Alternative Certification

In order to be hired into a position as an alternative certification teacher, there are prerequisite criteria that must first be met. Prior to being offered a teaching position as an alternative certification teacher:

1. No certified applicant must have applied for the position that had been posted at least twice; and

2. The candidate must have already taken and passed the three CASE (Core Academic Skills for Educators) Praxis tests in Reading, Writing and Mathematics**
   The CASE tests needed to be taken and passed are:
   CASE Reading Test #5712 (Minimum score 156)
   CASE Writing Test #5722 (Minimum score 162)
   CASE Math Test #5732 (Minimum score 150); and

3. For General Education candidates only, the applicant must also have taken and passed the Praxis II content test(s) for the field in which s/he plans to teach. (For Special Education candidates, at the conclusion of the approved alternative certification program teachers in the special education teaching path shall then be required to meet the proficiency score on the applicable Praxis II content and Principles of Learning and Teaching exams.)

The information regarding test numbers and passing scores for the content tests is included in the brochures below. More specific information and registration for the Praxis exams may be found by logging into the site: https://www.ets.org/

Once the criteria above are met, an applicant can then be considered for hire into an applicable teaching position for which s/he applies if recommended for hire.

Concord University and Marshall University are the institutions of higher education that the RESA 4 school districts have paired with to deliver the six hours of online coursework. If offered a position as an alternative certification teacher, an applicant will have to decide from which institution s/he wants to enroll as courses may only be completed through one institution. However, an applicant cannot enter the alternative certification program until s/he is hired into a position with a school district in RESA 4.

** The Core Academic Skills for Educators (CASE) may be waived provided the candidate: a) holds a master’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education; or b) currently holds, or has held, a West Virginia Professional Teaching, Student Support Services, or a West Virginia Professional Student Support Certificate endorsed for School Nurse or is licensed by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, or Administrative Certificate; or c) has attained a score of 25 or higher on the American College Testing (ACT) program prior to November 1989 or an enhanced ACT score of 26 or higher beginning November 1989; or d) has attained a score of 1035 or higher on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) prior to April 1995, or a re-centered SAT score of 1125 or higher beginning April 1995, or an SAT combined Critical Reading and Math score of 1170 or higher beginning March 2005.
For Alternative Certification in a **General Education Field**:

**Candidate Eligibility & Timeline**

1. Vacancy must be advertised twice at least (ten working days), and if no certified teacher applies.

2. Candidates must
   a. Possess a bachelor’s degree
   b. Pass Praxis I (CORE) and Praxis II (Content Area) for which he/she is seeking licensure. See Praxis information on the inside of this pamphlet.
   c. Receive a formal offer of employment from a county superintendent
   d. Take 6 semester hours in Education throughout the school year with either Concord or Marshall. Information on the left side of pamphlet under Program of Study.
   e. Upon completion of Program of Study, candidates must pass Praxis PLT (Principals of Learning & Teaching Test). See Praxis information on the inside of this pamphlet.
   f. At the conclusion of the alternative certification program, the school district shall provide a comprehensive report on the candidate’s performance.
   g. If approval is granted, the candidate will be issued a professional teaching certificate.

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**County Contact Information:**

- **Braxton County Schools**
  304-765-7101

- **Fayette County Schools**
  304-574-1176 ext. 2137

- **Greenbrier County Schools**
  304-647-6454

- **Nicholas County Schools**
  304-872-3611

- **Pocahontas County Schools**
  304-799-4506 ext. 2227

- **Webster County Schools**
  304-847-5638 ext. 114

**Updated 8/1/16**

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**Alternative Certification for General Education**

**What is it?**

It is an alternative program for the education of teachers to be created for qualified persons who will become licensed teachers in West Virginia.

**What is the purpose?**

To create an alternative means for a qualified person to earn a professional teaching certificate by a school or school districts to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification.

**Who will support this effort?**

A partnership with the school district will be the Regional Education Service Agency 4 (RESA 4), regionally accredited higher education institute, and West Virginia Department of Education, all under the supervision of the West Virginia Board of Education.

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**In Collaboration with**

- Braxton County Schools
- Fayette County Schools
- Greenbrier County Schools
- Nicholas County Schools
- Pocahontas County Schools
- Webster County Schools

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For additional information contact:

David A. Warvel, Executive Director
RESA 4
404 Old Main Drive
Summersville, WV 26651
304-872-6640
For Alternative Certification in a General Education Field:

Program of Study

Six Semester Hours - delivered through six one-hour units of instruction to be offered during the calendar year.

