



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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### **Policy Number And Title:**

Policy 5112  
Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia

### **Background:**

Policy 5112, Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia, has been in effect for nearly 20 years. This policy requires an athletic trainer for all senior high school football programs. Schools that have not been able to secure fully credentialed athletic trainers have applied to the West Virginia Board of Education for a waiver from this policy. In order to receive a waiver, county boards of education have secured licensed health care providers to attend to the initial care and referral of student athlete injuries. The waiver process provides no mechanism to track personnel qualifications.

For this reason, this policy is being revised to add a classification for "limited athletic trainer authorization". This classification will allow persons previously receiving waivers to serve in a limited capacity in the place of an athletic trainer. The procedures outlined in this revised policy allow for this process to take place before the start of football season and without using the waiver process. Individuals with limited athletic trainer authorizations will apply to the Office of Professional Preparation for this authorization the same as persons applying for other athletic trainer certifications.

### **Proposals:**

Specific licensure requirements and roles are described for four levels of athletic trainer personnel qualifications as follows: Athletic Trainer, Authorized Athletic Trainer, Permit Athletic Trainer and Limited Athletic Trainer Authorization. The policy sets forth procedures and timelines for county boards of education to complete the athletic trainer certification/authorization process in advance of the start of football practice.

### **Impact:**

The policy creates a new limited authorization for individuals that were previously serving under policy waivers granted by the West Virginia Board of Education. This new procedure will assist counties in completing the process in advance of the beginning of football season and eliminate the need for waivers to this policy. The authorization process will also allow the Office of Professional Preparation to monitor the number of individuals functioning at the various levels of athletic trainer certification/authorization. This policy also requires the individuals with permit and limited authorization to attend professional development for athletic trainers on an annual basis.

126CSR118

FILED

TITLE 126  
PROCEDURAL RULE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

2004 MAR 12 P 2:11

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

SERIES 118  
Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia (5112)

**Section 1. ~~§126-118-1.~~ General.**

1.1. Scope. - The purpose of this athletic trainer policy is to improve the health care of student athletes in the public schools of West Virginia. This legislative rule describes the role of athletic trainers and individuals with limited athletic trainer authorization in the public schools of West Virginia and provides for their licensure and professional development.

1.2. Authority. - W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2; and W.Va. Code §18-2-5.

1.3. Filing Date. - February 24, 1995.

1.4. Effective Date - March 27, 1995.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. - Adoption of this rule repeals policy 5013.1—This procedural rule amends W.Va. 126CSR118, Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia," filed February 24, 1995 and effective March 27, 1995.

**Section 2. ~~Foreword~~**

~~2.1 The purpose of the athletic trainer policy is to provide for the licensure and professional development of an individual functioning 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 any or all of the documents issued by the State Superintendent under the state law, rules or policies of the West Virginia Board of Education which authorize an individual to serve as an athletic trainer. These include the certificate, permit or authorization as described in Section 4, below.~~

**Section 3. ~~§126-118-2.~~ General Rules.**

~~3.1 2.1. Each county board of education shall employ an athletic trainer(s) or an individual(s) with limited athletic trainer authorization defined under section 3.4, state certified athletic trainer(s) for to serve during senior high school football practices and games, unless employment of a trainer is waived pursuant to Section 3.4 or the school is excused from such requirement by the county superintendent of schools on an individual~~

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~~game or practice basis. High schools which that do not have an state certified athletic trainer or an individual with limited athletic trainer authorization or waiver or excuse may not participate in football practices and games.~~

~~3.2.2.2. Each county board of education is encouraged to employ an state certified athletic trainer for middle and junior high school football practices and games.~~

~~3.3.2.3. County superintendents are encouraged to assign an state certified athletic trainers to work with other school athletic programs. and related school programs.~~

2.4. Athletic Trainers employed to serve in any public school capacity must adhere to the certification requirements set forth in this policy and Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications (126CSR136).

