



# POLICY MANUAL



JANUARY 2025

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## Mission, Vision, Values

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*Approved by the Board of Trustees – May 23, 2007*

*Effective May 24, 2007*

*Approved by the Board of Trustees - May 24, 2017*

*Approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

### Mission

Westmoreland County Community College improves the quality of life in the communities we serve through education, training and cultural enrichment.

### Vision

Westmoreland County Community College is recognized as a premier institution of higher learning focused on student success, workforce development, economic growth and cultural experiences.

### Values

1. **Teaching and Learning** – We are committed to excellent instruction and lifelong learning.
2. **Innovation and Creativity** – We are committed to creativity, new ideas and the advancement of art, culture and technology.
3. **Equity and Inclusion** – We are committed to an educational and workplace environment where all are treated with dignity and respect.
4. **Collaboration and Teamwork** – We are committed to cooperation within our college and to strong relationships with employers, school districts and other community partners.
5. **Accountability and Integrity** – We are committed to high, ethical educational standards.
6. **Social Responsibility and Stewardship** – We are committed to principles of service and good citizenship.

*Updated July 2019*

## Policy Making Process

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*Approved by the Board of Trustees – January 22, 2014*

*Approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Approved by the Board of Trustees – December 8, 2021*

### A. Initiation

Any member of the board, administration, faculty or student body may initiate a proposed board policy at any time. The proposed policy will be reviewed by the appropriate members of the administration and approved by the president. All policies will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for review and/or approval.

### B. Review and Recommendation by President's Cabinet

Proposed board policies will be presented at the president's cabinet meeting by members of the cabinet. There will be a minimum of one meeting for presentation of the policy and one meeting for discussion of a proposed board policy in order to allow time for all appropriate individuals to consider the proposed policy.

### C. Approval by President for Submission to the Board

Approval of a proposed board policy for submission to the board will be by the president, following the review and recommendation by the president's cabinet.

### D. Presentation of Proposed Board Policy at Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

After a proposed policy has been approved by the president, it will be presented to the board as a first read as part of the board packet for the monthly board meeting. Feedback and changes will be made and the final draft will be voted on at the next monthly board meeting. In some cases, this timeline will need to be shortened and a policy can be presented and voted on during the same month.

### E. Adoption by the Board of Trustees and Distribution

After a board policy is adopted by the Board of Trustees, it will be numbered, dated and posted to the policy manual on the college website.

### F. Monitoring Board Policy Effectiveness

Following the adoption of the board policy, the president's cabinet has been charged with



periodically assessing the effectiveness of the policy. At any time, the president and cabinet are expected to submit an existing policy that does not continue to meet the needs of the institution along with a rationale for why the policy is not meeting needs and the proposed new policy with an explanation for the changes. If the president approves amending the policy, the amended policy is expected to follow the process outlined in D and E of this policy.

#### G. Timeline of Policy Review

Policies are reviewed continually and at a minimum, every policy should be reviewed every three (3) years from the date of board approval.

## Board of Trustees Bylaws

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### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Board of Trustees of Westmoreland County Community College, hereafter "Trustees" and is the institution's legal governing body.

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be to govern, operate and maintain a community college subject to Article XIX-A of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, and to the policies, standards, rules and regulations which may be adopted from time to time, by the State Board of Education..

### **ARTICLE III. PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The principal office of the Westmoreland County Community College Trustees shall be at the administrative offices of the Westmoreland County Community College located at 145 Pavilion Lane, Hempfield Township, Youngwood, Pennsylvania 15697.

### **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The Board of Trustees shall consist of no fewer than seven (7) or more than fifteen (15) persons appointed for terms of six (6) years each, by the Board of Commissioners of Westmoreland County. A Trustee may serve successive terms and each Trustee shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed and duly qualified.

**Section 2. Compensation of Trustees** - The Trustees shall serve without compensation. Each Trustee shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties. The Trustees shall include in their budget an expense account for the Trustees and officers for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

**Section 3.** If a Trustee shall fail to attend one-half of the meetings in a one-year period without excuse for cause approved by the Chair, the remaining Trustees may recommend that the County Commissioners declare that Trustee position vacant and that the County Commissioners appoint an individual to fill the unexpired term.

**Section 4.** Trustees shall abide by the terms set forth in the Trustee Conflict of Interest policy and by the Trustee position description. Failure to do so could result in removal from the Trustee Board.

### **ARTICLE V. QUORUM**

Except as otherwise provided by law, a quorum at all meetings of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a majority of Trustees.

### **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Offices** - The offices of the Trustees shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer. The officers shall perform the duties outlined by these bylaws and such other duties that may be assigned by the Trustees from time to time.



**Section 2. Concurrent Offices** - No person shall hold the office of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer simultaneously. Additionally, no officer shall hold a single office for more than three years during a term.

**Section 3. Nominating Committee** - At the Regular Meeting held in April, a Nominating Committee of three (3) members shall be appointed by the Chair. It shall be the duty of this Committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the Annual Meeting in June. The Nominating Committee shall report the slate at the Regular Meeting in May. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at the June meeting.

**Section 4. Terms of Office** - The principal officers shall be chosen annually by the Trustees at the Annual Meeting in June. Each officer shall serve until such time as a successor is elected and duly qualified.

**Section 5. Vacancies** - Any vacancy in any office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Trustees for the unexpired term.

