

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA

NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Education TITLE NUMBER: 126

CITE AUTHORITY: WV Code 18A-4-8

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL _____ INTERPRETIVE _____

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE X

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES _____, NO X

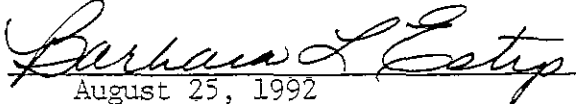
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING ADOPTED: 146A (Policy 5314.01)

TITLE OF RULE BEING ADOPTED: Autism Mentor

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS September 26, 1992


August 25, 1992

FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET
(Submit 4 copies)

HD NO 4552 DRAFT NO _____ BILL NO _____ RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUBJECT WV Code 18A-4-8 Autism Mentor FUND _____

SOURCE OF REVENUE: GENERAL FUND 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 IN 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	\$	\$	\$ 35,000	\$ 38,500	\$ 42,350
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$	\$	\$ 35,000	\$ 38,500	\$ 42,350
CURRENT EXPENSES					
REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS					
EQUIPMENT					
OTHER					
2. ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES	\$	\$	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

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

It is assumed that there are approximately 30 aides that would qualify for this position. These aides would range from the beginning step to step 30 on the experience scale. Based upon an estimation of appropriate salary steps and corresponding benefits, the cost would be approximately \$45,000.00.

It is assumed that an increase in salary and benefits at approximately 10% per year would occur.

DATE

AGENCY

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Standards for Policy 5314:01: Autism Mentor

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards and experience for the position of Autism Mentor.

BACKGROUND

The 1992 Legislative Session amended §18A-4-8 to include the service personnel class title of autism mentor. An autism mentor will act as an aide in the provision of services to autistic students. The West Virginia Board of Education was charged with establishing standards and experience for autism mentor.

The proposed policy was placed on public comment at the June 1992 State Board of Education meeting. Forty-seven (47) written comments were received and reviewed.

As a result of comments received, changes to the revisions are identified below.

1. The standard, 3.2 "Successful completion of a staff development program related to autism as determined by the State Department of Education", was added to assure that Autism Mentors receive the specific training necessary to provide appropriate support services to students with autism.
2. The statement "necessary to complete all job tasks, including tasks related to ensuring student safety" was added to former Section 3.3 (now Section 3.4) for clarification.

RECEIVED

TITLE
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
SERIES 146 A
POLICY 5314.01

1992 AUG 27 AM 8:31

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

TITLE: Autism Mentor

Section 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Scope This policy provides the mandated standards for the service personnel class title "Autism Mentor".
- 1.2 Authority West Virginia Code §18A-4-8 Employment term and class titles of service personnel; definitions.
- 1.3 Filing Date August 26, 1992
- 1.4 Effective Date September 26, 1992
- 1.5 Replaced Policy None

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for the position of Autism Mentor.

Section 3. Standards and Experience

- 3.1 Meet the qualifications of "Aide III" as delineated in §18A-4-8.
- 3.2 Successful completion of a staff development program related to autism as determined by the State Department of Education.
- 3.23 Two years of successful experience working with autistic students.
- 3.34 Physical ability and stamina: necessary to complete all job tasks, including tasks related to ensuring student safety.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
IMPACT STATEMENT

Proposed Policy 5314:01: Autism Mentor

INSTRUCTION

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide qualified service personnel to assist in the education of students with disabilities. Qualified personnel will enhance the educational programs for students with disabilities, meet educational needs more efficiently, and maximize opportunities for success.

LEADERSHIP

The WVDE is mandated through West Virginia Code §18A-4-8 to determine standards for the service personnel class title "Autism Mentor". The establishment of these standards will provide the county school districts consistent parameters for the employment and/or training of Autism Mentors.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Special Education Programs and Assurances will work with the Autism Training Center and LEAs to assist in providing local staff development to implement these standards.

ADMINISTRATION

To implement State legislation, the WVDE has established policy pertaining to qualifications of Autism Mentors. The standards established by the State Board of Education will assure that state requirements are met.

Proposed Standards for Autism Mentors

The State Board of Education is charged with the responsibility for the provision of qualified professional and service personnel to meet the instructional needs of students. The State Board reaffirms the right of students with disabilities to receive a free appropriate public education through the establishment of standards for Autism Mentors.

Therefore, the State Board charges each local educational agency with the responsibility for employing qualified Autism Mentors and for providing specialized training for this class title of service personnel.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Policy 5314.01: Autism Mentor

Comments were received from forty-two (42) individuals and five (5) organizations. Generally, the comments indicate the standards and experience need to be more specific for personnel to qualify as Autism Mentors.

Recommendations were accepted and resulted in two (2) revisions in Policy 5314.01. Seventy-four (74) percent of the comments submitted strongly encouraged in-service training for Autism Mentors and additional language to clarify standard 3.4. The individuals and/or organizations that commented on in-service training included: school administrators, special education and regular education teachers, specialists, parents, and related service personnel.

The phrase "Successful completion of a staff development program related to autism as determined by the State Department of Education" was added to the Standards and Experience section of the policy. In addition, the words "necessary to complete all job tasks, including tasks related to ensuring student safety" were inserted to clarify the phrase "Physical ability and stamina" in standard 3.4.

Additional comments regarding state competency tests, other training components and evaluation instruments were submitted. These suggestions relate to the implementation of the policy and will be kept on file for consideration at a future date.