~~3.4 The county superintendent may request from the West Virginia State Board of Education a waiver of the requirement that a state certified athletic trainer be employed for senior high school football practices and games. Such a request must contain documentation that a state certified athletic trainer could not be employed, including the advertisement and other methods used to obtain one, describe how alternate services will be provided and delineate a plan for securing the services of a state certified athletic trainer. These exceptions may be approved for one school year for legitimate reasons, i.e., illness of current trainer, courses not offered, unavailability of state certified athletic trainer and other extenuating circumstances.~~

### **Section 4. §126-118-3. Licensure Governing Athletic Trainers (Policy 5202).**

~~4.1.3.1. Athletic Trainer. The Professional Service Certificate endorsed for athletic trainer stands 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 Department of Education (WVDE). Only an individual who holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and has completed a state approved athletic trainer program, (including the content test) through an accredited institution of higher education shall be eligible for the Professional Service Certificate endorsed for athletic trainer.~~

3.2. Authorized Athletic Trainer. An Authorization endorsed for athletic trainer may be issued to an individual who holds certification through the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) Board of Certification (NATABOC). The Authorization may be reissued annually upon application to the West Virginia Department of Education WVDE Office of Professional Preparation with documentation of valid NATA NATABOC certification and the

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recommendation of the superintendent of the employing county.

4-2.3.3. Permit Athletic Trainer. A Permit for Full-Time Employment endorsed for athletic trainer may be granted by the WVDE to an individual who holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree and has completed six (6) semester hours of credit applicable to an approved athletic trainer program. (See Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications (126CSR136) for information regarding issuance and renewal of permits.) Individuals with an Athletic Trainer permit must attend an athletic trainer workshop sanctioned by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission (WVSSAC) on an annual basis.

4-3.4. Limited Athletic Trainer Authorization. If an athletic trainer can not be obtained, county boards of education shall employ a licensed health care provider which may include one of the following: physician, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, chiropractor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, physicians assistant, paramedic, emergency medical technician. To qualify for limited athletic trainer authorization, county boards of education must:

3.4.1. post the position of athletic trainer or individual to receive limited athletic trainer authorization with a closing date on or before May 1.

3.4.2. employ an athletic trainer. If an athletic trainer cannot be employed, county boards of education shall select a licensed health care provider to apply for limited athletic trainer authorization.

3.4.3. require the individual(s) seeking limited athletic trainer authorization to attend an athletic trainer workshop sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

3.4.4. require the individual(s) seeking limited athletic trainer authorization to complete and submit the Application for Limited Athletic Trainer Authorization to the WVDE Office of Professional Preparation by July 1.

### **Section 5-§126-118- 4. Continuing Education Requirements.**

5-4 4.1. 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.

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### **Section 6-§126-118- 5. Professional Development.**

6.4.5.1 . 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.

5.2. Any individual employed as an athletic trainer by a county ~~school system~~ board of education on the basis of a ~~permit~~, professional certificate, ~~permit or~~ authorization or permit 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 shall be given to statewide needs assessment data related to the roles and responsibilities of athletic trainers.

### **Section 7.Role**

#### **7.1. General Role Description§126-118-6. General Role Description.**

7.4.6.1. Role of the Athletic Trainer and Authorized Athletic Trainer. The athletic trainer possesses the essential knowledge, skills, attitudes, and credentials necessary to carry out the practices of prevention, evaluation, initial care, and physical rehabilitation of injuries sustained by students engaged in public school athletics. ~~and related programs.~~ The athletic trainer has responsibility for the development, implementation, and management of the athletic training program.

7.2.6.2. Role of the Permit Athletic Trainer and Limited Athletic Trainer Authorization. The duties of individuals with limited athletic trainer authorization are limited to evaluation, initial care, and referral of injuries sustained by students engaged in public school athletics.

### **Section 8. §126-118-7. Governing Principles.**

8.4.7.1. An individual serving as an athletic trainer or individuals with limited athletic trainer authorization may not have simultaneous coaching responsibilities in the same sport.

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~~8.2 A state certified athletic trainer must be in attendance at all senior high school football practices and games, unless a waiver is granted under Section 3.4 or the school is excused from this requirement for individual practices or games by the county superintendent or designee. Excuses may be granted for illness, accident or other unforeseeable event. If, because of waiver or excuse, an athletic trainer is not in attendance at such practice or game the county superintendent shall secure the attendance of other persons trained in treatment of illness or injury, including physician, nurse, paramedic or others with specialized training.~~

7.2. An athletic trainer or an individual with limited athletic trainer authorization must be in attendance at all senior high school football practices and games.

