programs align with requirements of State Code and Policy 5901. Policy 5901 criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements including, but not limited to §18A-3-1f.
01-30	Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher Teacher Rivesville , Wv	Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.	N/o	§18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program

				for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with state code requirements which serve this purpose.
02-06	Angela Nesselrotte Parent-Family Frametown, WV	My son has autism and is a 6th grader in the public school system, I do not feel comfortable with someone teaching him that is not certified in autism!!	N/-	The alternative teaching certificate is a temporary certificate, which requires rigorous training/coursework leading to an initial professional teaching certificate. §18A-3-1g indicates that special education alternative certification programs shall incorporate professional development to the maximum extent possible to obtain the required content area preparation. As a revision to current policy language, the Office of Special Programs has provided a specific list of topics which must be covered within the program of study for the autism endorsement

				to ensure that individuals have been adequately prepared to pass the endorsement's required content Praxis exam and meet the needs of these students in the classroom.
02-07	Duane Dober Tyler County Schools Director of HR and Federal Programs School System Staff Middlebourne, WV	5.2.d and 5.2.e requirements appear to me to be so extensive they may overwhelm and intimidate all but the most stout and committed individuals. The reason we have policy 5901 is that we can't find individuals certified in these areas. I am all for rigor, relevance and high standards, but I believe these endorsement requirements are too extensive for anyone to believe they can complete them all in three years and still have a life. Then, when we finally have a candidate commit to and complete this program, our state and districts should be prepared to pay them for the anguish of completing the program to become certified.	N/-	While alternative certification programs authorized by state code for special education endorsements reflect a shorter pathway than traditional programs to attaining a professional teaching certificate, policy requirements were developed in collaboration with identified stakeholders and aligned with state code and policy requirements to establish the minimal criteria. These criteria allow flexibility, but maintain the rigor and quality for preparation in each special education endorsement.
		126-161-6. The professional support team.		
01-19	Mary Sue Burns Pocahontas County Schools substitute teacher Teacher Marlinton WV	Whereas local control is usually a good thing, I am concerned that guidelines and procedures for this will not be consistent from county to county. Counties should not be allowed to cut corners and skimp on this important part of the success of the new teacher.	N/-	State Code and Policy 5901 indicate that a partnership must exist between the school district and an eligible partner for alternative

				<p>certification to occur. Alternative certification programs are reviewed by the Alternative Certification Preparation Program Review Board to ensure all districts adhere to the same policy and state code requirements. Additionally, signed assurance statements are provided by each school district within proposals, to ensure that approved programs will meet all requirements of Policy 5901 and State Code.</p>
01-30	<p>Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher Teacher Rivesville , Wv</p>	<p>Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.</p>	N/o	<p>§18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.</p>

02-01	Justin Schooley Berkeley County Schools Associate Superintendent of HR School System Staff Martinsburg, WV	Suggest some additional clarifying language. It is the entire support team or just some or a member may be trained? rn• If the proposed program may require the entire team to be trained it can be very difficult due to the not knowing the school and who would be involved where the alt cert teacher may be located; plus, it pulls a principal out of building for possible additional training.rn• Maybe the language would be “The professional support team or an individual member may be trained...	N/o	The proposed revised policy language clarifies requirements for professional support team training.
02-07	Duane Dober Tyler County Schools Director of HR and Federal Programs School System Staff Middlebourne, WV	6.3 discusses evaluations every six to eight weeks; however, there is no mention of observations and the frequency of those observations upon which each evaluation is typically based.	N/-	Policy 5901 section 6.2 outlines requirements for the observation of alternative certification teachers (ex. weekly observations for the teacher’s first semester, bi-weekly observations during the second semester of the teacher’s first year, etc.). Program providers provide details about when individuals are evaluated and observations that factor into those observations within their proposal and the description must align with minimal criteria as identified within state code and WVBE policy.
		126-161-7. Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB).		

01-23	Heather Young Jefferson County Schools substitute teacher Teacher Harpers Ferry, WV	I would like to continue teaching in the current position I have been a long term sub for. It is Special Education, Social Studies. I have a bachelors degree in Communication, I would like to do the Alternative Certification Program. It is frustrating that it is offered in many counties in WV, but for the moment, not in Jefferson Co. It will cost me thousands of dollars to get my certification through another University. I hope you will consider offering the Alternative Cert. Program in Jefferson County to encourage people like myself to teach.	NA/-	The comment indicates that Jefferson County School District does not have an approved alternative certification program and that a program should be offered. On July 13, 2016 the West Virginia Board of Education approved both special education and general education alternative certification programs in partnership with RESA 8.
01-30	Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher Teacher Rivesville , Wv	Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning. No to alternate certificate. They will not get the skills they truly need from a degree program.	N/-	The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. §18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.

