

**TITLE 126  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SERIES 161  
ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE EDUCATION OF TEACHERS (5901)**

**§126-161-1. General.**

1.1. **Scope.** -- The purposes of this policy is to establish candidate eligibility criteria and program requirements for alternative teacher education programs which lead to West Virginia professional licensure.

1.2. **Authority.** -- W. Va. Code §18A-3-1a.

1.3. **Filing Date.** -- February 25, 1992

1.4. **Effective Date.** -- March 25, 1992

**§126-161-2. Candidate Qualifications for Participation in Alternative Programs for the Education of Teachers.**

To be eligible for participation in a state board approved Alternative Program for the Education of Teachers (hereafter, APET), the individual shall:

2.1. Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education in a discipline taught in the public schools and in a teaching specialization approved by the state board for APET.

2.2. Have not previously completed a state approved teacher preparation program.

2.3. Satisfy the appropriate state board approved basic skills and subject matter test requirements, or complete three years of successful teaching experience within the last seven years in the area for which licensure is being sought.

2.4. Be a citizen of the United States, be of good moral character and physically, mentally, and emotionally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher, and eighteen (18) years of age or

before the first day of October of the year in which the alternative teacher certificate is issued.

2.5. (Beginning July 1, 1994) Have achieved a minimum overall grade point average of 2.5 (on a four point scale) for all college courses attempted.

**§126-161-3. Letter of Eligibility and Initial Licensure Requirements.**

3.1. Individuals who meet all qualifications indicated in Section 2 may apply to the West Virginia Department of Education for a letter of eligibility which permits the individual to seek employment in a school included in an approved alternative program.

3.2. Once the individual has been employed, application must be made to the West Virginia Department of Education for an APET certificate.

3.3. The APET certificate must be on file in the employing county office within three school months of the candidate's employment.

3.4. The APET certificate expires on June 30 of the school year in which it is issued. The certificate may be reissued one time upon verification by the county superintendent that the candidate is continuing employment and participation in the alternate program.

**§126-161-4. Submission and Approval of the Alternative Program for the Education of Teachers.**

4.1. A school, school district, consortium of schools, regional education service agency or an institution of higher education, must submit a plan to the West Virginia Department of

Education on or before April 1 preceding the school year of its implementation.

4.2. Board approval is for three years. Approval for an additional three years may be sought via a written request to the board by April 1 prior to the expiration of the approval period. The request for an extension of the program must be accompanied by a written report which provides data and information on the program's delivery and effectiveness.

4.3. The state board may terminate an APET before the expiration of the approval period if, in its judgement, conditions no longer exist to support a viable APET. The board decision to terminate an APET must be communicated to the alternative program administrator no later than April 1 preceding the beginning of the next school year.

**§126-161-5. Program Proposal Requirements.**

5.1. Each plan submitted by a school, school district, consortium of schools or regional education service agency must provide evidence of having sought sponsorship with one or more institutions of higher education approved by the state board for offering educational personnel preparation programs.

5.2. Alternative programs are restricted to professional teaching specializations identified by the state board.

5.3. Each chief administrative officer from the agency(ies) sponsoring the plan must sign the program proposal.

5.4. The proposal must list anticipated program expenditures and revenue sources, which shall include tuition charges (if any) to program participants.

5.5. The proposal must include vitae and program assignments of personnel involved in the training, supervision and/or evaluation of the alternative teacher education program candidate.

5.6. The proposal must include required program components indicated in Section 6 (below).

**§126-161-6. Required Components of an Alternative Program for the Education of Teachers.**

6.1. An APET shall include approximately two hundred hours of formal instruction provided in all of the three required phases described below.

**6.1.1. Phase I.**

Phase I shall consist of a full-time seminar/practicum of no less than twenty and no more than thirty days duration which is accomplished before the alternative program teacher has full responsibility for a classroom. The seminar/practicum shall:

a) provide formal instruction in the essential areas for professional study which shall emphasize the topics of student assessment, development and learning, curriculum, classroom management, and the use of educational computers and other technology;

b) introduce basic teaching skills through supervised teaching experiences with students;

c) integrate the seminar and practicum components; and,

d) include an orientation to the policies, organization and curriculum of the employing district.

**6.1.2. Phase II.**

Phase II shall consist of the following components:

a) a period of intensive on-the-job supervision beginning the first day on which the alternative program teacher assumes full responsibility for a classroom and continuing for a period of at least two weeks;

b) during the initial teaching period, the alternative program teacher shall be visited and critiqued no less than one time per week by members of a professional support team and shall be observed and formally evaluated at the end of five weeks and at the end of ten weeks by the appropriately certified members of the team;

c) formal instruction shall be continued in the essential areas for professional study which shall emphasize the topics of teaching skills, student assessment, development and learning, curriculum, classroom management, and the use of education computers and other technology; and,

d) at the end of the ten-week period, the alternative program teacher shall receive a formal written progress report from the chairperson of the support team.

#### 6.1.3. Phase III.

Phase III shall consist of an additional period of continued supervision and evaluation of no less than twenty weeks duration. During this period, the alternative program teacher shall be visited and critiqued at least twice per month and shall be observed formally and evaluated at least twice. No more than two months shall pass without a formal evaluation. Formal instruction shall continue in the essential areas for profession study.

6.2. Opportunities shall be provided for the alternative program teacher to observe the teaching of experienced colleagues.

6.3. Training and supervision of alternative program teachers shall be provided by a professional support team comprised of a school principal, an experienced classroom teacher, a college or university education faculty member and a curriculum supervisor. Districts or schools which do not employ curriculum supervisors or have been unable to establish a relationship with a college or university shall provide for comparable expertise on the team. The school principal or the teacher education chair, in the case of an institution of higher

education sponsored program, shall serve as chairperson of the team.

#### §126-161-7. Evaluation of the Candidate for the Professional Certificate.

7.1. The chairperson of the support team will prepare a comprehensive evaluation report on the candidate following completion of the alternative program for submission to the state superintendent of schools. The evaluation report shall include a recommendation for (a) issuance of the professional certificate, (b) re-entry to an alternative program, or (c) disapproval of further participation in the alternative program.

7.2. A candidate who receives a recommendation for the issuance of a professional certificate may file the appropriate application in accordance with procedures established by the West Virginia Department of Education.

7.3. A candidate who is denied a recommendation for the issuance of the professional certificate may file an appeal, pursuant to West Virginia Board of Education Policy 5203, with the Certification Appeals Board within fifteen days of receipt of denial.