

**Policy 5901, Regulations for Alternative Certification Programs for the Education of Teachers
Comment Log**

November 15, 2019 – December 16, 2019

Action

A/S Comment was accepted and supports the proposed policy.

A/C Comment was accepted and resulted in changes to the proposed policy.

N Comment was not accepted.

Date	Commenter	Comments	Action	Rationale
§126-161-1. General.				
11-20	Timothy A. Cox, Parent-Family, Morgantown , WV	The reason West Virginia can't get or keep qualified Teachers, the State doesn't pay enough money.	N	The content of the comment does not align with this section of WVBE Policy 5901. WVBE Policy 5901 is not a primary policy for determining the salary of teachers.
12-13	Ian Hillman, Berkeley County Schools, Assistant Principal, Inwood, WV	Streamlining alternative teacher certification to expedite the process and ensure a high quality educator is working with our students is a solid plan.	A/S	The content of the comment does not align with this section of WVBE Policy 5901. Content of the comment indicates general support for language already included within WVBE Policy 5901. No language changes are required as a result.
§126-161-2. Purpose.				
12-13	Ian Hillman, Berkeley County Schools, Assistant Principal, Inwood, WV	Innovative reasoning for filling teacher vacancies that otherwise may go unfilled.	A/S	The content of the comment indicates general support for the concept of alternative certification. No language changes are required as a result.
§126-161-3. Summary.				
§126-161-4. Procedures for Alternative Certification Programs for the Education of Teachers.				
11-20	Timothy A. Cox, Parent-Family, Morgantown , WV	You really want someone to Teach a Algebra lesson, that is not qualified, another wrong direction.	N	The content of the comment does not align with the identified policy section. Eligibility requirements and qualifications for the Alternative Teaching Certificate are established through a combination of

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				W. Va. Code §18A-3-1a through W. Va. Code §18A-3-1i, WVBE Policy 5901 and WVBE Policy 5202 criteria. Individuals must possess an appropriate license as identified within WVBE Policy 5901 to teach in West Virginia K-12 public school systems.
§126-161-5. Required Components of an Alternative Certification Program Proposal.				
§126-161-6. Candidate Eligibility.				
§126-161-7. Alternative Program Instruction and the Professional Support Team.				
12-10	Ronald Pauley, Kanawha County Board of Education, Certification Specialist, Kanawha , WV	Concerns: PPAT: • There are four tasks associated with the portfolio, the first of which is due February 14th. • The cost for registering for the assessment is \$300! (It is the same cost for the Ed TPA). • There are currently no qualifying scores available for the test (there are also no qualifying scores for the Ed TPA.) Who makes this determination? i.e. the County or WVDE. • Currently, KCS will have 16 teachers who need to either complete this assessment in spring 2020, or have their alternative certification period extended for another year. In-house option: • Would be time intensive. However, it would alleviate strict timelines and high costs. • Alternative Certification Candidates would still be required to take the PLT. To date, KCS has hired 54 alternative certification candidates. Of those 54 candidates, KCS has lost only 7 alternative teachers; making this is a very viable program. KCS has utilized the program to fill 54 critical vacant positions that could	A/C	The content of the comment is supportive of the general concept of alternative certification, but suggests extending the required timeline for implementation of teacher performance assessments to allow for thorough planning to address concerns about costs, qualifying scores on the selected assessment and to ensure that candidates have a clear understanding that these assessments will be a part of their program. Therefore, the required date of implementation for individuals enrolling into alternative certification programs will be changed from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2021.

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		<p>NOT be filled by a certified teacher. rn• 2019-2020 16 hired through alternative certification (2 math, 2 science, and 12 special education including autism)rn• 2018-2019 13 hired through alternative certification (1 Spanish, 2 math, 10 special education)rn• 2017-2018 16 hired through alternative certification (2 science, 1 math, 13 special education)rn• 2016-2017 9 hired through alternative certification (2 math, 1 ELA, 6 special education)rnTotal: 54 teachers hired through alternative certification (47 remaining) rnResigned: 4 special education, 3 math (total 7)rnBy adding the teacher performance assessment, it takes away resources and time that is currently used for training alternative teachers in all areas of our general and special education approved alternative certification program including the area of classroom management which is the most critical skill for a non-educator going into the teaching field. The assessments are expensive and if they are not passed o n the first attempt, would increase costs to! the can didate; candidates look at costs and this may deter some from wanting to pursue the alternative certification program. If the assessment is going to be a part of the program requirement, counties need more time to implement and determine the correct path in order to have a successful program. KCS does not want to lose the option of the Alternative Certification Program. Because, the numbers speak for themselves. A November 7th notification does not provide an adequate time-line to implement correctly a large change such as</p>		
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		adding the teacher performance assessment. When people are first hired, candidates should have clear program requirements versus changing standards in the middle of the program year.		
§126-161-8. Alternative Certification Licensure, Comprehensive Evaluation, and Rights of the Teacher.				
12-10	Ronald Pauley, Kanawha County Board of Education, Certification Specialist, Kanawha , WV	<p>Concerns:</p> <p>PPAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four tasks associated with the portfolio, the first of which is due February 14th. • The cost for registering for the assessment is \$300! (It is the same cost for the Ed TPA). • There are currently no qualifying scores available for the test (there are also no qualifying scores for the Ed TPA.) Who makes this determination? i.e. the County or WVDE. • Currently, KCS will have 16 teachers who need to either complete this assessment in spring 2020, or have their alternative certification period extended for another year. • In-house option: • Would be time intensive. However, it would alleviate strict timelines and high costs. • Alternative Certification Candidates would still be required to take the PLT. <p>To date, KCS has hired 54 alternative certification candidates. Of those 54 candidates, KCS has lost only 7 alternative teachers; making this is a very viable program. KCS has utilized the program to fill 54 critical vacant positions that could NOT be filled by a certified teacher.</p> <p>2019-2020 16 hired through alternative certification (2 math, 2 science, and 12 special education including autism)</p> <p>2018-2019 13 hired through alternative certification (1 Spanish, 2 math, 10 special education)</p> <p>2017-2018 16 hired through alternative certification (2 science, 1 math, 13 special education)</p> <p>2016-2017 9 hired</p>	A/C	The content of the comment is supportive of the general concept of alternative certification, but suggests extending the required timeline for implementation of teacher performance assessments to allow for thorough planning to address concerns about costs, qualifying scores on the selected assessment and to ensure that candidates have a clear understanding that these assessments will be a part of their program. Therefore, the required date of implementation for individuals enrolling into alternative certification programs will be changed from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2021.

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12-13	Ian Hillman, Berkeley County Schools, Assistant Principal, Inwood, WV	Due to national, and state statistics in filling teacher vacancies, the proposal of this program and a candidate that can go from alternative, to provisional, to professional makes sense. Especially	A/S	The content of the comment indicates general support for language already included within WVBE Policy 5901. No language changes are required as a result.

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		in larger counties with more fiscal resources and personnel, a school system can create a program in internally fill critical needs areas.		
§126-161-9. Alternative Certification Educator Preparation Program Review Board (ACEPPRB).				
§126-161-10. Additional Policies and Prohibited Acts.				
§126-161-11. Definitions.				
§126-161-12. Severability.				