

TITLE 133
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

SERIES 3
HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

§133-3-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This rule sets forth an accountability system for West Virginia public higher education institutions under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission).

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§ 18B-1B-4(a)(36), 18B-1D, and 18B-1D-8.

1.3. Filing Date. -- April 30, 2025.

1.4. Effective Date.—May 30, 2025.

1.5. Sunset Date. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect on August 1, 2030.

§133-3-2. Purpose.

2.1. The rule sets forth an accountability system for the Commission and the State’s public four-year institutions.

2.2. The rule defines requirements for a public reporting system that facilitates the dissemination of higher education accountability data through internet-based data tools and published reports. At a minimum, the public reporting system shall:

2.2.1. Provide thorough and consistent data and other relevant information to be used in assessing progress of the Commission and the State’s public four-year institutions toward the goals and objectives as stated in W. Va. Code §18B-1-1a;

2.2.2. Provide a basis for comparing institutional and system performance with regional and national norms toward accomplishing the goals and objectives as stated in W. Va. Code §18B-1-1a;

2.2.3. Provide information to assist the Commission in assessing institutional and system progress toward statewide and institutional higher education goals;

2.2.4. Provide additional information to assist the Commission in assessing institutional and system progress relative to historical, regional, and national trends; and

2.2.5. Serve students, parents, faculty, staff, policymakers, and the public as a neutral and credible source of information about the overall quality and performance of public higher education in West Virginia.

§133-3-3. Definitions.

3.1. Unless the context in which used clearly requires a different meaning, the definitions contained in W. Va. Code § 18B-1-2 apply to this rule in addition to the definitions set forth below.

3.2. “Accountability System.” All research, reports, documents, data and any other materials, the collection, analysis, and dissemination of which are necessary to accomplish the purpose of this rule. The system includes goals, objectives and priorities, public policy agendas, implementation plans, institutional mission statements and master plans, the Statewide Annual Report, and the Statewide data reporting system.

3.3. “Goal.” A long-term public purpose that is a desired and expected result for which public higher education is established.

3.4. “Key Performance Indicator.” A quantifiable measure used to evaluate the success of an organization in meeting objectives for performance.

3.5. “Objective.” End to be accomplished or attained within a specified period of time for the purpose of meeting established goals.

3.6. “Priority.” The order in which objectives are to be addressed for the purpose of achieving State goals.

3.7. “State Compact.” A formal written agreement between the Commission and at least one other external entity to achieve State goals and objectives where significant collaboration and commitment of resources between the partners to the agreement is required in order to achieve the desired results.

3.8. “Statewide Annual Report.” A report or series of reports that outlines significant trends, identifies major areas of concern, and assesses the progress of Commission and the State’s public four-year institutions toward achieving State, system, or institution goals or objectives.

3.9. “Statewide Data Reporting System.” A collection of information management tools that provide public access to data on the performance of the Commission and institutions under its jurisdiction.

3.10. “Chancellor.” The Chancellor for higher education as defined in W. Va. Code § 18B-1-2 or his or her designee.

3.11. “Commission.” The Higher Education Policy Commission established by W. Va. Code § 18B-1B-1.

§133-3-4. General Guidelines for Data Collection and Reporting.

4.1. The following will guide the further development of the existing higher education database and the collection of data which will comprise the Statewide Data Reporting System and the Statewide Annual Report:

4.1.1. All data reported by institutions shall be based on uniform and consistent definitions as established by the Commission.

4.1.2. The Commission shall minimize, to the extent allowed by statute, institutional requirement for additional record keeping and reporting.

4.1.3. The Commission shall establish data element collection procedures and report timelines.

4.2. The Commission shall maintain for a reasonable time, as determined by best practices, all

detailed background data used in compiling the Statewide Annual Report.

§133-3-5. Key Performance Indicators and Goal Setting.

5.1. The Commission shall adopt a set of key performance indicators to measure institutional and system progress toward achieving State, system, and institutional objectives. These indicators will focus on institution- and system-level performance in the areas of finance, admissions, enrollment, academics, student outcomes, and other areas as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

5.2. In cooperation with the State's public four-year institutions, the Commission shall set State, system, and institutional goals for each of the adopted key performance indicators.

5.3. The Commission shall develop and update at least annually a public internet--based data tool that will display system and institutional progress toward meeting established goals.

5.4. The Chancellor shall present an annual report to the Commission about progress made toward meeting established goals.