1. Classroom Management
2. Human Development/Education Psychology
3. Instructional Methods (Curriculum)
4. Assessment
5. School Law, Special Education, and Diversity
6. Literacy

Prior to being hired at the district level as an alternative program participant, program candidates in a general education teaching path of a WVBE-approved program for alternative certification must submit to WVDE and to the alternative program provider passing scores on pre-professional skills test or tests or evidence of a qualifying exemption as described in Policy 5202. Passage of Core Academic Skills for Educators tests is required in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The Core Academic Skills for Educators (CASE) may be waived provided the candidate: a) holds a master’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education; or b) currently holds, or has held, a West Virginia Professional Teaching Student Support Services, or a West Virginia Professional Student Support Certificate endorsed for School Nurse or is licensed by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, or Administrative Certificate; or c) has attained a score of 25 or higher on the American College Testing (ACT) program prior to November 1989 or an enhanced ACT score of 26 or higher beginning November 1989; or d) has attained a score of 1035 or higher on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) prior to April 1995, or a re-centered SAT score of 1125 or higher beginning April 1995, or an SAT combined Critical Reading and Math score of 1170 or higher beginning March 2005) and passing scores on the subject matter test or tests required by the WVBE (Praxis II Exams).
For Alternative Certification in a Special Education Field:

Candidate Eligibility & Timeline

1. Vacancy must be advertised twice at least (on working days) pursuant to WV code §18 A-3-1, and if no certified teacher applies

2. Candidates must
   a. Possess a bachelor’s degree
   b. Pass Praxis I (CORE) test.
   c. Receive a formal offer of employment from a county superintendent
   d. Take 6 semester hour in Special Education throughout the school year with Marshall University. Information on the left side of pamphlet under Program of Study.
   e. Upon completion of program of study, candidates must pass Professional Teacher Certification test in which the candidate taught during that school year, and pass the Principles of Learning and Teaching Test (PLT).
   f. At the conclusion of the alternative certification program, the school district shall provide a comprehensive report on the candidate’s performance.
   g. If approval is granted, the candidate will be issued a professional teaching certificate.

County Contact Information:

- Braxton County Schools
  304-765-7101
- Fayette County
  304-574-1176 ext. 2137
- Greenbrier County Schools
  304-647-6454
- Nicholas County Schools
  304-872-3611
- Pocahontas County Schools
  304-799-4505 ext. 2227
- Webster County Schools
  304-847-5638 ext. 114

Updated 8/1/16

Alternative Certification for Special Education

What is it?
It is an alternative program for the education of teachers to be created for qualified persons who will become licensed teachers in West Virginia.

What is the purpose?
To create an alternative means for a qualified person to earn a professional teaching certificate by a school or school district to offer a rigorous alternative program for teacher certification.

Who will support this effort?
A partnership with the school district will be the Regional Education Service Agency 4 (RESA 4), regionally accredited higher education institute, and West Virginia Department of Education, all under the supervision of the West Virginia Board of Education.

In Collaboration with
Braxton County Schools
Fayette County Schools
Greenbrier County Schools
Nicholas County Schools
Pocahontas County Schools
Webster County Schools

For additional information contact:
David A. Warvel, Executive Director
RESA 4
404 Old Main Drive
Summersville, WV 26651
304-872-6440
For Alternative Certification in a Special Education Field:

Program of Study

Six Semester Hours

Instruction will be delivered through 4 units of instruction to be offered during the calendar year.

1. Children with Exceptionalities (3 hours)
2. IEPs and Training Planning (1 hour)
3. School Law, Special Education, and Diversity (1 hour)
4. Literacy (1 hour)

Special Education Testing Requirements:

Prior to being hired at the district level as an alternative program participant, program candidates in the special education teaching path of WBE-approved program for alternative certification to prepare highly qualified special education teachers must submit to WVDE and to the alternative program provider passing scores on WBE-approved pre-professional skills test or tests, or evidence of a qualifying exemption as described in Policy 5202. At the conclusion of the alternative certification program, teachers in the special education teaching path completing a WBE-approved alternative certification program to prepare highly qualified special education teachers shall be required to meet the proficiency score(s) on the appropriate state competency exam(s) in special education content and the state competency exam(s) in pedagogy.

Support for program of study will be offered throughout the year by county support team and RESA 4.

Professional Teacher Certification/Endorsements and Requirements

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