

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #2

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Education TITLE NUMBER: 126

RULE TYPE: Legislative; CITE AUTHORITY 18-5-40

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

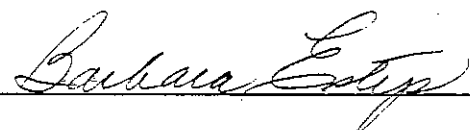
IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: 54 (Policy 2600)

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: Pilot Programs for Semester Schools

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON May 9, 1989 AT 9:00 a.m. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.

Mr. Frank Andrews
Bureau of General, Special and
Professional Education
Room B-318, Bldg. #6
Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.



ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

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Title 126
West Virginia Board of Education
Chapter §18-5
Series 54
Policy 2600

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Title: Pilot Programs for Semester Schools

Section 1.0 General

- 1.1 This legislative rule establishes the criteria for schools to develop, initiate and administer on a semester school basis
- 1.2 Authority -§18-5-40
- 1.3 Filing Date -
- 1.4 Effective Date -

Section 2.0 Semester School Definition:

An approved semester school permits children to enroll and attend public school at the beginning of the fall semester or the spring semester based upon the child's birth date and school entry age as defined in §18-5-40.

Section 3.0 Eligibility Criteria for School:

- 3.1 To become a pilot semester school an application must be submitted to the West Virginia Board of Education.
- 3.2 An analysis of the school service area shall be included to determine that a sufficient number of eligible children will support the continuation of the program. The service area may be the immediate attendance area of the school or a county may consider a broader proximity of attendance with appropriate, assured transportation.
- 3.3 An application to become a semester school must include:
 - 3.3.1 A master plan which will consist of
 - 3.3.1.1 Commitment to continue the program through all grades once the program has started within the applicant school and for a period of at least twelve years.

- 3.3.1.2 Procedures for assessment of physical, social, emotional, perceptual, and intellectual readiness to provide evidence of appropriate placement must be assured.
- 3.3.1.3 Provisions for appropriate transition of children at the end of the last semester the children attend the school under the provisions of the semester school.
- 3.3.1.4 Provisions must be assured for placement of students who may transfer into a semester school.
- 3.3.1.5 Classroom ratio must meet present state law.
- 3.3.1.6 A designed staffing pattern which supports an appropriate continuous teaching, learning program for all enrolled children.
- 3.3.1.7 Assurance that teachers shall not be assigned split level classes, i.e., first semester and second semester students in same class.
- 3.3.1.8 Schools shall have a School Based Assistance Team.

3.4 Though all elementary schools offering kindergarten programs may submit applications, schools of levels K-4 will be given priority.

Section 4.0 Eligibility of Children:

- 4.1 All children meeting all other conditions shall be eligible for this program and no child will be excluded based on handicapping conditions.
- 4.2 Children required or allowed by proximity to attend a school operated on a semester basis shall be deemed eligible to enroll. In addition, other children may be considered for enrollment if space is available and transportation is provided by the parent.
- 4.3 School entry age for semester schools:
 - 4.3.1 All children that meet present state compulsory school age enrollment are eligible for semester schools.
 - 4.3.2 Children who celebrate their sixth birthday on or between the first day of July and the last day of December to enroll during the fall semester.
 - 4.3.3 Children who celebrate their sixth birthday on or between the first day of January and the last day of June may enroll during the spring semester of that school year.

4.4 Early Entrance Requirements For Kindergarten

- 4.4.1 All children considered for early entrance must meet the established requirements set forth by the county.
- 4.4.2 An application process for enrollment shall be established by the individual county.
- 4.4.3 Each child will be assessed to determine readiness for early entry as stated in 2.3.1.2 of these guidelines.
- 4.4.4 Children determined not to be ready for fall semester may be reassessed for spring semester.
- 4.4.5 Any decision to discontinue the placement of early entrance shall be made by the School Based Assistance Team in cooperation with the classroom teacher after consultation with the child's parent(s) or guardian.
- 4.4.6 Any student meeting the criteria for early entrance but whose placement is discontinued during the fall semester, may be reconsidered for placement in the spring semester.

Section 5.0 Assessment of Student Progress:

- 5.1 Continuous assessments of student progress shall be conducted during each semester.
- 5.2 If students complete only one semester of the last grade level offered at the semester school, they shall demonstrate mastery of all skills necessary for that grade level in order to be promoted.