

West Virginia Board of Education
Waiver of WVBE Policy 6200 – 203 School Sites
Handbook on Planning School Facilities
(Incomplete forms will be returned.)

This application is a county waiver request from Wyoming County for New Mullens PreK-8 school. If approved by the WVBE, this proposed waiver is only valid while the stated school operates at the provided location and is not transferable to other schools or sites.

Superintendent/ Designee: Deirdre A. Cline

Business Phone: (304) 732-6262 E-mail: dcline@k12.wv.us

County Office Mailing Address: 155 Park Street, PO Box 69 Pineville, WV 24874

WVBE Policy 6200 language in which a waiver is being requested.

Section #	Page #	Language
203.03 and 203.04	19	<p>203.03 School sites of the following minimum sizes shall be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Early and Elementary Education Program (pre-k-5) 5 usable acres + 1 additional acre for every 100 students over 240 students B. Middle School Education Program (6-8) 11 usable acres + 1 additional acre for every 100 students over 600 students C. High School Education Programs (9-12) 15 usable acres + 1 additional acre for every 100 students over 800 students D. Area Career and Technical Schools 10-40 acres <p>203.04 Site acreage are national norms and apply to traditional suburban schools. Where the nature of the neighborhood is urban, the school site shall also be urban in scale. Where the terrain limits the land available for site planning and construction, this factor shall be considered. One remedial measure would be to locate schools adjacent to parks or recreation facilities. However, all sites not meeting the minimum standards must be approved by the WVBE. Requests for waivers must be submitted in writing to the State Superintendent along with written justification for the request.</p>

1. Is the proposed project included in the county’s approved ten-year comprehensive educational facilities plan?

Yes

2. This waiver is for building a new school on a site with less acreage than the minimum level that is defined in WVBE Policy 6200; please respond to the following questions:

- a. What is the property acreage for the specified new school facility? 6.17
- b. Verify that the school has appropriate areas for play and physical education. The site will include a paved play area, a grass play area, and an outdoor learning space.

- c. Verify that the school's access roads, driveways, and parking are appropriately sized to serve the school and that students can be safely loaded and unloaded by buses and cars. The school will include safe areas for the loading and unloading of students.
- d. Verify that the school's service areas and roads are appropriately sized for waste removal, service access, and deliveries. The school will have a service drive for the required services.
- e. Verify that the necessary utilities such as water, sewage, natural gas, and electricity have the appropriate space to be delivered to and serve the school. All required utilities are readily available.
- f. Describe any site restrictions the specified school faces that necessitate the utilization of the small site. (For Example: Urban Community, Terrain, or Geographic Restrictions) The site is in an urban community with limited areas outside of the 100 year flood plain.
- g. Describe any community features outside the specified school's property, such as playgrounds or fields, that the school can use, thereby reducing the required property area.

The projected middle school enrollment is not large enough to field a sports team for Mullens, alone. Currently, Wyoming County Schools provides collaborative teams that combine the Mullens and Herndon area schools, which allows these smaller schools to offer teams to their students. This collaborative model has been in place for several years for soccer, archery, football, golf, softball, cross country and baseball. This approach works, in part, due to the Wyoming County Schools activity buses that are funded through our Excess Levy and provide transportation for students for practice and games. Practices and games for these collaborative sports teams are held at the Wyoming County East High School fields; therefore, there is no need to have a sports field on the site at the New Mullens PK-8 School.

- h. Describe the potential, now or in the future, to purchase alternative sites or adjacent properties that would allow the county to meet the minimum acreage requirements.

Due to current and projected enrollments, additional acreage is not foreseen to be needed.

3. Provide assurances that the following codes and policies have been considered and will be met.

- W. Va. 126CSR16, Policy 2419, Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities.
- W. Va. 126CSR42, Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs.
- W. Va. 126CSR44 et al., Policy 2520, Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools.
- W. Va. 126CSR172 Policy 6200- Handbook on Planning School Facilities.

County Superintendent's Signature: *Dwight A. Chene* Date *April 23, 2024*

Complete this county request form and submit to: West Virginia Department of Education; Attention: Joey Wiseman; 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East; Building 6, Suite 750; Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330. Phone (304) 558-8098, FAX (304) 558-6268.



WYOMING COUNTY SCHOOLS

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West Virginia State Board of Education
c/o Mr. Micah Whitlow
Director of School Facilities
Office of School Operations
Building 6, Suite 650
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

Dear Members of the WV State Board of Education:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Wyoming County Board of Education requesting a variance from Policy 6200 Paragraph 203.03 B, requiring 11 usable acres for middle school sites.

The New Mullens PK-8 School will have a projected enrollment of 125 students in grades 6-8, or middle school. The projected middle school enrollment is not large enough to field a sports team for Mullens, alone. Currently, Wyoming County Schools provides collaborative teams that combine the Mullens and Herndon area schools, which allows these smaller schools to offer teams to their students. This collaborative model has been in place for several years for soccer, archery, football, golf, softball, cross country and baseball. This approach works, in part, due to the Wyoming County Schools activity buses that are funded through our Excess Levy and provide transportation for students for practice and games. Practices and games for these collaborative sports teams are held at the Wyoming County East High School fields; therefore, there is no need to have a sports field on the site at the New Mullens PK-8 School.

There is also a shortage of 11 acres of land in the Mullens area that does not require extensive site work, accessibility to utility infrastructure, and is not in a 100-year flood plain. The site to be used for the New Mullens PK-8 School is out of the 100-year flood plain, requires very minimal site work, and has easy access to utilities and roads. In fact, utilities are already in place on the proposed site. Most of the area in and around Mullens is, generally, in the 100-year flood plain, so this land that provides a premium school site is very important to the project and the citizens of Mullens.

The site plan for the New Mullens PK-8 School is included and illustrates the pickup and drop off areas for bus traffic and parents. Also shown on the plan is enough space for several playground areas, including a separate play area for PK and K students. Additionally, the New Mullens PK-8 School site is central to both schools it will be replacing, causing no issue for children and families regarding travel times.

Thank you for considering this request for variance from Policy 6200 Paragraph 203.03 B. Wyoming County's citizens passed a Facilities Bond in May of 2022, providing funds to go toward the building of the New Mullens PK-8 School, and Wyoming County received \$15.7 million dollars from the WV School Building Authority for the project. The Wyoming County Board of Education is committed to meeting the needs of the children we serve and the granting of this request for variance will help us to achieve that important goal for the children of Mullens. Thank you for your consideration and support. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Deirdre A. Cline
Superintendent