

EDUCATION PROGRAM ELEMENTS

ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ELEMENTS

ORGANIZATION

TEACHER/PUPIL RATIO

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF
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SECRETARY OF STATETHIS DATE 1/18/83Exceptions to Teacher/Pupil Ratio, Grades K-6

West Virginia Code, §18-5-18a, grants authority to the State Superintendent of Schools to approve the maintenance of specific classrooms for more than twenty (20) pupils in kindergarten and twenty-five (25) pupils in grades 1-3 for the school year 1983-84, and twenty-five (25) pupils in grades 4-6 in the 1983-84 school year and thereafter. The statute further directs the State Board of Education to promulgate rules and regulations defining and setting forth what constitutes "extraordinary circumstances" whereby a school may be granted exceptions from the maximum teacher/pupil ratio.

"Extraordinary circumstances" is hereby defined as a situation which places an unreasonable burden or hardship on a county board of education, including but is not limited to:

- a. when the number of available classrooms are inadequate and a realignment of school attendance zones will not solve the problem;
- b. when students have been assigned and there is an unexpected surge in student population causing class enrollment to exceed the legal ratio.

The following procedure is established for county boards of education desiring to apply for exceptions from the State Superintendent of Schools:

- a. For "extraordinary circumstances" described in "a", the county board of education, upon recommendation of the County Superintendent, should request exceptions by February 15 of the preceding year, providing specific reasons and supportive data;
- b. For "extraordinary circumstances" described in "b" the county board of education, upon recommendation of the County Superintendent, should request exceptions as soon as possible, providing specific reasons and supportive data.

Requests for exceptions will be reviewed by the office of the State Superintendent. Additional information may be solicited and, if necessary, an on-site study may be conducted. The decision to approve or reject the exceptions request will be made by the State Superintendent of Schools within a reasonable period of time and will be communicated in writing to the County Board of Education.

Approved January 11, 1983