**Section 6. Chair**

- (a) The Chair shall preside at all of the meetings, and shall be authorized to call Special Meetings as herein provided.
- (b) The Chair shall possess the power to sign all certificates, contracts, and other documents of the Westmoreland County Community College, which have been authorized by the Trustees.
- (c) The Chair shall be authorized to execute and grant degrees, diplomas and certificates that may be granted to students who complete their programs of study of the Westmoreland County Community College after the list of graduates is approved by the faculty.
- (d) The Chair shall annually appoint two Trustees, each for a one-year term, to serve as voting members on the Board of Directors of the Westmoreland County Community College Educational Foundation.

**Section 7. Vice-Chair**

- (a) The Vice-Chair shall, upon the absence, death, resignation, disability or disqualification of the Chair, perform the duties of the Chair until the Chair shall resume the office or a successor shall have been elected and duly qualified.
- (b) During the absence or disability of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall possess the same power of the Chair including the power to sign all contracts and other documents which have been authorized by the Trustees.
- (c) The Vice-Chair shall have such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Trustees.

### **Section 8. Secretary**

- (a) The Secretary shall cause the minutes of the meetings to be prepared and shall cause the minutes to be submitted to each Trustee. The Secretary shall have charge, under the direction of the Trustees, of all official records and papers belonging to the Trustees. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Trustees.

### **Section 9. Treasurer**

- (a) The Treasurer shall review or cause to be reviewed the activities delegated by the Trustees to the Vice President of Administrative Services including care and custody of all cash, stocks, bonds, mortgages, or other securities or investments belonging to the Westmoreland County Community College. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Trustees.

## **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Annual Meeting** - The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Westmoreland County Community College shall be the Regular June Meeting of each year. If there is no Regular Meeting in June, then the Annual Meeting shall be the next Regular Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held at the principal office of the Community College or at such other place within the County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as may be determined by the Board of Trustees and as may be designated in the notice of said meeting.

**Section 2. Regular Meeting** - Annually there shall be eight Regular Meetings of the Trustees to be held on the dates, time and place as set by the Trustees. Regular Meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Community College unless otherwise designated in the notice of meeting.

The notice setting the time and place of the Regular Meeting shall be sent to each Trustee at least three days before the meeting, shall be posted at the principal office of the Community College, and shall be advertised to the public in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

**Section 3. Special Meetings** - The Chair shall call a Special Meeting of the Trustees upon written request signed by four Trustees. The Chair is authorized to call a Special Meeting as deemed necessary.

**Section 4. Notice of Special Meetings** - Written notice of all Special Meetings shall be sent to the Trustees by the Secretary at least three days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice shall set forth the time, the place, and the purpose of the Special Meeting. Notice of Special Meetings shall be given to the public in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

## **ARTICLE VIII. PRESIDENT**

**Section 1.** The President of the Westmoreland County Community College shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the College and shall perform all duties, which the Trustees may prescribe.



**Section 2. Attendance at Trustees' Meetings** - The President shall attend all meetings of the Trustees and may be heard on matters before it, but shall have no right to vote on any matter.

## **ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Standing Committees** - There shall be appointed from the Trustees the following standing Committees:

- Executive Committee
- Finance/Facilities Committee
- Educational Affairs/Personnel Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Audit Committee
- Workforce Development Committee
- Governance Committee

Special "ad hoc" committees may be appointed from time to time to conduct special studies or to perform such services as the Trustees may specify.

**Section 2. Appointment and Terms of Standing Committees** - The Standing Committees shall be appointed annually by the Chair from the Trustees and shall remain as constituted until the succeeding Chair shall have reconstituted the committees. The chair shall appoint all committee chairs. The Chair shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

**Section 3. Filling Vacancies** - In case a vacancy shall occur on any committee, the Chair of the Trustees shall appoint another Trustee to fill the unexpired term.

**Section 4. Authority of Standing Committees** - The authority of the Standing Committees shall be subject to the policies of the Trustees. Committee recommendations shall be submitted to the Trustees for approval. If the Trustees give to a committee prior approval and instructions to act, then that committee may act for the Trustees within the parameters of the specific authority granted by the Trustees of that committee.

**Section 5. Executive Committee Duties** - The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and immediate past chair of the Trustees. The committee shall investigate at the request of the Chair any emergency situation which may arise and if necessary, make recommendations for action to the Trustees at any Special or Regular Meeting.

**Section 6. Finance/Facilities Committee Duties** – The Finance/Facilities Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) Trustees. The Finance Committee shall have general oversight of all financial affairs of the College and shall represent the Trustees in all dealings pertaining to financial matters, including the submission of an annual budget, to be approved by the Trustees, for operations and capital expenditures. The Facilities Committee shall have general oversight of the development of a long-range plan and reviewing and updating the goals, objectives and mission of the College. The Finance/Facilities Committee shall have two (2) Chairpersons, one to preside over Financial affairs and the other to preside over Facilities affairs.

**Section 7. Educational Affairs/Personnel Committee Duties** – The Educational Affairs/Personnel Committee shall consist of a minimum of four (4) Trustees. This Committee shall have general oversight of all policies relative to student affairs, academic affairs and all educational programs and shall recommend to the Trustees candidates for all full time Cabinet positions. The Educational Affairs/Personnel Committee shall have two (2) Chairpersons, one to preside over Educational affairs and the other to preside over Personnel affairs.