02-07	virginia walker Tolsia High Special Education Teacher Teacher Fort Gay, WV	When it comes to teaching children everyone should be fully certified. By this I mean each teacher needs to take the classes needed for each subject specialty. These certifications should not be given until the correct amount of classes are taken and a student teaching experience in that area.	N/-	The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. While special education alternative certification programs referenced in §18A-3-1g and §18A-3-1h provide content preparation, general education alternative certification programs require the individual to verify content proficiency in advance of licensure by providing documentation of passing scores on the endorsement's required content Praxis exams and either academic or occupational qualifications related to the endorsement area. §18A-3-1h allows this combination of criteria for content to be used with pedagogical training/coursework, to prepare individuals for licensure as they are teaching in the classroom.
		126-161-8. Components of an alternative program proposal.		

01-30	Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher Teacher Rivesville , Wv	Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.	N/o	§18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.
02-01	Justin Schooley Berkeley County Schools Associate Superintendent of HR School System Staff Martinsburg, WV	8.1.h.9 (formally 11) What about adding native language speaker? • This could be useful for especially in Spanish as a critical needs area.	N/o	The comment suggests that a skill might be useful in allowing individuals to pursue alternative certification with an endorsement in foreign languages. §18A-3-1f provides a list of eligibility criteria and qualifications for individuals to receive an alternative teaching certificate, including that they must, “Have relevant academic or occupational qualifications that reasonably indicate that the person will be competent to fill the teaching position in

				which he or she would be employed." This does not allow native language speakers to use their native language or other criteria in lieu of occupational or academic qualifications required for the alternative teaching certificate by statute.
02-07	virginia walker Tolsia High Special Education Teacher Teacher Fort Gay, WV	This is fair to the students or other teachers who have the traditional certificate. I took all the required classes in each area (LD, BD, MM, and Autism) and did six weeks of student teaching with a fully qualified teacher in each area. I feel that I am more qualified because I did that. This applies to all area of teaching. I would not want someone teaching my child in any subject if they has not been trained properly to assist the students with rigorous work.	N/-	The alternative teaching certificate is a temporary certificate, which requires rigorous training/coursework leading to an initial professional teaching certificate. §18A-3-1g indicates that special education alternative certification programs shall incorporate professional development to the maximum extent possible to obtain the required content area preparation. As a revision to current policy language, the Office of Special Programs has provided a specific list of topics which must be covered within the program of study for the autism endorsement to ensure that individuals have been adequately prepared to pass the endorsement's required content Praxis exam and meet

				the needs of these students in the classroom.
02-07	Duane Dober Tyler County Schools Director of HR and Federal Programs School System Staff Middlebourne, WV	8.1.h.9. "possess either transcripts reflecting an academic major or other suitable documentation of work experience in an occupational area in the same or similar to the subject matter . . . "	A/o	The comment seeks clarification of documentation required for work experience. Policy language will be modified in section 8.1.h.9. to include that candidates must, "possess either transcripts reflecting an academic major or appropriate documentation of occupational qualifications the same as or similar to the subject matter which the alternative program candidate is being hired to teach."
		126-161-9. WVBE Approval of an Alternative Program Proposal.		
		126-161-10. Comprehensive Evaluation, Recommendation for Licensure and Rights of the Alternative Program Teacher		
01-30	Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher Teacher Rivesville , Wv	There should not be alternate certificate programs. Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.	NA/-	The comment indicates that there should not be alternative certification programs. WV State Code authorizes the creation of alternative certification programs to meet areas of critical need and shortage.

				<p>§18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.</p>
02-07	<p>virginia walker Tolsia High Special Education Teacher Teacher Fort Gay, WV</p>	<p>When you introduce an alternative program teacher you are introducing someone who has taken short cuts to getting their education. I would rather have a teacher who has been taught extensive classes that pertain to their area of expertise. I am sure that this teacher(Alternative Program Teacher) is not as capable as a teacher who completed all the course work and requirements for their degree. Our state keeps telling us that we are deficient in our test scores. They want to say that the students are not being taught with vigor and vim. The problems are these students have had substitute teacher not qualified in the areas they are teaching or an Alternative Program Teacher is teaching them. We need fully qualified teacher to teach our children. If our state would pay these teacher what they deserve we would have qualified</p>	N/-	<p>The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. §18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional</p>

