

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 465

By Senators Oliverio, Azinger, Caputo, Chapman,
Clements, Deeds, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Plymale,
Stuart, Swope, Taylor, and Woelfel

[Introduced January 16, 2024; referred
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new
 2 section, designated §18-1-2a, relating to prohibiting schools from starting an instructional
 3 day any earlier than 7:45 a.m.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS; LIMITATIONS OF CHAPTER; GOALS FOR EDUCATION.

§18-1-2a. Daily start times.

- 1 (a) The legislature finds:
- 2 (1) Promoting childhood and adolescent well-being is an integral part of academic
 3 success:
- 4 (2) Sleep deprivation has been shown to negatively affect childhood and adolescent well-
 5 being.
- 6 (3) There has been clear and convincing evidence produce by the American Psychological
 7 Association, the Centers for Disease Control, and the International Journal of Environmental
 8 Research and Public Health which links sleep deprivation to heightened risk of the following:
- 9 (A) Adverse risk behaviors;
 10 (B) Poor health outcomes; and
 11 (C) Poor academic performance.
- 12 (4) A comprehensive national study performed by the RAND Corporation found that
 13 delaying start of school times would not only have beneficial effects on the well-being of students.
 14 but that a delayed start time would also generate economic benefits by increasing potential for
 15 success and increasing lifetime earning possibilities for students.
- 16 (b) Therefore, notwithstanding any other section of code to the contrary, public schools
 17 shall not begin instructional time prior to 7:45am on any given day.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit schools from starting an instructional day any earlier than 7:45 a.m.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.