**Section 8. Duties of the Legislative Committee** - The Legislative Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members of the Board. This Committee shall be concerned with legislative developments on the State and National Level which may affect the Westmoreland County Community College. The committee shall keep the Board informed of legislative developments which may affect the College.

**Section 9. Audit Committee Duties** – The Audit Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) trustees. This Committee shall function as a liaison between the Trustees and the external auditor. In doing so, this Committee shall perform the following functions: recommend a party to perform an external audit, monitor the auditing process and provide periodic updates to the Trustees regarding the progress of the auditing process.

**Section 10. Workforce Development Committee Duties** – The Workforce Development Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) trustees. This Committee shall be concerned with the workforce and economic development needs of Westmoreland County and southwestern PA and the role that Westmoreland County Community College should play in serving these needs. The committee will also act as a liaison with the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County and the Industrial Development Corporation of Westmoreland County along with the college president and vice president of Workforce Development.

**Section 11. Governance Committee Duties** – The Governance Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) Trustees. The Governance Committee shall ensure that the Board of Trustees fulfills its legal, ethical, and functional responsibilities through adequate governance policy development, recruitment strategies, training programs, monitoring of Trustees' activities, and evaluation of Trustees' performance.

## **ARTICLE X. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Section 1. Agenda** - The agenda for each meeting of the Trustees shall be prepared by the Chair and the President, and the Secretary shall cause it to be sent to each Trustee. A consent agenda may be presented by the Chair at the beginning of a meeting. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of any one Trustee. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

**Section 2. Order of Business** - The order of business for all Regular Meetings shall be as follows: call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, approval of minutes, comments from the public, business, reports, and adjournment.

## **ARTICLE XI. RULES OF ORDER**

Robert's Rules of Order, revised and updated edition and as subsequently revised, shall govern all parliamentary procedural matters for all meetings of the Trustees and committees. If the rules of parliamentary procedure are in conflict with these bylaws, then the bylaws shall govern.

## **ARTICLE XII. VOTING**

A majority vote of those present at a meeting of the Trustees or committees shall be the act of the meeting. A Trustee shall be considered "present" at a meeting of the Trustees if the Trustee participates via teleconference or via any other similar electronic means.

## **ARTICLE XIII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

**Section 1. Notification System** - Communications to the Trustees from individuals not members of the Trustees should, except in the case of the President, be in writing. Notice of the desire by an individual not a Trustee other than the President, to appear before the Trustees shall be filed with the Chair and the President of the College as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

**Section 2. Trustee/President/Staff Communication** - In order to keep the President informed and enable the President to list as completely as possible the business to be attended to by the Trustees, copies or notices of communications to committees or to members of the Trustees shall be sent to the President. Any communications from staff members to the Trustees and all directories or orders from the Trustees to staff members shall be sent through the Office of the President.

## **ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENT**

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Trustees present at a Regular or Special Meeting. The proposed amendment has to be filed with the Chair in writing and a copy mailed to each Trustee in advance of the meeting at which the amendment is to be introduced. The amendment shall be voted upon following the meeting at which it was proposed.

**Original – 10/21/70**

**Amended – 5/74; 7/81; 12/81; 5/88; 8/89; 2/01; 5/26/04; 12/08/04; 6/28/06; 3/26/08; 6/23/10; 1/25/12; 6/24/15; 4/26/17, 4/25/18; 8/24/22**



## 1 Board Policies

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### **1.1.1 Communication amongst Board Members**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 28, 2023*

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act (the "Act"). The Board of Trustees may take action on matters properly before it only in public at a regular, special, or emergency meeting, except in those instances where action is permitted by law in closed session. The authority of the Board of Trustees may be exercised only as a Board and only at such meetings or closed sessions as are duly and legally constituted. Individual members acting in their individual capacities have no authority to commit the Board of Trustees or President to any policy determination or course of action.

The Board of Trustees must conduct all deliberation in public. Deliberation is defined by the Act as the "discussion of agency business held for the purpose of making a decision." Therefore, members of the Board of Trustees shall not communicate among themselves by the use of any form of communication (e.g., personal intermediaries, social media, e-mail, or other technological device) in order to reach a collective concurrence regarding any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. Furthermore, Board Members may not use a series of communications by any means or through any person to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. In other words, Board Members exchanging opinions about an upcoming vote or encouraging other Board Members to vote a particular way in an email discussion or a discussion held via social media would violate the Act. This prohibition does not in any way prevent the communication of information amongst board members outside a public meeting where such communication may provide background information for an upcoming vote so long as no deliberation occurs in the communication.

Any questions arising as to whether a particular communication is in compliance with this policy or the Act should be directed to the College Solicitor.

### **1.1.2 Delegation to the President**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 23, 2023*

The Board of Trustees of Westmoreland County Community College (the “Board”) delegates to the President the executive responsibility for administering the policies adopted by the Board and executing all decisions of the Board requiring administrative action.

The President may delegate any powers and duties entrusted to him/her by the Board, but will be specifically responsible to the Board for the execution of such delegated powers and duties.

The President is empowered to reasonably interpret Board policy. In situations where there is no Board policy direction, the President shall have the power to act, but such decisions shall be subject to review by the Board. It is the duty of the President to inform the Board of such action and to recommend written Board policy if one is required.

