



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATORS' PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMISSION

Series 154, Policy 5000

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: August 19, 1996 ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BACKGROUND:

In 1994, the West Virginia Legislature created an autonomous standards board responsible for the preparation, licensure, and development of professional educators. The creation of this board appeared to usurp the constitutional authority of the state board of education to supervise the public schools of this state. As a result, the Governor requested that selected members of the state board of education and the standards board form an ad hoc committee to develop an alternative way in which the two boards could work collaboratively and cooperatively. Policy 5000, Educators' Professional Practice Commission is the result of the ad hoc committee deliberations.

#### PURPOSE:

This policy establishes an alliance between the state board of education and the education profession by creating a professional practice commission to provide guidance and recommendations on matters of preparation, licensure and development of professional educators. It identifies the mission and goals, composition, and functions of the commission. The policy also defines the commission's relationship with various constituent groups within the education community, including the state board of education and the Department of Education.

#### IMPACT:

The state board of education is creating the Educators' Professional Practice Commission to develop and initiate, with state board of education approval, policies related to teacher preparation, licensure, and professional development of educational personnel. The state board of education will employ a commissioner and staff to carry out the functions of this commission. These responsibilities were previously performed by the West Virginia Department of Education. The policy creates a separate budget for the operation of the commission and its staff. Revenues from the licensure fee will be transferred from the department of education to the commission. The commission will replace the Council on Professional Education (COPE), the current advisory board to the state board of education on matters of preparation, licensure and development of professional educators.

TITLE 126  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

SERIES 154  
EDUCATORS' PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMISSION (5000)

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**§126-154-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. This legislative rule establishes an alliance between the state board of education and the education profession by creating a professional practice commission to provide guidance and recommendations on matters of preparation and development of professional educators.

1.2. Authority. The authority of the West Virginia Board of Education is established in the West Virginia Constitution, Article XII, Section 2 which states "The general supervision of the free schools of the state shall be vested in the West Virginia Board of Education which shall perform such duties as prescribed by law." West Virginia Code 18-2-5 establishes generally the powers and duties of the Board in exercising its supervision of the public schools of the state.

1.3. Filing Date.

1.4. Effective Date.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. This policy repeals Policy 5105-The West Virginia Council on Professional Education.

**§126-154-2. Purpose.**

2.1. The West Virginia Board of Education is committed to staffing every school and providing each student with competent and ethical educators. The state board of education recognizes that teachers, administrators, higher education faculty, community/business leaders, and school board members can and must work together to effectively improve the profession and to enhance educational opportunities for all students in West Virginia. The state board of education also recognizes that it must maintain effective communication with the education community to sustain the high quality education the public deserves and expects. To this end, the West Virginia Board of Education establishes the *Educators' Professional Practice Commission*. This Commission enables the education community to promote and demand excellence in the preparation and performance of the state's education professionals. It creates a framework to ensure that educators who are licensed by the state possess the knowledge and skills to deliver a quality public education to our current and future citizens. To sustain its authority to supervise the free schools and to assist in the preparation and development of quality educators, the state board of education charges the Commission to advise the state board on legislation, policies and regulations that ensure excellence in the education profession and reflect research and best practices in all professional educators' preparation and performance.

**§126-154-3. Mission and Goals.**

3.1. Mission. The mission of the Educators' Professional Practice Commission is to ensure that every student is served by competent and ethical educators who meet rigorous preparation and licensure standards. Specifically, the Commission's responsibility is to propose standards for development and approval of preparation programs, assessment, licensure, induction and continuing development of professional educators.

3.2. Goals. The goals of the Educators' Professional Practice Commission are:

3.2.1. To provide every student in West Virginia public schools with educators whose preparation and professional growth are based on research and best practices for the appropriate developmental levels of learning.

3.2.2. To establish high and rigorous standards for entrance to and retention in the teaching profession.

3.2.3. To establish a unified system for professional development that supports excellence in teaching and learning.

**§126-154-4. Composition of the Commission.**

4.1. The Commission shall consist of twenty-one (21) members representing the major constituents within the education community. For purposes of this Commission, classroom teacher shall mean an individual who spends the majority of her/his time providing instructional and/or counseling or other professional support services to students. Included in the membership shall be: eleven (11) classroom teachers including five (5) from elementary schools, three (3) from middle/junior high schools, and three (3) from high schools, two (2) higher education representatives including one (1) from an institution with graduate programs and one (1) from an institution with only undergraduate programs, one (1) county superintendent, two (2) principals, two (2) state board of education members, one (1) county board of education member, one (1) higher education board member, and one (1) community/business leader.

**§126-154-5. The Commission's Relationship with the:**

5.1. West Virginia Board of Education -- The Commission is entrusted by the West Virginia Board of Education to develop and recommend legislation, policies and regulations related to the professional preparation and development of educational personnel which support the mission of the state board of education and reflect research and best practices. The Commission shall provide the forum for the public to express its concerns regarding educational personnel practices to the state board of education. The Commission shall report on a regular basis to the state board of education on its deliberations and recommendations related to the licensure and practice of professional educators. The Commission shall seek the advice and approval of the state board of education on

legislative issues. The Commission shall also submit its proposed annual budget for state board of education approval and submission to the Legislature.

