

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association

2018 Legislative Priorities



WVSSPA is the true voice of service personnel, with 52 years of experience representing only school service personnel in the West Virginia Legislature. We have lobbied for and been victorious in over 330 pieces of legislation and will continue to campaign for service personnel with three registered lobbyists. The following legislative priorities were discussed and updated during the 2017 Fall President's Conference. Our goal is to educate members on important issues and to protect the rights of service personnel. The Association asks for your support of the following priorities for school service personnel during the 2018 West Virginia Legislative Session.

Increase Service Personnel Salaries

- Adequate funding for a 4-year salary package for service personnel with across the board implementation: Year 1-\$2,000; Year 2-\$2,000; Year 3-\$2,000; Year 4-\$4000 (§18A-4-8a).
- Reinstate the holiday pay (§18A-5-2).
- Compensation for ECCAT, aides and paraprofessionals who work in classrooms where the number of students exceeds 20 in Kindergarten and 25 in grades 1-4 (§18-5-18a).

Provide Funding for WV Public Employee Insurance Agency (PEIA)

- Earmark a funding source for PEIA with an 2.5% increase in the natural gas severance tax.

RIF and Transfer

- Allow for RIFs and Transfers to be rescinded through October 1 (§18A-2-7).
- Allow RIFed employees to substitute without penalty (§18A-4-8b).

Cooks

- Cook meal ratio mandate providing a formula for staffing kitchens based on the number of meals served (§18A-2-13).

Custodians

- Promotion of Custodian I to Custodian II after 4 years of service (§18A-4-8).
- Square footage maximums

ECCATs, Aides, Paraprofessionals

- Permit Aides to bid on ECCAT jobs, uphold seniority bidding (§18A-4-8b).
- Legislation to add advanced classification and higher pay for "Aide V" for a special education classroom aide who has elected to complete 3 e-learning courses provided through the WV Department of Special Education (§18A-4-8).
- Allow Aides to move after 20 days prior to the start of the school year (§18a-2-7b).

Transportation

- Introduce legislation that will require five years of experience working in a transportation department, or the requirement of acquiring a National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT) certification in order to be eligible to fill a Transportation Director position (§18A-1-1).
- Introduce legislation that will designate substitute retired school bus operators as critical need employees, and will protect retirement benefits if working days exceed 140.

Grant Seniority Rights to West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind Service Personnel

- Introduce legislation that will provide seniority and due process rights for personnel employed by the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (§18A-7-9a).

WVSSPA will oppose the following:

- Abolishing service personnel positions for the purpose of using private contractors, e.g., public charter schools.
- PEIA benefit cuts for active service personnel employees and retirees.
- Repealing the intent of the service personnel seniority and substitute provisions of law as provided in §§18A-4-8b, 18A-4-8g and 18A-4-15.
- Merit Pay: providing pay raises based on merit.

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Text Alerts

Throughout the session, WVSSPA will call on members to take action in order to uphold and protect §18-A privileges for service personnel.

Text "Join" to 304-224-2827

* Standard text messaging and data rates may apply