The President is expected to perform the duties contained in the President’s employment contract and fulfill other responsibilities as may be determined in annual goal-setting or evaluation sessions. The job description and goals and objectives for performance shall be developed by the Board in consultation with the President. The President shall ensure that the College complies with all relevant laws and regulations, and submit required reports in a timely fashion.

The President shall make available any information or give any report that the Board as a whole requests. Individual Board members’ requests for information shall be submitted to the appropriate Board committee chair. If, in the opinion of the Board committee chair, the request is not unduly burdensome or disruptive to the College’s operations, then the Board committee chair shall request the information from the President. Information provided to any individual Board member as a result of an individual Board member’s request shall be made available to all Board members.

The President shall act as the professional advisor to the Board in policy formation.

### 1.1.3 Board of Trustees Emeritus Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2013*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

**Definition:** There shall be a category of Board member known as a Board Member Emeritus who is nominated for integrity, commitment, dedication and the highest distinction and excellence and elected by the Board of Trustees. Emeritus member candidates will have served the board with distinction and considered deserving of the same for outstanding service to Westmoreland County Community College.

**Eligibility:** In order to be considered for designation as a board member emeritus, a person must be a current or former member of the Westmoreland County Community College Board of Trustees who:

1. Has served the Westmoreland County Community College Board of Trustees with integrity, commitment, dedication and the highest distinction for a minimum of two terms.
2. Held an important leadership role, and made or continues to make significant contributions.
3. Engaged in major volunteer or advocacy activities in his or her service on the board
4. Participates in one (1) or more Westmoreland County Community College activities (e.g., events, volunteerism, fundraising, government relations, networking, Foundation, etc.)

**Election:** Annually, with the recommendation of the board nominating committee, the Executive Committee of the board will consider potential candidates and may nominate one (1) individual for a board emeritus position. The Executive Committee will present the nomination along with supporting statements to the Westmoreland County Community College Board of Trustees for its consideration. A simple majority vote of directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present is sufficient to approve an appointment.

An emeritus board member shall serve as long as they demonstrate the qualities of integrity, distinction and excellence. If an emeritus board member engages in activities that do not align with the college's mission, vision and values, the Board of Trustees can take action to remove the emeritus distinction.

As an Emeritus Board member, they will be added to college publications and invited to college functions and events at the college's discretion.

#### **1.1.4 Board of Trustees/Power and Duties**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 28, 2023*

The Board of Trustees of Westmoreland County Community College (hereafter, the "Board") constitutes the governing body of the College, and is empowered to govern, operate and maintain the College under and in accordance with the Act and the policies, standards, rules and regulations which may be adopted, from time to time, by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The specific powers and duties of the Board are set forth in Act, 24 P.S. 19-905-A., as may be amended from time to time, and incorporated herein by reference.

It is the Policy of the Board to recognize and maintain the distinction between those activities which are appropriate to the Board as the legislative, governing body of the College and those administrative activities which are to be performed by the President and his/her staff in the exercise of authority delegated by the Board. Policies approved by the Board are to be used by individual trustees, college personnel, student and the public to define relationships and outline responsibilities relative to the operation of the College. Board Policies create administrative structures, set priorities, delegate authority, assign responsibility, ensure accountability, and establish standards for legal, regulatory, and ethical compliance. Board Policies may be adopted or amended by a vote of the majority of the Board at a regular meeting. The Board may also adopt bylaws, rules and regulations in furtherance of these policies and to otherwise govern its internal functions and operations, which shall carry the same force and effect, and be binding upon individual trustees, college personnel, students and the public, to the same extent as those policies appearing in the Board Policy Manual.

Board Policies shall, unless otherwise specified in the Policy itself, become effective immediately upon adoption or amendment by the Board and, once adopted or amended, will supersede and have control over any rule, regulation or procedure that conflicts or is inconsistent with the provisions or requirements of that policy. The official minutes of the Board shall be considered an extension of Board Policy and subsequent Board actions of record, shall, in the case of conflict, take precedence over any policy which bears an earlier approval or revision date.

In accordance with the authority granted to it under the Act, the Board hereby delegates authority to the President of the College to develop, promulgate and implement administrative regulations and procedures as may be necessary to implement and carry out the objectives of Board Policy and administer the College's operations. Administrative regulations set forth requirements, directives, standards and guidelines on matters of college-wide concern that are not specifically addressed in Board Policies and for which uniform compliance is necessary in order to meet fiscal, academic, research, human resources and other management standards and requirements imposed by federal, state or local laws or external administrative agency rule. Administrative regulations do not require Board action, and may be adopted or revised by the administration of the college upon approval of the President and in accordance with any applicable Governance processes now or as may be in effect at the college.

In addition to the foregoing, the college may issue procedures, handbooks and guidelines which set forth or describe operational details needed to implement policies and/or administrative regulations or



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which otherwise address matters within the functional responsibility or authority of an operational unit of the college. Procedures, handbooks, guidelines and other similar informational materials may supplement but not conflict with Board Policies or approved administrative regulations. The College President may delegate authority to the administrator or executive officer with responsibility for a specific operating unit to approve procedures for that unit.

### **1.1.5 Public Participation in Board Meetings**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 18, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 25, 2022*

The Board of Trustees of Westmoreland County Community College (the “Board”) recognizes the value to governance of public comment and involving members of the public in Board meetings. Public comment at Board meetings is governed by 65 P.S. 701 et. seq. and this Policy.