		<p>teachers stay in our state. Why would they stay here when they can go to neighboring states and make twice the salary we pay them. Our students can ! not master an area of studies when their teacher has not had the training to master this subject. We continue to push students from one grade to another unprepared. We need to start in Kindergarten with professional teachers and continue this through high school. Students need to start with a solid foundation in elementary school that will carry them through later years in high school. Think about this would you rather have a doctor who has taken the long road to get his degree or one who took an alternative program to get his degree treat you?</p>		<p>education service agency, all under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.</p>
		<p>126-161-11. Prohibited acts.</p>		
<p>01-30</p>	<p>Crystal Adkins Aft Teacher Teacher Rivesville , Wv</p>	<p>Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.</p>	<p>N/o</p>	<p>The comment is inconsistent with the intention/language for this section of the policy. §18A-3-1a describes the purpose of alternative programs as authorizing school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification in partnership with an accredited higher education institution, an entity affiliated with an accredited higher education institution, the West Virginia Department of Education or a regional education service agency, all</p>

				under the supervision of the State Board. Policy criteria was developed to align with State Code requirements which serve this purpose.
		126-161-12. Contract renewals.		
		126-161-13. Severability.		

## Robert Mellace

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2017 7:39 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-01-19 19:39:07)

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### Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Mary Sue Burns  
Organization: Pocahontas County Schools  
Title: substitute teacher  
City/State: Marlinton, WV  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2017-01-19 19:39:07  
Posted from IP:

### Comments for section 126-161-5 Alternative Program Instruction; Methods of Instruction

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In section 5.3, is this saying that to get alternate certification in Special Education, one must already hold a certificate (in some other area)? This different from other areas in which alternative certification can be obtained without having another prior certificate.

### Comments for section 126-161-6 The Professional Support Team

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Whereas local control is usually a good thing, I am concerned that guidelines and procedures for this will not be consistent from county to county. Counties should not be allowed to cut corners and skimp on this important part of the success of the new teacher.

## Robert Mellace

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 9:33 AM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-01-23 09:33:10)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Heather Young  
Organization: Jefferson County Schools  
Title: substitute teacher  
City/State: Harpers Ferry, WV  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2017-01-23 09:33:10  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

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I am very interested in the Alternative Cert. Program. It was offered to me and then I was informed that it was not an option.

Comments for section 126-161-5 Alternative Program Instruction; Methods of Instruction

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I would like to continue teaching in the current position I have been a long term sub for. It is Special Education, Social Studies. I have a bachelor's degree in Communication, I would like to do the Alternative Certification Program. It is frustrating that it is offered in many counties in WV, but for the moment, not in Jefferson Co. It will cost me thousands of dollars to get my certification through another University. I hope you will consider offering the Alternative Cert. Program in Jefferson County to encourage people like myself to teach.

Comments for section 126-161-7 Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB)

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I would like to continue teaching in the current position I have been a long term sub for. It is Special Education, Social Studies. I have a bachelor's degree in Communication, I would like to do the Alternative Certification Program. It is frustrating that it is offered in many counties in WV, but for the moment, not in Jefferson Co. It will cost me thousands of dollars to get my certification through another University. I hope you will consider offering the Alternative Cert. Program in Jefferson County to encourage people like myself to teach.

## Robert Mellace

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-01-23 13:37:32)

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### Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Tina Rimmer  
Organization:  
Title:  
City/State: Williamson, WV  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2017-01-23 13:37:32  
Posted from IP:

### Comments for section 126-161-5 Alternative Program Instruction; Methods of Instruction

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WV already has an alternate pathway to certification. For example, ACT found in Logan County. I feel that any pathway less rigorous than ACT will inadequately prepare teachers for the classroom.

**Robert Mellace**

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-01-23 13:40:42)

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This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Tina Rimmer  
Organization:  
Title:  
City/State: Williamson, WV  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2017-01-23 13:40:42  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-5 Alternative Program Instruction; Methods of Instruction

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WV already has an alternate pathway to certification. For example, ACT found in Logan County. I feel that any pathway less rigorous than ACT will inadequately prepare teachers for the classroom.

**Robert Mellace**

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 3:33 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-01-30 15:32:56)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Crystal Adkins  
Organization: Aft  
Title: Teacher  
City/State: Rivesville , Wv  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2017-01-30 15:32:56  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

-----  
Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

Comments for section 126-161-3 Definitions

-----  
Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

Comments for section 126-161-5 Alternative Program Instruction; Methods of Instruction

-----  
Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

Comments for section 126-161-6 The Professional Support Team

-----  
Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

Comments for section 126-161-7 Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB)

-----  
Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning. No to alternate certificate. They will not get the skills they truly need from a degree program.

