

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

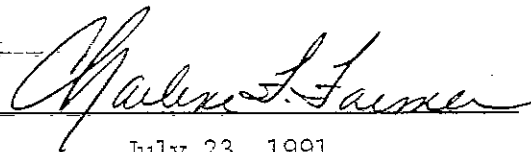
AGENCY: West Virginia Department of Education TITLE NUMBER: 126
RULE TYPE: Legislative; CITE AUTHORITY W.Va. Code-18A-2-9, 18A-3-1,
18A-3-2, 18A-3-3, 18A-3-6,
AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO 18A-4-1, 18-10E-1, 18-2-6, 18-4-2
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 136 (Policy 5202)
TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Minimum Requirements for the Licensure
of Educational Personnel
IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____
TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

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 September 4, 1991 AT 9:00 a.m.

ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.

Mrs. Barbara Brazeau Effective Date September 4, 1991
State Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Bldg. 6, Room 337
Charleston, WV 25305

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



July 23, 1991

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

HD NO _____ DRAFT NO _____ BILL NO _____ RESOLUTION NO _____

SUBJECT Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel FUND _____

SOURCE OF REVENUE: GENERAL SPECIAL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

COST ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

INCOME ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

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

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

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

No fiscal impact.

IMPACTS
FISCAL:

STATE STAFF:

DATE

AGENCY

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Proposed Amendments to Policy 5202:
Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel

Purpose

Policy 5202 describes the eligibility criteria for licensure of professional personnel in general, special and vocational education and paraprofessionals. This policy also defines the eligibility criteria for advanced salary classifications.

Background

At the June 14, 1991 meeting of the West Virginia Board of Education, amendments to Policy 5202 were approved. At the same meeting, members raised concern regarding two other provisions of the policy. These issues include the grade average necessary for renewal credit and the grade point average for individuals seeking licensure. Background information is indicated for each of these concerns.

Renewal Credit

Background:

Prior to 1987, a "C" average was required for coursework being used to renew a license. In 1987, the West Virginia Advisory Council, now the Council on Professional Education (COPE), deliberated this issue. While personal views varied, the Council voted to recommend that a "B" average be required for graduate work and a "C" average be required for undergraduate work. The rationale for this distinction was that many undergraduate courses, particularly in the areas of math and science, are more difficult than the typical graduate course. The Council didn't want to discourage individuals from pursuing additional endorsements in math and science and, at the same time, use these courses for renewal purposes.

Grade Point Average

Background:

Currently, a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) is required for out-of-state applicants seeking a West Virginia certificate. Policy 5202 doesn't address in-state applicants since they must meet the GPA established by the college through which the program is completed. Grade point averages, which vary among the institutions, are reflected in the attached chart.

Proposed Amendments to Policy 5202:
Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel

Approval of Educational Personnel Programs (Policy 5100) requires that, by July 1, 1993, all West Virginia institutions of higher education offering educational preparation programs must meet standards established by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). While these standards require a 2.5 GPA for admission into a teacher education program, there is no required GPA stipulated for exit from the program. However, it is assumed that West Virginia institutions will require a minimum of a 2.5 GPA upon exit from their programs. Policy 5100 should clearly state the required GPA as part of the program approval process if the institutions will no longer have the flexibility to establish their own requirements.

If the GPA is upgraded for all applicants seeking certification, Alternative Programs for the Education of Teachers (Policy 5901) will need to be amended to reflect this change. Currently, this policy reflects a 2.0 GPA for entrance into the program.

Recommended Revisions --

The proposed amendments include 1) upgrading the grade average from "C" to "B" for undergraduate credit completed as of July 1, 1994 and 2) requiring an overall grade point average of 2.5 effective July 1, 1994.

Proposed Amendments to Policy 5202:
Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel

Impact Statements

Instruction

Requiring an overall grade point average of 2.5 for licensure should have a positive impact on the quality of prospective educators; thus, impacting the quality of instruction provided to students. However, this same provision would decrease the pool of eligible applicants. Increasing the grade average for renewal credit could discourage educators from completing more difficult courses, particularly in the areas of mathematics and science, as part of their licensure renewal.

Leadership

None

Financial

None

Staff Development

None

Administrative

None

Policy 5202: Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel

The West Virginia Board of Education is committed to ensuring that personnel employed in the public schools of this state have appropriate training related to their assignment and to meet statutory requirements described in Chapters 18 and 18A of the School Laws of West Virginia. The West Virginia Board has established this policy to identify the eligibility criteria for issuance of licensure to professional personnel in general, special and vocational education and paraprofessionals. This policy also describes eligibility criteria for advanced salary classifications as defined in the statute.

BB:rk:48460

Proposed Amendments to Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel (Policy 5202)

p. 4 Definitions

Renewal Credit - Six semester hours of college credit that are: 1) appropriate to renew, convert, or make permanent any license, 2) completed at an accredited institution as defined in Section 4-A, and 3) an average of "C" or above if completed at the undergraduate level. If a combination of graduate and undergraduate credit is used for renewal purposes, an average of "C" or above is required. All renewal credit completed as of July 1, 1994 must reflect an average of "B" or above. Credit must be completed subsequent to the issuance of the license being renewed and within the five (5) year period immediately preceding the date of application. (§18A-3-3)

p. 5 Governing Principles

C. Recognition of Degrees for Licensure and Required Grade Point Average

1. Bachelor's degrees earned in accredited colleges as defined in Section 4-A are recognized for certification purposes.
2. Only the master's degree earned in an accredited institution as defined in Section 4-A approved to offer a master's degree and in a curriculum related to the public school program may be recognized for certification purposes. (§18A-3-3)
3. Effective July 1, 1994, a minimum of an overall grade point average of 2.5 will be required for issuance of a license. The scholastic requirements shall be computed using the scale approved by the West Virginia Board of Trustees and Board of Directors.

And delete:

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Out-of-State Applicants

2. Grade-Point-Average

To be granted licensure in West Virginia, the applicant must have a minimum of a "C" average in the content specialization(s) and in professional education. The scholastic requirements will be computed using the scale approved by the West Virginia Board of Trustees and Board of Directors.

RESPONSE FORM
Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel
Policy 5202

Directions: Please use this form in commenting on the proposed policy.

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

Policy Sections	Comments and Suggestions
Section 4: <u>Definitions</u> Renewal Credit.	
Section 5: <u>Governing Principles</u> Recognition of Degrees for Licensure and Required Grade Point Average	
General Comments	

Please submit comments by August 21, 1991 to:

Barbara A. Brazeau
Office of Professional Education
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Bldg. 6, Room B-337
Charleston, WV 25305-0001

BB:rk:51610