



HOUSE BILL 206

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association

House Bill 206, their version of the education omnibus, passed the House of Delegates late Wednesday night. The Senate is expected to pass the Bill today, 6/24/2018, without any major amendments and the Governor has said he would sign it. Below is brief summary of the legislation:

- **Charter Schools**-Limited to 3 until 2023 with the ability to authorize 3 more every 3 years. The only authorizer is the county board of education. Employees can have access to PEIA and TERS. Charter school employees accrue seniority within the county they are located.
- **Mountaineer Challenge Academy**-Expanded to a second location in Fayette County. Both locations could be authorized to become charter schools.
- **Open Enrollment**-Allows non-resident students to attend schools not in their district, this includes schools in and out of their county of enrollment. County Boards are required to provide transportation.
- **Maximum Student Teacher Ratio**-Maximum of 25 students 1st through 6th grade.
- **School Counselors**-Must spend 80% of time on direct counseling of students.
- **LSIC and Innovation Zone**-LSIC can facilitate and implement an innovation zone for their school through a request to their county board of education.
- **School Attendance**-Attendance Director or Principal must make meaningful contact with guardian after 3 unexcused absences.
- **Professional Student Support Staff**-5 staff per 1000 students. This staff includes social workers and psychologists.
- **State Aid Block Grants**-School funding will come in the form of a block grant, funds are no longer earmarked to be spent on specific items.
- **Pay Equity Repealed**- Service Personnel will no longer receive pay equity. Code previously stated:

“For the purposes of this section, salary equity among the counties means that the salary potential of school employees employed by the various districts throughout the state does not differ by greater than ten percent between those offering the highest salaries and those offering the lowest salaries.”
- **Pay Raise**-Teachers will receive a \$2120 yearly increase. Service personnel will receive \$115 monthly increase.
- **Professional Seniority**-RIF and Transfer for professional staff will be based on seniority, certification, licensure and performance evaluation. **Service personnel seniority and RIF process remained untouched.**
- **Job Posting**-Counties can continually post a job and not fill it even if a qualified person applies for it.
- **Teacher Personal Leave Bonus**-Teachers using less than 4 personal days receive a \$500 bonus.
- **BRIM Coverage**-Increases BRIM coverage by \$250,000 for all education employees.
- **Tax Free Weekend**-Provides for a tax free weekend to purchase clothing, school supplies and sports equipment before the start of the school year.

Failed Amendments:

- \$2000 pay increase for school retirees.
- Leaving job postings language as it is currently in code.
- Requiring a county to conduct a referendum vote to establish a charter school.
- Removing Charter School Language completely.