In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each regular and special meeting of the Board for the public to comment on official action or deliberation prior to the consideration of agenda items by the Board. Comments on non-agenda items may be permitted during the public comment time at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting before the next regular meeting.

Prior to the Call to Order of the regular Board meeting, any individual requesting to address the Board should submit to the Board Secretary their name, address, any company and/or affiliation and the issue of concern. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes duration. At the discretion of the Board Chair an additional minute may be granted in individual situations. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded as a point of information, that the Board members are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters; thus, questions may be directed to the Board, but answers may be deferred pending consideration by the Board. Comments relating to specific individuals that may implicate personnel matters or a potential disciplinary response are not permitted in public sessions.

The Board Chair may: i) interrupt or terminate a participant’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; ii) request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; iii) request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; or iv) call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

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### 1.1.6 Travel and Procedures Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 28, 2023*

The Travel and Procedures Policy for the Board of Trustees can be found in **Appendix 1-A**.

### 1.1.7 Presidential Evaluation Policy and Procedure

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 23, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 8, 2021*

#### **Purpose**

The Board of Trustees ("Board") of Westmoreland County Community College ("College") shall conduct regular performance and effectiveness reviews of the College President. The intent of this activity is to provide an objective performance review and to establish a mutually supportive environment between the Board and the President.

The purpose of the evaluation process shall be:

1. To evaluate the strengths, weaknesses and accomplishments of the President;
2. To evaluate the President's effectiveness and management skills in improving institutional performance;
3. To strengthen the working relationship of the Board and the President in order to continually improve effectiveness of directing the future of the College;
4. To ensure that the President receives appropriate recognition, guidance, and assistance from the Board; and
5. To assist in determining salary increases and/or in renewing the President's employment contract.

#### **Procedure**

An evaluation subcommittee of the Board shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of the President. The subcommittee shall consist of the chairs of the Personnel, Educational Affairs and Governance Committees. In addition, on occasions designated by the Board, a 360 degree performance evaluation may be conducted in accordance with the procedure outlined below.

#### **Step 1 Planning Session**

Annually, the President shall submit to the Board a set of goals for the ensuing year in a manner and format to be indicated by the Board. The goals should include expectations related to leadership of the academic enterprise, student enrollment, faculty and staff development, financial management, status of the College Strategic Plan and external relationships. These goals shall be submitted during the first month of each fiscal year.

#### **Step 2 Self-Evaluation**

Prior to the Evaluation Session, the President shall complete a self-evaluation using Form A attached. Along with this evaluation form, the President shall provide a summary of the past year's activities in relation to the goals provided in the Planning Session. This step shall be completed on or before May 31.

### **Step 3 Board Assessment and Preparation for Evaluation Session**

The evaluation subcommittee shall distribute evaluation Form A to all Board members for completion and use in the Evaluation Session. Board members are to complete the evaluation Form A on or before May 31. The evaluation subcommittee, or its designee shall collect the evaluations and generate an analysis.

### **Step 4 Evaluation Session**

The subcommittee shall annually engage in an evaluation to discuss with the President the President's self-evaluation, the outcome of the Board evaluations and the 360 degree evaluation if employed. The evaluation subcommittee will obtain approval from the Board Chair prior to scheduling this evaluation session. The evaluation session will be conducted during the first two months of the fiscal year. The Board Chair may attend the evaluation session at the Board Chair's discretion. During the evaluation session, the subcommittee will provide feedback to the President and indicate its disposition on the President's performance as it relates to performance against established goals. An action plan shall be jointly developed to address any identified weaknesses and/or opportunities for professional growth.

### **Step 5 Reporting of Evaluation**

An executive summary of the Evaluation Session shall be prepared by the subcommittee and presented to the Board at an executive session of the Board. Any changes recommended to the salary, benefits, term or other provisions of the President's contract as a result of the evaluation shall be acted upon at a public Board meeting.

### **Optional Step 360 Degree Evaluation**

At the discretion of the Board, a 360 degree evaluation of the President's performance may be conducted by a third party engaged by the Board. Such evaluations may be conducted after the first year of the President's contract and every three years thereafter. If the Board decides to engage a third party for a 360 degree evaluation, an appropriate RFP will be prepared and advertised in January of the year in which the 360 degree evaluation is to occur. The evaluation subcommittee shall meet with the selected evaluation firm to establish the criteria, format and method of evaluation. This evaluation shall entail interviews to include but not be limited to the following individuals who have regular contact and interaction with the President: presidents of the faculty and support associations, division chairs, distinguished professors, alumni, state legislators, College Foundation members, County Commissioners and the student government association president. The 360 degree evaluator shall compile the evaluation results and submit a confidential report to the evaluation subcommittee for use in the Evaluation Session.

### **Confidentiality**

The evaluation materials and documents, evaluation forms, interview notes and comments shall remain strictly confidential in accordance with state and federal law and with the College's confidentiality and personnel policies.



### 1.1.8 Confidentiality Policy for the Board of Trustees

*Policy approved the by Board of Trustees – January 26, 2022*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 23, 2022*

Members of the Board of Trustees of the Westmoreland County Community College (the “Board”) have fiduciary duties defined by care, loyalty and obedience imposed by state law. These fiduciary duties require each Board member (individually referred to in this Policy as a “Trustee”) to act in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner the Trustee reasonably believes is in the best interests of Westmoreland County Community College (the “College”).

