

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association

2022 Legislative Priorities



The 2022 West Virginia Legislative Session begins on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. This past year the Legislature placed Chapter 18A of West Virginia Code in a study and some of you may have attended the public hearings they conducted throughout the state. For those of you unfamiliar with Chapter 18A of West Virginia Code, this chapter contains seniority rights, RIF and Transfer rights, hiring procedure, classification, grievance procedure, and evaluation procedures for Service Personnel. Changes to Chapter 18A could take away many of the rights Service Personnel have fought for over the years.

The Governor recently announced his support for a 5% pay raise for service personnel, teachers and other state employees. We hope the pay raise will be a stand alone legislation. Unfortunately in past Legislative Sessions the Legislative Leadership have combined other legislation that harm school employees with the pay raise. We sincerely hope this is not the plan for the 2022 Legislative Session.

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2022 Legislative Session

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2022 Legislative Priorities

Increase Service Personnel and State Employee Salaries

- Adequate funding for a 4-year salary package for service personnel and state employees.
- Reinstatement of the holiday pay (§18A-5-2).
- Establish years of experience pay for military service (§18A-4-8a).

Charter Schools

- Abolishment of charter schools in West Virginia.

WV Public Employee Insurance Agency (PEIA)

- Earmark a funding source for PEIA.

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- Allow for RIFs and Transfers to be rescinded through October 1 (§18A-2-7).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).

Retirement

- Allow military service years to count toward retirement.
- Reinstatement of the ability for unused sick days towards PEIA in retirement.

Classification Specific Issues

- Cook meal ratio mandate for staffing kitchens based on the number of meals served (§18A-2-13).
- Raise paygrade for Cook I, Cook II, Cook III and Cafeteria Manager (§18A-4-8a).
- Promotion of Custodian I to Custodian II after 4 years of service (§18A-4-8).
- Institute square footage maximums for custodians.
- Extra pay for extra duty assignments that require custodians to leave their scheduled job to perform.
- Allow Aides to move after 20 days prior to the start of the school year (§18A-2-7b).
- Compensation for aides who work in classrooms where the number of students exceeds 20 in kindergarten and 25 in grades 1-4 (§18-5-18a).
- Require five years of experience working in a transportation department, or the requirement of acquiring a 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 protect retirement benefits if working days exceed 140.
- Incremental pay raises based on years worked for bus drivers (§18A-4-8a).

State Employees

- Pass legislation to create an employee driven policy review board.

WV School for the Deaf and the Blind Service Personnel

- Introduce legislation that will provide seniority and due process rights for WVDB personnel (§18A-7-9a).

WVSSPA will oppose any legislation that harm service personnel and state employees

- PEIA benefit cuts for active service personnel employees, state employees, retirees and spouses
- 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.
- Education Savings Accounts
- Further strengthening of charter schools.
- Loss of funding for public education.