§133-3-6. Statewide Annual Report and Statewide Data Reporting System.

6.1. Purpose.

6.1.1. A primary purpose of the Statewide data reporting system and Statewide Annual Report is to make information available to students, parents, faculty, staff, State policymakers, and the public on the quality and performance of public higher education.

6.1.2. A primary purpose of the Statewide Annual Report is to provide a mechanism to evaluate the annual progress of the Commission and the State's public four-year institutions in achieving State and system goals and objectives.

6.2. Contents.

6.2.1. The Statewide Annual Report shall provide information on the performance of the State's public four-year institutions, including health sciences education, in relation to the State and system goals, objectives, and priorities.

6.2.2. When possible, the Statewide Annual Report shall be based upon information for the current academic year or for the most recent academic year for which information is available, in which case the year shall be clearly noted.

6.2.3. When possible, the Statewide Data Reporting System shall break down data by institution, including West Virginia University Potomac State College and West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

6.2.4. When possible, the Statewide Annual Report shall provide regional and/or national comparison data.

6.2.5. When possible, the information contained in the Statewide Annual Report and the Statewide Data Reporting System shall allow for easy comparison with higher education-related data collected and disseminated by the Southern Regional Education Board, the United States Department of Education, and other education data-gathering and data-disseminating organizations.

6.2.6. The information contained in the Statewide Annual Report and the Statewide Data Reporting System shall be consistent and comparable between and among higher education institutions.

6.2.7. To the extent practicable, the Statewide Annual Report shall be analysis-driven, rather than solely data-driven, and present information in a format that will help inform education policymaking.

6.3. Implementation.

6.3.1. The Chancellor shall provide technical assistance to each institution and governing board in data collection and reporting.

6.3.2. The president or chief executive officer of each higher education institution shall prepare and submit all requested data to the Commission at the times established by the Commission.

6.3.3. The Commission shall maintain the Statewide Data Reporting System and develop the Statewide Annual Report using data and information submitted by each institution.

6.3.4. The Commission shall complete the Statewide Annual Report no later than January 1 annually with printed copies provided to the public and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability. The Commission shall also publish the report in electronic format on its official website.

6.3.5. The president or chief executive officer of each higher education institution shall prepare and submit all requested data to the Commission at the times established by the Commission.

§133-3-7. Health Sciences and Rural Health Data Collection and Reporting.

7.1. In addition to the information required by Section 4 of this rule, each health sciences school is responsible for ensuring that all requested information is submitted to the Chancellor.

7.2. The Chancellor shall make available to the public through the Statewide Data Reporting System or through the annual Health Sciences and Rural Health Report information specific to each of the State's health sciences schools, including:

7.2.1. Historical trend information for medical students, tuition and fees, specialization of graduates, passage rates on licensing examinations, and in-state retention of graduates.

7.2.2. The number and dollar value of loans made through the medical student loan program as well as default rates for the most recent year.

7.2.3. The number and dollar value of aid awarded through the Health Sciences Service Program for the most recent year.

133-3-8. Collaborative Agreements.

8.1. The Commission may identify important State and system goals, objectives, and priorities that it and the State's public four-year institutions acting alone would be unable to accomplish. In such cases, the Commission may authorize the Chancellor to enter into collaborative agreements, or contracts, with external entities.

8.2. In determining whether a collaborative agreement may be appropriate, the Chancellor shall consider:

8.2.1. Whether significant collaboration with an external entity or entities is necessary or advantageous to increase the likelihood of accomplishing a goal, objective, or priority;

8.2.2. Whether an external entity or entities would need to make a significant commitment of resources to accomplish a goal, objective, or priority; and

8.2.3. Whether an external entity is or entities are receptive to entering into a collaborative agreement.

8.3. At a minimum, a collaborative agreement shall:

8.3.1. Identify the parties to the collaborative agreement;

8.3.2. Identify the term of the collaborative agreement;

8.3.3. Set forth measurable outcomes the parties seek to achieve by entering into the collaborative agreement;

8.3.4. Identify what each party will contribute in terms of resources as part of the collaborative agreement;

8.3.5. Set forth a system for evaluating the success or failure of the collaborative agreement to achieve the outcomes sought; and

8.3.6. Provide that the failure of one party to the collaborative agreement to perform excuses the Commission or any of the State's four-year institutions from performance thereunder.

8.4. The Commission shall approve a proposed collaborative agreement before it becomes operative and binding on the Commission or the State's public four-year institutions.