Transparency is a guiding principle for the College. Protecting confidentiality where appropriate enables the College to commit to effective transparency while protecting the open and candid confidential discussions that are crucial for the Board's governance. This Confidentiality Policy covers discussions in formal Board executive sessions, as well as Board communications that occur in less formal and/or remote setting. This Policy governs the receipt, use, and disclosure of Confidential Information (as defined below) by Trustees. This agreement is intended to supplement the College’s Principles of Governance and Leadership Policy and all other College policies.

1. “Confidential Information” as that term is used in this Policy means any non-public information, communication, or other materials which the College or one of its officers, or staff members communicate to a Trustee, or that a Trustee receives from a third party in connection with the Trustee’s service on a College committee or otherwise including:
  1. any materials marked confidential or attorney-client privileged;
  2. the College’s non-public plans, strategies, budgets, or financial information;
  3. non-public information shared in connection with formal Board executive session meetings and discussions, including non-public communications on pending litigation, employment matters, contemplated real estate lease or purchase agreements, or strategy/information sessions related to collective bargaining; and
  4. non-public information about the College’s past or present Trustees, officers, executives, staff members, and vendors, including any non-public information related to someone's hiring or termination.
2. Confidential Information does not include information that is generally known or available to the public through the Right to Know Act, the Sunshine Act or any other state law governing public information or that is provided to Trustees by third parties who are not affiliated with the College and who have no duty to maintain such information in confidence. This Policy is not intended to prevent disclosure of Confidential Information where disclosure is required by law.
3. Trustees are obligated to keep confidential and not disclose Confidential Information to any person, including their relatives, friends, and members of the College staff, unless the College has authorized such disclosure.

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4. If a Trustee is unsure whether information is considered to be Confidential Information under this Policy or whether the College has authorized disclosure of Confidential Information, the Trustee should consult with the Solicitor before making any disclosure to a third party.
5. Confidential Information belongs exclusively to the College.
6. Trustees should take reasonable measures to avoid unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of Confidential Information and should, for example, refrain from leaving Confidential Information contained in documents unattended or on computers or other electronic devices without adequate security.
7. At the expiration of a Trustee's service on the Board, and at any other time upon written request by the College, a Trustee must promptly return to the College or delete all materials in the Trustee's possession that contain Confidential Information.
8. Trustee's obligations under this Agreement with respect to Confidential Information will remain in effect for three years after the Trustee leaves the Board except for information that must be kept confidential longer than three years, such as Confidential Information which contains attorney-client privileged communications.

The Trustees acknowledge that any violation of this Policy could cause harm to the College, frustrate Board deliberations and action, and may lead to legal action against a Trustee in the event of a Trustee's intentional disclosure of Confidential Information to non-authorized third parties.

### 1.1.9 Principles of Governance and Leadership

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 23, 2022*

The Westmoreland County Community College Board of Trustees is comprised of 7 to 15 individuals appointed by the Westmoreland County Commissioners for a six-year term. Trustees may serve successive terms and each trustee shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed and duly qualified. Upon appointment, trustees are expected to perform the duties and responsibilities defined for their office by the Pennsylvania School Code. In performance of these duties and responsibilities, trustees are expected to uphold the public trust and to ensure the overall well-being and integrity of the college.

Trustees are accountable to the college community served and their shareholders. Trustees have a fiduciary duty of care, loyalty and obedience to the college. Accordingly, trustees must act in the best interest of the college at all times and abide by all college policies in deliberation and decision making. The following principles are adopted as policy by the Board of Trustees and will be acknowledged and agreed to in writing by each individual trustee. These principles are intended to ensure that governance of the college through the action of its trustees is at all times performed in a manner which conforms to trustees' fiduciary duty to the college and satisfies the statutory obligations imposed by the School Code. Accordingly, trustees will:

#### **Advocate Earnestly**

- Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action
- Champion community college education by engaging members of local, state and federal legislative bodies

#### **Lead Responsibly**

- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in board meetings and other college functions
- Work together in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation
- Participate in professional development, training and board retreats
- Collaborate with the College President as a united team

#### **Govern Effectively**

- Adhere to college by-laws, policies, and all established rules and procedures for board operations
- Develop, adopt, revise and review policy
- Align decisions to policy
- Differentiate between governance and management, delegating management tasks to the President and administration
- Allocate finances and resources in the best interest of the college
- Ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws

#### **Plan Thoughtfully**

- Adopt and implement a collaborative comprehensive planning process, including regular reviews
- Set annual goals that are aligned with the college strategic plan
- Develop a financial plan that anticipates both short and long-term needs

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- Formulate a master facilities plan conducive to teaching and learning
- Review academic plans and assessments

### **Evaluate Continuously**

- Utilize appropriate data to make informed decisions
- Use effective practices for the evaluation of the President
- Review effectiveness of the college strategic plan

### **Communicate Clearly**

- Promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff and community
- Protect confidentiality
- Honor the sanctity and confidentiality of executive sessions

### **Act Ethically**

- Never use the position for improper benefit to self or others
- Act to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest
- Recognize the absence of authority to speak or represent outside of the collective board
- Respect the role, authority and input of the President
- Integrate multiple perspectives into board decision-making
- Recognize that power rests with the board, not individual trustees
- Speak with one voice; support the decision of the board once it is made
- Abide by the majority vote

