

**TITLE 164  
PROCEDURAL RULE  
SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

**SERIES 1  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK  
OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY OF WEST VIRGINIA**

The SBA staff has worked diligently over the past two years to provide changes and enhancements to the SBA's Policy & Procedures Handbook. These changes were made in order to further the Authority's mission of increasing accountability of all parties involved in the execution of an SBA-funded project. The past two revisions of the document were sweeping and provided clear direction to Local Education Agencies, Design Professionals, and Contractors. As this handbook continues to evolve, we often find small, but very important changes that are necessary to incorporate within the procedures as a need arises. Below is a summary of a small, important change that is needed which will eliminate confusion related to school closure and consolidation hearing and approval timelines.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

**ADDITIONS TO EXISTING POLICY LANGUAGE**

200.11. – Consolidations (p. 15) – Clarified the requirements relative to timelines of approvals for school closures and consolidations on proposed projects that include SBA funds. Currently, WVBE Policy 6204 – School Closings or Consolidations requires county boards of education to complete all required closure approval steps on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the closures or consolidations are to be effective. On an SBA-funded new school construction project, this time frame could be two years after the project is funded. Though unlikely, theoretically the SBA could fund a consolidation project but the WVBE could later not approve closure of one or more schools slated to be consolidated into the new facility.

This policy change requires closure hearings, local board approval, and WVBE approval for closures or consolidations to happen prior to grant award by the Authority. This proposed change, as written, alleviates the present question that the SBA staff faces when evaluating projects: "Can the SBA staff fully recommend a project that replaces a school(s) that has not yet been approved by the WVBE for closure?" Recently, the answer has been "No" as the Authority and the SBA staff has recommended counties obtain closure approval by the WVBE prior to the funding recommendation. (Harrison 2018, Mercer 2019).

This change also adds the caveat that if a project request is submitted to the SBA and the closures/consolidations are subsequently disapproved by the WVBE, the project is rendered ineligible for a grant award in the current funding cycle.

NOTE: This is different from the CEFPP or CEFPP Amendment approval process. Both the WVBE and SBA approve CEFPPs or CEFPP Amendments that include closures as a part of the plan. However, the County BOE and the WVBE are the only entities to formally approve school closures, not the SBA.