

# UPDATE

October 21, 2011

---

*Your input is needed*

## **POLICY 4373: Expected Student Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools**

WVEA encourages you to read the new Policy 4373 currently on comment from the WV Department of Education. The policy combines a number of current policies and introduces some new language.

Listed below are a few of WVEA's concerns regarding the policy. A complete list of WVEA's comments on the policy can be found at the WVEA website, [www.wvea.org](http://www.wvea.org). Deadline for comments is Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 p.m.

- WVEA is concerned that many of the discipline options listed in Chapter 4 are not available in counties/schools due to lack of staff, lack of resources or lack of space. WVDE must assist counties/schools in developing alternative interventions to student behaviors. This is especially true in the elementary and middle schools where few alternative programs exist. (p. 43-63)
- WVEA objects to the note that "...out-of-school suspension shall not be used as a consequence for possession/use of imitation drugs, inhalants or tobacco/nicotine." Schools need to have the option to respond to a student who uses drugs before or during school with an out-of-school suspension. (p. 54)
- WVEA vigorously opposes requiring teachers to enter student data for inappropriate behavior leading to interventions, consequences or principal referrals into WVEIS. (p. 70) Time is an issue for all teachers. Classroom instruction, planning, conferences, paperwork, etc., occupy every moment in a teacher's day. Since student achievement is their priority, entering student behavior data into WVEIS is not a productive use of their time.

Additional concerns, a copy of the proposed policy and a link to add your comments are listed on the WVEA website. Comments must be submitted no later than **November 8<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 p.m.**

---