### 1.1.10 Policy Review Acknowledgement and Agreement

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 22, 2022*

I acknowledge that I have read a copy of the Westmoreland County Community College By-Laws and Policy Manual which describes important information about the college and my duties as a member of the College Board of Trustees. A digital copy of the Policy Manual can be accessed online at <https://westmoreland.edu/about/policies/index.html> or a hard copy can be obtained by contacting the Board Secretary. I understand that I have a fiduciary duty to the college to abide by and uphold the College By-laws and Policies. I agree to, at all times, act in the best interest of the college in administering these By-Laws and Policies and in carrying out my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees. I understand that I should consult with the College Solicitor if I have any questions or concerns regarding my responsibilities in carrying out these duties or if a potential conflict of interest arises.

Since the College By-laws and Policies are necessarily subject to change, I acknowledge that I will fully participate in discussion of any Policy or By-Law revisions from this date forward and agree to abide by any revisions adopted by the Board of Trustees.

I understand and agree that I will abide by this agreement and that any failure to do so will result in appropriate action by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the By-Laws and Pennsylvania law.

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Board of Trustee Name (Printed)

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Signature

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Witness Signature

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Date



### 1.1.11 Solicitor Services and Review Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2022*

#### **Purpose**

This Policy establishes the responsibilities of the College's Solicitor for providing legal services to the College, and identifies those matters that require legal review by the Solicitor. Compliance with this Policy will enable the College to minimize the risk of litigation; reduce uncertainty and disruption in its affairs; and take advantage of its legal rights, protections and opportunities. The major responsibility of the Solicitor is to ensure that the legal rights and opportunities of the College, its Board of Trustees and its employees are protected, and that their legal obligations are met.

#### **General Duties**

The Solicitor is an independent contractor whose contact with the College is through the President. The Solicitor is primarily responsible for providing professional legal services to the College's officers, Board of Trustees and employees who are acting in their official capacity in performance of their duties. Whenever the Solicitor is providing legal services to the College including the President and the Board of Trustees, professional standards require that his or her legal advice and services be based upon independent professional judgment that is not subject to the client's direction and control.

Regardless which individual or group represents the College as the Solicitor's client for purposes of any particular communication or representation, the College as a whole entity remains the Solicitor's sole client. He or she owes professional responsibilities to the organization as a whole, including the Board of Trustees as an entity.

To meet the expectations stated above, the Solicitor must have direct and independent access to the Board of Trustees when necessary in his or her professional judgment (e.g., when obliged by this policy or by the above professional standards to disclose information received from constituent members of the organization to the highest authority within the organization, and to provide advice to the highest authority.)

Accordingly, the Solicitor shall have direct access to the Board of Trustees and the authority to use independent professional judgment in providing professional services as an attorney, notwithstanding the President's otherwise exclusive role in connecting governance and management.

The Solicitor will provide timely legal opinions on proposed policies, regulations, contracts, and documents and also contemplated actions in accordance with this policy when requested by the President or the Board Chair.

Any employee who suspects that an attorney's advice might be helpful or necessary on a particular matter not specifically referred to in this policy should promptly submit that matter for review to the President for consideration to submit to the Solicitor.

## **Matters Requiring Solicitor**

The following matters require review of the Solicitor:

- Material contracts and agreements (as defined below)
- Incoming subpoenas, Right to Know Requests requiring legal opinion and other legal papers
- Proposed actions entailing a substantial risk of civil or criminal liability
- Involuntary termination or separation of any employee
- Proposed reductions in force, layoffs or furloughs (voluntary or involuntary)
- Proposed actions based on the results of employment-related background checks or clearances
- Student disciplinary matters where the possible sanction may involve a suspension or expulsion
- Governmental investigations or audits
- Pending or threatened litigation, administrative claims and grievances under the College's applicable collective bargaining agreements
- Transactions or negotiations in which the other party is represented by counsel
- New or revised College Policies
- Governance issues raised by a member of the Board of Trustees
- Any other situation in which legal or quasi-legal issues may be involved
- Articulation Agreements

The Solicitor will manage all litigation and other legal proceedings on behalf of the College and its employees, and will advise on all other legal matters. The Solicitor cannot and will not provide legal services to employees, students or individual Board of Trustee members in their individual or personal capacities.

## **Material Contracts and Agreements**

The following types of contracts and agreements require review by the Solicitor prior to entering into the engagement:

- Employment Agreements
- Offers of employment that do not utilize an approved standard form or which materially revise the terms of an approved standard form
- Contracts or agreements that do not utilize an approved standard form or which materially revise the terms of an approved standard form
- Bid Specifications
- Construction Contracts
- Engineering/Architect/Professional Design Services Contracts
- Professional Consulting Agreements
- Contracts for the purchase or lease of real estate
- Letters of Intent
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Memorandums of Understanding
- License agreements for use of software or other intellectual property from third parties
- Agreements to license College name, logos or other intellectual property to a third party
- Agreements requiring approval and signature of the College President or Board of Trustees

Standard form agreements previously approved by the Solicitor for use by other College departments, such as form agreements utilized by the Purchasing Departments, do not require prior review by the Solicitor.

