

Priority Vote Results

West Virginia Code §18A-4-8f calls for counties to conduct an election to determine whether priority is to be given to classroom teachers and service personnel in any school(s) to be closed as a result of consolidation or merger. The results of this vote apply to the closures of Fayetteville Elem., Gatewood Elem., Mount Hope Elem., Rosedale Elem. Valley Elem., Fayetteville High; and Valley High, and the reconfigurations and/or mergers affecting New River Elem., Collins Middle, Midland Trail High, and Oak Hill High, effective July 1, 2019. Voting was held at all school and Central Office locations on or before September 14, 2018. The following are the results of that vote:

Classroom Teachers	425 total votes	YES: 323	NO: 102
		76.00%	24.00%

Service Personnel	274 total votes	YES: 231	NO: 43
		84.31%	15.69%

Based upon the results of the priority voting, the majority of both classroom teachers and service personnel who voted have elected **to give priority to those employees** being displaced by the July 1, 2019 closures, consolidations, and/or mergers as stated above.

Teaching and services positions needed at the receiving locations because of the influx of students from the closed or consolidated locations, will be included in postings beginning sometime in October or November. After positions are posted and applications taken, positions will be filled as follows:

- 1. Employees who have priority status are placed before other employees or outside applicants are considered based upon seniority and proper certification and classification.***
- 2. For each position for which the employee is qualified (via certification or job title), the most senior priority employee within that certification or classification area is placed first and given their choice of which position they prefer, then all priority employees are similarly given their choice and placed in the posted positions in seniority order.***
- 3. Placement for all positions continues via seniority order of the priority employees until all positions are filled, or all affected employees have been placed.***
- 4. If there are not enough new positions at the new locations to place appropriate priority employees, the remaining employees will be placed on either transfer or reduction in force according to county seniority pursuant to usual RIF and transfer procedures.***
- 5. Priority status may be exercised by an employee ONE TIME only. If additional positions are posted and/or needed at a later time, employees' priority status cannot be considered. The same principle would apply if a priority employee is offered all positions for which s/he is qualified, but refuses those positions after the initial postings and placement.***