**Comments for section 126-161-8 Components of an Alternative Certification Program Proposal**

---

Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

**Comments for section 126-161-10 Comprehensive Evaluation, Recommendation for Licensure and Rights of the Alternative Program Teacher**

---

There should not be alternate certificate programs.  
Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

**Comments for section 126-161-11 Prohibited Acts**

---

Teacher prep programs need to help ensure teachers are prepared to engage their students in powerful learning and create an environment that is conducive to learning.

## Robert Mellace

---

**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:53 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-01 14:52:34)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Justin Schooley  
Organization: Berkeley County Schools  
Title: Associate Superintendent of HR  
City/State: Martinsburg, WV  
Role: School System Staff  
Posted: 2017-02-01 14:52:34  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-3 Definitions  
-----

Adding section 3.1.e.5. does help counties determine somewhat where the Alt. Cert. teacher falls in a RIF. However, it does still leave a question in regards to WV Code 18A-4-7a(k)(1) in trying to determine if permit/out-of-field is equal to, greater, or lesser status than an alt. cert. teacher in in a RIF since all are less than a fully certified teacher.rn• Personally, I am inclined to think that permit and alt cert teachers are of equal weight (since either of completed a full program of study) and if the teachers have identical seniority, then normal procedures for a random drawing would occur to determine who is on the RIF list. Without policy or code to guide this, it leaves the county subject to a grievance.

Comments for section 126-161-6 The Professional Support Team  
-----

Suggest some additional clarifying language. It is the entire support team or just some or a member may be trained?  
rn• If the proposed program may require the entire team to be trained it can be very difficult due to the not knowing the school and who would be involved where the alt cert teacher may be located; plus, it pulls a principal out of building for possible additional training.rn• Maybe the language would be "The professional support team or an individual member may be trained...

Comments for section 126-161-8 Components of an Alternative Certification Program Proposal  
-----

8.1.h.9 (formally 11) What about adding native language speaker?rn• This could be useful for especially in Spanish as a critical needs area.

**Robert Mellace**

---

**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-06 15:03:34)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Angela Nesselrotte  
Organization:  
Title:  
City/State: Frametown, WV  
Role: Parent-Family  
Posted: 2017-02-06 15:03:34  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-5 Alternative Program Instruction; Methods of Instruction

-----

My son has autism and is a 6th grader in the public school system, I do not feel comfortable with someone teaching him that is not certified in autism!!

**Robert Mellace**

---

**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:03 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-06 20:03:24)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Hillary Adams  
Organization: The Marshall University College Program for Students with ASD  
Title: Student Support Specialist  
City/State: Huntington , WV  
Role: Professional Support  
Posted: 2017-02-06 20:03:24  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

---

Our teachers in WV are smart, capable, and hardworking. To expect them, however, to support, teach, and care for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder without proper certification is not only a disservice to our students, but to our teachers. Teachers need specialized training, strategies, and education to work with and teach students with ASD. We cannot throw our teachers into environments they are not prepared for - to be left without thw tools to support our students, both students and teachers will become burnt out, leading to hopelessness. We cannot lose our teachers and we cannot give our students less than our very best.

## Robert Mellace

---

**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:26 AM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-07 07:26:15)

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### Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Rebecca custer  
Organization:  
Title:  
City/State: New Cumberland , Wv  
Role: Parent-Family  
Posted: 2017-02-07 07:26:15  
Posted from IP:

### Comments for section 126-161-1 General

---

I have to teach my son at home because his school's teachers are not equipped nor trained to deal with his separation and social anxiety.

## Robert Mellace

---

**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-07 08:29:59)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: virginia walker  
Organization: Tolsia High  
Title: Special Education Teacher  
City/State: Fort Gay, WV  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2017-02-07 08:29:59  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

-----  
The state has become to relaxed in giving certification to teach in all subject areas especially special education.

Comments for section 126-161-7 Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB)

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When it comes to teaching children everyone should be fully certified. By this I mean each teacher needs to take the classes needed for each subject specialty. These certifications should not be given until the correct amount of classes are taken and a student teaching experience in that area.

Comments for section 126-161-8 Components of an Alternative Certification Program Proposal

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This is fair to the students or other teachers who have the traditional certificate. I took all the required classes in each area (LD, BD, MM, and Autism) and did six weeks of student teaching with a fully qualified teacher in each area. I feel that I am more qualified because I did that. This applies to all area of teaching. I would not want someone teaching my child in any subject if they has not been trained properly to assist the students with rigorous work.

