

TITLE 126
LEGISLATIVE RULE
BOARD OF EDUCATION

SERIES 118
ATHLETIC TRAINERS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF WEST VIRGINIA (5112)

§126-118-1. General.

1.1. Scope - These legislative rules establish the employment criteria of athletic trainers in the public schools of West Virginia and provide for the professional development of athletic trainers.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §18A-3-2

1.3. Filing Date. -- July 10, 1985

1.4. Effective Date. -- September 10, 1986

§126-118-2. Incorporation by Reference.

2.1. Copy of rules and regulations attached. Copies may be obtained in the office of the Secretary of State and in the West Virginia Department of Education, Bureau of General, Special, and Professional Education.

2.2. Summary of rules and regulations.

Rules and regulations contain: mandate for employment of athletic trainers for county board sanctioned senior high, middle, and junior high school football practices and games, criteria for issuance and renewal of permits and service certificates and continuing education requirements.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF WEST VIRGINIA

Purpose

The purpose of the athletic trainer policy is to provide for the professional development of an individual to function as a state certified athletic trainer to improve the health care of student athletes in the public schools of West Virginia. The term "state certified" refers to the holder of a valid permit or professional certificate endorsed for athletic training.

Rationale

Each year students throughout the nation are seriously injured while participating in athletic programs. Recent research and newspaper reports indicate dramatic incidents of athletic injuries in the United States. Obviously, there is no way to eliminate completely the inherent hazards associated with athletics. However, recent studies demonstrate that athletic trainers could provide leadership and services which would aid in the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.

The West Virginia Board of Education is deeply concerned with the health and physical well-being of students participating in public school athletic programs. Therefore, the State Board promulgates this policy regarding athletic training as a means for providing safer athletic programs for students.

Policy

1. By the 1985-86 school year, each county board of education shall employ a state certified athletic trainer(s) for county board sanctioned senior high school football practices and games. High schools which do not have a state certified trainer may not participate in county board sanctioned football practices and games.
2. By the 1988-89 school year, each county board of education shall employ a state certified athletic trainer for county board sanctioned middle and junior high school football practices and games. Middle and junior high schools which do not have a state certified athletic trainer may not participate in county board sanctioned football practices and games. Counties are encouraged to comply with this policy prior to the date stipulated.
3. County school administrators are encouraged to assign athletic trainers to work with other school athletic programs and related school programs.

4. Athletic trainers and/or head coaches shall report athletic injuries requiring post game/practice treatment by either the athletic trainer or a physician within 48 hours of the beginning of such treatment to the Secondary School Activities Commission in accordance with established procedures.
5. A waiver may be requested from the Department of Education. Such a request must contain documentation that a certified trainer could not be employed, describe how alternate services will be provided and delineate a plan for securing the services of a certified trainer.

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES GOVERNING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Authority

Athletic trainers shall come under the definition of professional educators as specified in §18-1-1 and §18A-1-1 of the School Laws of West Virginia.

Issuance of Permits

A First Class Permit endorsed for athletic trainer may be issued valid for one year upon verification that the individual:

1. has been admitted to a state approved program for athletic trainers in an accredited institution of higher education,
2. has filed a professional commitment through the county superintendent with the West Virginia Department of Education to complete the program within five years, and
3. has completed six semester hours in that program.

Renewal of Permits

Six additional semester hours in the approved program for athletic trainers must be completed each year for renewal of the permit.

All requirements for the endorsement on a Professional Service Certificate must be completed within five years of admission to the approved program for athletic trainers.

Permits shall be issued subject to approval by the West Virginia Board of Education each year and in accord with the rules and regulations governing Permits as established by the West Virginia Board of Education.

Issuance of Professional Service Certificate

In accordance with the authority of the State Superintendent of Schools and with standards and requirements approved by the West Virginia Board of Education (School Laws of West Virginia, §18A-3-2) to authorize the issuance of professional certificates beyond the professional teaching and administrative certificates, athletic trainers shall be certificated under the category of a Professional Service Certificate. The endorsement on the Professional Service Certificate may stand alone, shall not require other certificates as a prerequisite, and must be renewed in accordance with renewal requirements for professional certificates approved by the West Virginia Board of Education. Only an individual who holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, has completed a state approved athletic trainer program in an accredited institution of higher education, and has the recommendation of the institution of higher education shall be eligible for the Professional Service Certificate endorsed for athletic trainer.

Continuing Education Requirements

1. The renewal, conversion, and permanent status of the Professional Service Certificate will be in keeping with continuing education guidelines approved by the West Virginia Board of Education in conformity with the School Laws of West Virginia related to the Professional Certificate.
2. Any individual employed as an athletic trainer by a county school system on the basis of a permit or professional certificate shall participate in county and state approved continuing education programs based on A Systematic Program of Continuing Education for Public School Personnel in West Virginia. In the development of county continuing education programs for athletic trainers, consideration should be given to statewide needs assessment data related to the roles and responsibilities of athletic trainers.

Approval of Educational Personnel Programs

Programs for the professional development of athletic trainers shall comply with the program standards for athletic trainers approved by the West Virginia Board of Education.

The issuance and renewal of certificates and the review, approval, and monitoring of professional development programs for athletic trainers shall be under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Board of Education through the West Virginia Department of Education.

NEED FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

The West Virginia Board of Education, in its interest to create safer athletic programs in the public schools, endorses cooperative efforts in the implementation of this policy by the West Virginia Department of Education, county school systems, and institutions of higher education which have or plan to develop and implement state approved professional development programs for athletic trainers.

A - Revised 6/21/85 (no strike throughs)