7.2.1. County superintendents may grant excuses from this requirement for individual practices or games based on illness, accident or unforeseen events.

7.2.2. When an athletic trainer or an individual with limited athletic trainer authorization is not in attendance because of an illness, accident or other unforeseen event, the county superintendent must secure the attendance of other persons with specialized health related training.

~~8.3.7.3. The decision whether or not a student athletic participates in a practice or game It is the responsibility of the athletic trainer except in the presence of a physician who has the ultimate decision-making responsibility or individual with limited athletic trainer authorization to determine whether or not an injured student athlete participates in a game or practice.~~

### ~~Section 9. Athletic Trainer Review Board;~~

~~9.1. The West Virginia State Board of Education shall appoint a nine member Athletic Trainer Review Board. The composition of the board shall be as follows: The State Superintendent of Schools or designee; two representatives from higher education; one staff representative from the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission; one senior high principal; one representative or designee of the National Athletic Trainer Association; one senior high Athletic Director; one physician licensed to practice medicine in West Virginia and one physical therapist.~~

~~9.2 The State Superintendent of Schools or his designee will serve as chair of the review board.~~

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~~9.3 The Athletic Trainer Review Board will consider waiver requests pursuant to Section 3.4 and advise the West Virginia State Board of Education on matters relating to athletic trainers.~~

~~9.4 The length of term of members shall be four years and commence July 1st of the appointment year, except that the State Superintendent is a permanent member, ex officio.~~

~~9.5 Vacancies shall be filled at the time the vacancy occurs and the new appointee shall serve the unexpired term of the member vacating the position.~~

~~9.6 This board shall be voluntary in nature of service with no remuneration, with the exception of travel expenses to attend meetings of the Athletic Trainer Review Board.~~

### **§126-118-8. Severability.**

8.1. If any provision of this rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this rule.

~~DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED: The West Virginia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, handicapping condition, age and national origin in employment and in the administration of any of its education programs and activities.~~

**FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET**  
(Submit 4 Copies)

HD NO \_\_\_\_\_ DRAFT NO \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO \_\_\_\_\_ RESOLUTION NO \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT Policy 5112 Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia. FUND N/A

SOURCE OF REVENUE:  GENERAL FUND  SPECIAL  OTHER (SPECIFY) N/A

COST OF ESTIMATE BASED ON:  AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE  BUDGET BILL  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

INCOME ESTIMATE BASED ON:  AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE  BUDGET BILL  OTHER (SPECIFY) N/A

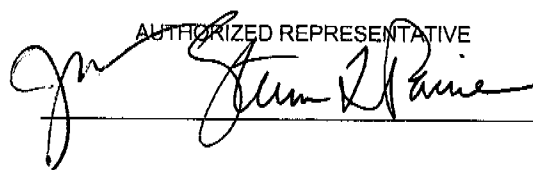
SHOW OVER-ALL EFFECT IN ITEMS 1 AND 2 & 3 GIVE EXPLANATION OF BREAKDOWN BY FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL	ANNUAL		CURRENT	FISCAL YEAR	
	INCREASE	DECREASE		NEXT	THEREAFTER
1. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
PERSONAL SERVICES CURRENT EXPENSES REPAIRS/ALTERATIONS EQUIPMENT OTHER	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
2. ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

3. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

DATE  
3-2-04

AGENCY  
West Virginia Department of Education

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  


**Policy 5112: Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia  
Series 118**

**Comment Period Ends: April 12, 2004**

Please use this form when commenting on proposed Policy 5112. You may attach additional sheets if necessary.

Individual/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**§126-118-1. General.**

**§126-118-2. General Rules.**

**§126-118-3. Licensure Governing Athletic Trainers (Policy 5202).**

**§126-118-4. Continuing Education Requirements.**

**§126-118-5. Professional Development.**

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**§126-118-6. General Role Description.**

**§126-118-7. Governing Principles.**

**§126-118-8. Serverability.**

**Return comments by April 12, 2004 to:**

**Bane McCracken  
Coordinator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
Building 6, Room 309  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0330  
E-mail: [bmccrack@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:bmccrack@access.k12.wv.us)  
FAX: (304) 558-3787**