

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2020 REGULAR SESSION**

**Engrossed**

## **Senate Bill 750**

BY SENATORS RUCKER AND CLINE

[Introduced February 11, 2020; referred  
to the Committee on Education]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §18-2-7d, relating to establishing extended learning opportunities to include  
3 alternative educational opportunities for elective course credit; requiring the state board to  
4 develop a policy for the approval of eligible programs and to promulgate a rule; and  
5 recognizing that county boards may authorize alternative educational opportunity  
6 programs and audit the same.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**§18-2-7d. Extended learning opportunities to include alternative educational opportunities  
for elective course credit.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (1) Students are involved in many programs outside of the traditional classroom and that  
3 these programs have educational value;

4 (2) Many entities, including, but not limited to, nonprofits, after-school programs,  
5 businesses, and trade associations, may have an interest in offering programs outside of the  
6 traditional classroom that are attractive to students and contain educational value;

7 (3) Learning opportunities that are designed to address the interests and aptitudes of each  
8 student have the potential to allow every kid to discover, develop, and apply their talents to realize  
9 their full potential;

10 (4) There exist policies that allow for educational opportunities outside of the traditional  
11 classroom in other states;

12 (5) Providing credit for alternative educational opportunities will enrich the learning  
13 environment of students and develop well-rounded individuals ready for a life of learning,  
14 productive work, and community involvement.

15           (b) The State Board of Education shall promulgate a rule requiring the county board of  
16 education to develop an extended learning opportunity to include alternative educational  
17 opportunities for elective course credit.

18           (c) The county board of education shall adopt an extended learning opportunities policy to  
19 include alternative educational opportunities for course credit that recognizes learning  
20 opportunities outside of the traditional classroom and grants elective credit for those extended  
21 learning opportunities to include alternative educational opportunities. The policy shall:

22           (1) Provide for an application process for entities to submit proposals for alternative  
23 educational opportunities that will qualify for elective course credit;

24           (2) Define which entities are eligible to submit applications for alternative educational  
25 opportunities: *Provided*, That entities which are deemed eligible shall be broadly defined and shall  
26 include, but not be limited to:

27           (A) Nonprofit organizations;

28           (B) Businesses with established locations in the state;

29           (C) Trade associations;

30           (D) Parents of students involved in programs that may otherwise qualify for alternative  
31 educational opportunities;

32           (E) Teachers involved in programs outside of the traditional classroom;

33           (F) School personnel involved in programs outside of the traditional classroom;

34           (3) Provide for the criteria used to evaluate the alternative educational opportunity;

35           (4) Describe any communication and collaboration needed between the local school,  
36 county board, or State Board of Education to implement alternative educational opportunities;

37           (5) Place requirements on the entity such as background checks for key personnel and  
38 minimum accountability standards;

39           (6) Provide a process for student credit transfer.

40           (d) The county board of education shall have the authority to approve or deny an  
41 application for an alternative educational opportunity: *Provided*, That if the application is denied,  
42 the county board shall provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for its denial and suggest  
43 ways to improve the application that will assist its more favorable view by the county board.

44           (e) The county board shall have the authority to audit approved alternative educational  
45 programs at any time. If the audit results in findings that an approved program is not meeting the  
46 provisions of this section or the policy outlined in subsection (c) of this section, then the county  
47 board may disqualify the program immediately.