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West Virginia Board of Education Motion Adopted Regarding In-person Instruction for West Virginia Schools

This motion will replace the WVBE's motion of January 13, 2021.

Members of the West Virginia Board of Education recognize and applaud the diligence, creativity, compassion, and commitment of West Virginia educators and service personnel who have provided physical, intellectual, and emotional lifelines to our children during the pandemic. They have taken selfless and heroic measures to support students and their families during these challenging times. The current and future well-being of our children and youth is of the highest priority and those who contribute to this effort deserve our deepest appreciation and recognition

I move that the WVBE adopt the following parameters for in-person instruction (unchanged):

- The WVBE desires to return students to in-person learning and to ensure that students, teachers, and staff can do so safely. The Board recognizes that in-person learning is the best mode in which to foster a student's intellectual, social-emotional, and physical growth and well-being.
- To continue to ensure that schools remain safe for students, teachers, and staff, education leaders at the local level are directed to continue monitoring and enforcing the WVDE's six identified mitigation strategies, especially mask wearing.
- Parents will continue to have the ability to choose a virtual learning option for their children.

For West Virginia students in grades Pre-K through 8 (revised)

- Pre-K through 8 students will attend in-person instruction five (5) full days per week regardless of the county's color on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) County Alert System Map beginning March 3rd.
- Counties do not have the option to implement full countywide remote learning for Pre-K through 8 students. However, a local county board of education retains the authority to work with local health officials and to close individual classrooms or schools when a specific health need related to that classroom or school is identified. Such closures shall be of limited duration and related to the specific health need of the school or classroom. Teachers and staff will continue to provide essential student support services including meals, student engagement, all special education services and support to at-risk students.

W. Clayton Burch
State Superintendent of Schools

Miller L. Hall
President, West Virginia Board of Education

For West Virginia students in grades Pre-K through 8 (revised) – continued

- Option: Counties that are utilizing classroom teachers to teach both in-person students and full-time students participating in locally designed virtual programs may submit a waiver request to the State Superintendent to request the ability to conduct in-person instruction four (4) days per week to allow sufficient time to support full-time virtual students.
- Parents will continue to have the ability to choose a virtual learning option for their children.

For West Virginia students in grades 9 through 12 (revised)

- High schools will attend school in-person unless the county is red on the DHHR County Alert System Map by Order of the governor.
- The WVBE recommends that students in grades 9-12 in counties that are not red on the DHHR County Alert Map attend school 5 days per week.
- Consistent with the practice that has been in place since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, high schools will move to remote learning the day after the county turns red on the DHHR County Alert System Map. County superintendents will determine if in-person instruction will resume the following Monday or sooner if the DHHR County Alert System Map allows.
- A local county board of education retains the authority to work with local health officials and to close individual classrooms or schools when a specific health need related to that classroom or school is identified irrespective of the county's color on the DHHR County Alert System Map. Such closures shall be of limited duration and related to the specific health need of the school or classroom. Even when a county is red on the DHHR County Alert System Map, teachers and staff will continue essential student support services including meals, student engagement, all special education services and support to at-risk students.
- Parents will continue to have the ability to choose a virtual learning option for their children.

Further (revised):

- The WVDE County Recovery Plans Website will be updated as counties transition to in-person instruction in compliance with this motion. The State Superintendent will notify the WVBE if any county fails to comply with the in-person instruction requirements of this motion.