

6 distinct commenters provided a total of 8 comments.

- Other: 1
- Principal: 1
- Professional Support: 4
- Teacher: 2

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
§126-81-1 General				
2020-10-16 10:36:12	Julie Gibson principal Jefferson Elementary Center Parkersburg WV	I would like to support the change to Policy 4110 that will now include, "failing to engage in virtual or remote learning for any reason". My school is struggling to get virtual and remote lessons completed by students.	A/S	
2020-11-04 15:24:08	Aaron Hendrickson Mineral County Schools Keyser WV	The requirement should be that at 3 and 5 day level SCHOOLS (Principal,	N	W.Va. §18-8-4 states meaningful contact may be made by the attendance director or the principal.

attendance worker, guidance counselor or designee) make meaningful contact BEFORE the Attendance Director gets involved. These folks should employ any and all resources to address the barriers to faithful attendance. Once ALL those resources have been exhausted the Attendance Director/Officer gets involved via a CA2 letter, then a home visit, then referral to court system. County Attendance Directors are already taxed wearing multiple hats (homelessness, guidance supervision, homebound, homeschool, court, truancy, etc) and most of us are working in large counties alone, without any support. Adding more steps to the attendance

		intervention process would help lower the truancy rate, engage parents and schools, and help to address other community-based issues (need for counseling resources, referrals for food/clothing, etc).		
§126-81-2 Purpose				
2020-11-16 14:29:32	Mary Baker Teacher Wetzel County Schools Paden City WV	This needs to be amended to include that ALL students should be held accountable for attendance. In virtual learning, if teachers are scheduling virtual classes for both In=Person students and Distant Learners, attendance should be counted for all students. Attendance should be taken for each class, and if a student did not participate, the student(s) should be counted absent for that day.	N	Taking attendance for all students is mandatory. The purpose of Policy 4110 is to promote daily attendance. Each county is required to develop and implement a county attendance policy.

§126-81-3 Definitions

<p>2020-11-12 11:30:27</p>	<p>Joseph E. Rice Guidance Counselor Mineral County Schools Ridgeley WV</p>	<p>--Appreciate the updated definition to reflect current "COVID-related" situation --TIMEFRAME for accepting excuses is helpful --also appreciate the clarification on the definition of "meaningful contact."</p>	<p>A/S</p>	
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§126-81-4 Responsibilities

<p>2020-11-12 11:30:27</p>	<p>Joseph E. Rice Guidance Counselor Mineral County Schools Ridgeley WV</p>	<p>--Glad the responsibilities are moving in the direction of the Attendance Director/that office --Some might view these changes as "pulling our teeth", and giving us less ability to encourage attendance; I completely disagree. I view them as making the process punitive EARLIER, thus increasing the likelihood that it will</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>The language in Policy 4110 mirrors W.Va. §18-8-4. As defined by Policy 4110, meaningful contact provides flexibility to counties and schools to determine appropriate interventions when a student incurs 3 and 5 unexcused absences.</p>
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		<p>be effective! This gives more severity to the 10-day letter, in my opinion.</p> <p>4.3.2 & 4.3.3-- Unsure why there is redundancy between these two points. Put another way, why is the exact same thing being done 2 times? A grace period, of sorts? THAT is understandable.</p>		
<p>2020-11-16 14:32:09</p>	<p>Kelly Wolf Acting Director of Safety Jefferson County Schools Charles Town WV</p>	<p>4.3.c.3 - Rather than "meaningful contact" at 5 unexcused absences, "written notice" should occur at that point. Our county includes the date of our CA2 letters on our Criminal Complaints as one of the dates as to when due notice was provided. These letters serve as formal documentation to families and emphasize the educational value of attendance. Research</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As defined in Policy 4110, the purpose of making meaningful contact is to ascertain the reason for the unexcused absence and what measures the school may employ to assist the student in not incurring additional absences. Sending a letter was removed from W.Va. §18-8-4 to provide time for supporting students and families.</p>

		shows that there is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement.		
§126-81-5 County Attendance Policy				
2020-11-12 12:09:22	Jessica Watt & Allyson Kangisser School Counselor Ohio County Schools Wheeling WV	<p>Would it be possible to add in a section specifically with instructions or steps to take if a child is not attending virtual learning. Teachers, Counselors, Principals, and Attendance Directors are making contact and encouraging completion of assignments but work is still not completed. Juvenile mediation is taking place but is a voluntary program. Then, Child Protective Services are called but nothing happens as they are overwhelmed with physical, sexual, emotional abuse/neglect.</p> <p>Please add in</p>	N	<p>Every student and family may experience different challenges in regard to attending virtual learning. To provide specific steps and instructions could cause unintentional consequences for educators and students. As currently written, the policy allows for local flexibility to address the unique needs of each student.</p>

		appropriate measures. Thank you for your time.		
2020-11-16 14:29:32	Mary Baker Teacher Wetzel County Schools Paden City WV	This needs to be revised to not only count Distant Learners who are not completing work and/or attending virtual classes. All students should be considered equal and should therefore, be marked absent if he/she is not attending any virtual class or submitting any assignments.	N	Taking attendance for all students is mandatory. The purpose of Policy 4110 is to promote daily attendance and each county is required to develop and implement a county attendance policy.