5.2. Higher Education Governing Authorities – The Commission shall maintain an integral relationship with the public and private higher education authorities to ensure that 1) outstanding prospective educators are recruited and selected for entrance into educational preparation programs, 2) educators are prepared to deliver appropriate instructional programs, 3) educators meet the state's licensure requirements, and 4) professional development activities offered by the institutions of higher education support excellence in education and are relevant to the improvement of instruction. The Commission shall seek input from the higher education community regarding proposed policy amendments related to preparation, development and licensure of professional educators. The Commission shall also inform the higher education administrators of policy changes that affect educational personnel preparation program components and initial and continued licensure requirements. The Commission shall collaborate with the higher education authorities in developing procedures and criteria for program review and time lines that are mutually beneficial, maximize the use of human resources and reduce paperwork.

5.3. West Virginia Department of Education -- The Commission and/or its staff shall maintain ongoing communication, collaboration, and consultation with the state superintendent of schools to ensure compatibility between the mission and goals of the Commission and those of the state board of education. The Commission shall have access to the Department's human resources and administrative services including, but not limited to, legal counsel, fiscal management, personnel services, graphics and printing, computer programming, and technology assistance to accomplish its mission and goals. Through mutual agreement between the commissioner and the state superintendent of schools, the Commission and/or its staff may participate in projects involving educational personnel that are mutually beneficial to the Commission and the Department. The Commission shall collaborate with the Department by providing access to the licensure status of educational personnel for state aid funding purposes, county accreditation reviews, and/or any other purpose involving educational personnel. The Commission's staff shall cooperate and collaborate with the Department's staff on initiatives designed to enhance the quality of public education through improved educational personnel qualifications. The Commission's staff shall respond to Department requests for data on educational personnel in a timely manner.

5.4. Profession at Large -- The Commission shall establish a communication link with members of the education profession. The purpose of the link is to inform the profession on the structure and operations of the Commission and its impending projects. Additionally, the Commission is responsible for informing the profession about anticipated changes in the professional development continuum and to solicit their input as a routine function in the development of proposed legislation, policies and regulations recommended for adoption and implementation. In addition to its staff, the Commission shall solicit the assistance and participation of the profession's members in fulfilling its mission and goals.

5.5. Commissioner -- The commissioner is responsible for the overall fulfillment of the Commission's mission and goals, oversight of specific projects and initiatives designated by the Commission and the routine operations of the Commission's staff. The commissioner shall collaborate with the state superintendent of schools to ensure communication and consultation in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Commission and the West Virginia Board of Education.

5.6. Governor and the Legislature -- The West Virginia Board of Education, through the Commission, shall collaborate with the Governor and the Legislature to revise or enact statutes that support excellence in the preparation and performance of professional educators.

**§126-154-6. Functions of the Commission.**

6.1. Major Functions. The major functions of the Commission are to develop, recommend and, upon approval by the West Virginia Board of Education, implement a systematic plan for the professional development of educators that begins with recruitment and concludes upon retirement. Major components within this continuum include initial preparation, licensure and continuing professional development. With the primary objective of improving teaching and learning in the public schools, the Commission's functions shall include development, recommendation and, upon approval by the state board of education, implementation of the following:

6.1.1. Initial Preparation

a. Standards, requirements and procedures for program approval for initial licensure.

6.1.2. Licensure

a. Standards and requirements for initial and continued licensure.

b. Assessment instruments and/or procedures for licensure that will assure a competent teacher.

c. Reciprocal agreements with other states and countries that promote the mobility of teachers across state and national lines through the licensure process.

d. Standards and options that enable highly qualified candidates from other careers to enter the teaching profession.

e. A system that includes an assurance that licensed educators possess the personal and moral characteristics to ensure the safety of the students entrusted to their care.

f. Criteria and a system for the suspension and revocation of licenses for just cause.

g. A system that enables parents and the public to clearly delineate between professionally licensed personnel and persons who hold less than the professional certificate to meet the staffing needs within a particular geographic or subject area.

#### 6.1.3. Professional Development

a. Standards, requirements and procedures that will assure the continued growth and improvement of the knowledge and skills of the state's professional educators throughout their educational careers.

#### 6.1.4. Administrative Functions

a. Bylaws for the Commission's governance and operation.

b. A licensure fee structure to help support the operation of the Commission.

c. Employment of the commissioner and any new staff members.

d. A system that enables an educator to receive due process when questions arise concerning her/his qualifications.

e. Issuance of licenses to qualified applicants.

### **§125-154-7 Ultimate Authority of the West Virginia Board of Education**

7.1 Notwithstanding this policy, the West Virginia Board of Education is not prohibited from initiating, continuing, or amending any policy that addresses teacher education, licensure and/or professional development of educators.

**RESPONSE**

Policy 5000: Educators' Professional Practice Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 5000: Educators' Professional Practice Commission

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

Address:

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Comments on Policy 5000: Educators' Professional Practice Commission

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**RETURN BY AUGUST 19, 1996**

Barbara Brazeau, Assistant Director  
West Virginia Department of Education  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 337  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

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

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

SUBJECT Policy 5 000 \_\_\_\_\_ FUND \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCE OF REVENUE:  GENERAL FUND  SPECIAL  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

COST OF 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 & 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<br>CURRENT EXPENSES<br>REPAIRS/ALTERATIONS<br>EQUIPMENT<br>OTHER | \$       | \$       | \$          | \$   | \$         |
| 2. ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES  | \$       | \$       | \$          | \$   | \$         |

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

Some of the costs of operating the Commission will come from the Department's current operating budget.

Additional costs, including the salary and fixed costs for a Commissioner, have not yet been determined and are not part of the Department's current operating budget.

DATE

AGENCY

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

5/13/96

Department of Education