Comments for section 126-161-10 Comprehensive Evaluation, Recommendation for Licensure and Rights of the Alternative Program Teacher

-----  
When you introduce an alternative program teacher you are introducing someone who has taken short cuts to getting their education. I would rather have a teacher who has been taught extensive classes that pertain to their area of expertise. I am sure that this teacher(Alternative Program Teacher) is not as capable as a teacher who completed all the course work and requirements for their degree. Our state keeps telling us that we are deficient in our test scores. They want to say that the students are not being taught with vigor and vim. The problems are these students have had substitute teacher not qualified in the areas they are teaching or an Alternative Program Teacher is teaching them. We

need fully qualified teacher to teach our children. If our state would pay these teacher what they deserve we would have qualified teachers stay in our state. Why would they stay here when they can go to neighboring states and make twice the salary we pay them. Our students can !

not master an area of studies when their teacher has not had the training to master this subject. We continue to push students from one grade to another unprepared. We need to start in Kindergarten with professional teachers and continue this through high school. Students need to start with a solid foundation in elementary school that will carry them through later years in high school. Think about this would you rather have a doctor who has taken the long road to get his degree or one who took an alternative program to get his degree treat you?

**Robert Mellace**

---

**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-07 12:14:22)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Kim Conway  
Organization:  
Title: Substitute Teacher  
City/State: Huntington, WV  
Role: School System Staff  
Posted: 2017-02-07 12:14:22  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

-----  
Getting a school district to offer the jobs that they have available is proving to be very complicated. I have asked both Cabell and Wayne counties who have posted the same jobs over three times each to consider me for a position. The counties do not appear to be eager to fill their positions.

**Robert Mellace**

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:11 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-07 13:11:16)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Duane Dober  
Organization: Tyler County Schools  
Title: Director of HR and Federal Programs  
City/State: Middlebourne, WV  
Role: School System Staff  
Posted: 2017-02-07 13:11:16  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

-----

No comments.

Comments for section 126-161-3 Definitions

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1. Consider defining "additional instruction" as used in 5.2.c.rn2. 3.1.e.5 appears to simply "cut loose" the individual who committed to this program which seems to me to be completely counterproductive; however, I must admit I don't have a better idea given the restrictions and limitations of personnel laws in our state.

Comments for section 126-161-5 Alternative Program Instruction; Methods of Instruction

-----

5.2.d and 5.2.e requirements appear to me to be so extensive they may overwhelm and intimidate all but the most stout and committed individuals. The reason we have policy 5901 is that we can't find individuals certified in these areas. I am all for rigor, relevance and high standards, but I believe these endorsement requirements are too extensive for anyone to believe they can complete them all in three years and still have a life. Then, when we finally have a candidate commit to and complete this program, our state and districts should be prepared to pay them for the anguish of completing the program to become certified.

Comments for section 126-161-6 The Professional Support Team

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6.3 discusses evaluations every six to eight weeks; however, there is no mention of observations and the frequency of those observations upon which each evaluation is typically based.

Comments for section 126-161-7 Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB)

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No comments.

Comments for section 126-161-8 Components of an Alternative Certification Program Proposal

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8.1.h.9. "possess either transcripts reflecting an academic major or other suitable documentation of work experience in an occupational area in the same or similar to the subject matter . . . "

Comments for section 126-161-10 Comprehensive Evaluation, Recommendation for Licensure and Rights of the Alternative Program Teacher

---

No comments.

Comments for section 126-161-11 Prohibited Acts

---

No comments.

**Robert Mellace**

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:13 PM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-08 13:13:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Jennifer McFarland-Whisman  
Organization: Marshall University  
Title: Assistant Professor  
City/State: HUNTINGTON, WV  
Role: Higher Education Faculty  
Posted: 2017-02-08 13:13:07  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

---

I would like to encourage those reviewing policy 5901 to consider adding specific language related to autism coursework that individuals going through the alternative certification should receive. As you know, students with ASD may have significant learning and behavioral difficulties that can challenge even the most experienced educator. It is imperative that newly hired teachers, with little to no experience with this population, receive additional training and support.

**Robert Mellace**

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**From:** Nobody <nobody@kryten.wvnet.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:59 AM  
**To:** Robert Mellace  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 5901 (2017-02-09 07:59:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 5901

#####

Name: Angela Trader  
Organization: Wayne County  
Title: Special Programs, Specialist  
City/State: Wayne, WV  
Role: Parent-Family  
Posted: 2017-02-09 07:59:11  
Posted from IP:

Comments for section 126-161-1 General

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As a special programs specialist, I see the need for creative ways to get people into teaching roles. However, as a mother of a child with autism, it is very important to me that the teachers are highly qualified. Autism is a field that needs to require the most training as we are dealing with such issues as behavior and executive functioning in addition to instruction. It is my job to guide teachers in my county who are teaching students with autism. Those who lack the basics are not effective teachers.