### **Material Contract Review Procedure**

Proposed contracts and agreements should initially be reviewed by the Vice President responsible for the subject matter of the agreement. The proposed substantive financial and business terms should be reviewed to confirm acceptability to the College and any legal concerns should be noted before submission to the Solicitor for review. The Solicitor shall review and, if necessary, revise the legal terms of the proposed agreement and return it for submission to the contracting party. Any response to the proposed revisions will be submitted to the Solicitor for final dispensation. The Vice President responsible for the subject matter of the agreement will coordinate signatures necessary for execution of the final agreement.

### **Government Investigations**

If investigators from a government agency, including but not limited to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), the Department of Veterans Affairs, the federal or state Departments of Education, the state Auditor General, the Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO), the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) or the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), contact or request an interview with a College employee, or seek data, documents, or access to files, the investigator(s) in question should be advised that the College will generally cooperate, but only after consultation with its attorney. The employee should immediately then contact the Solicitor for advice and instructions.

### **Outside Counsel**

The Solicitor will recommend whether specific legal matters require the assistance of outside counsel and, if so, consistent with College policies on selection of professional services, will select outside counsel subject to approval of the Board of Trustees. The Solicitor will supervise and approve outside counsel's services and fees. Employees may not contact outside counsel directly on College business without the prior permission of the Solicitor.

### **Confidentiality and Privilege**

For both legal and ethical reasons, confidentiality is of utmost importance in many matters referred to attorneys. In order to preserve confidentiality and legal privilege for oral and written communications between the Solicitor (or outside counsel) and other College employees or the Board of Trustees, all matters involving counsel should be treated confidentially, unless they are obviously suitable for disclosure to the public. Administrators in their correspondence with counsel should state explicitly if they are "requesting legal advice," "anticipating litigation," or furnishing counsel "confidential information," since these points are important to creating and maintaining a legal privilege for the communications. Legal files should be disclosed only on the strictest need-to-know basis and only within the College to authorized personnel. In sensitive matters, employees should not create unnecessary documents and should follow the College's applicable policies on confidentiality.

### **1.1.12 Ethics Conflict of Interest Policy for the Board of Trustees**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2022*

The Board of Trustees of Westmoreland County Community College (the “College”) recognizes that members of the College’s Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to individually and collectively as “Trustees”) must observe high standards of ethical conduct in order to fulfill the College’s mission with integrity and to assure public confidence in the institution. The Board of Trustees, in the exercise of its leadership role for the College, must also model recognized best practices associated with policy development and institutional governance.

Accordingly, and in order to provide a framework for guiding ethical conduct, the Board of Trustees of the College adopts this policy for Trustees. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this policy and the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act (the “Ethics Act”), the Ethics Act shall control.

#### **Ethical Conduct**

Trustees should not:

1. Accept or solicit any gift, favor, service or benefit that might reasonably tend to influence the individual in the discharge of his or her official duties or that the individual knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence his or her official conduct.
2. Accept employment or engage in a business or professional activity that the individual might reasonably expect would require or induce him or her to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of his or her position with the College.
3. Accept other appointments or any employment or compensation that could reasonably be expected to impair the individual’s independence of judgment in the performance of official duties.
4. Intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised his or her official powers or performed official duties in favor of another.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

It is the Policy of the College that Trustees may not have direct or indirect interests that will conflict with the proper discharge of that individual’s duties to the College. Trustees who have an actual or potential conflict of interest as defined by the Ethics Act with respect to a measure, proposal or decision pending before the Board of Trustees shall promptly disclose such interest to the Board Chair, along with any other relevant information. The Chair shall be responsible for informing the other members of the Board of the conflict. If the Chair has a conflict, then he or she shall notify the Vice Chair.

The Board of Trustees may consider such measure, proposal or decision, but any member having a conflict of interest shall not vote or otherwise participate in such deliberation or action of the Board of Trustees. The abstention of said member, and the reasons therefore, will be recorded in the Board minutes. While the College may do business with an affiliate of one of its Trustees, no preference may be given to the Trustee's company. Further, any Trustee who may have either a direct or indirect interest in the business entity would be excluded from all future participation in decisions, discussions and any matter related thereto.

The following examples illustrate situations that may constitute a conflict of interest. This list is not comprehensive and does not limit the scope of this policy.

1. Knowingly voting upon, approving or authorizing a contract or transaction between the College and an immediate family member or affiliate (as those terms are defined by the Ethics Act), or any other matter in which the Trustee has an interest.
2. Exerting influence on the decision to purchase or lease property, equipment or materials for the College from an immediate family member or affiliate of the Trustee.
3. Using College students, staff, resources or facilities for personal gain or benefit or for the benefit of an immediate family member or affiliate.
4. Using confidential information for personal gain or benefit or for the benefit of an immediate family member or affiliate.
5. For a Trustee or any immediate family member thereof, to accept from an organization, firm or individual doing or seeking to do business with the College any of the following: commissions; a share in profits; gifts in cash; gifts of merchandise of more than nominal value; loans or advances (other than from established banking or financial institutions); materials, services, repairs or improvements at no cost or at unreasonably low prices; excessive or extravagant entertainment; and travel.
6. For an affiliate or immediate family member of any Trustee to enter into any contract with the College, except with the prior knowledge and consent of the Board of Trustees.

Trustees who have questions concerning whether a conflict of interest may exist may consult with the Board Chair or seek an advisory opinion from the Pennsylvania Ethics Commission.

### **1.1.13 Self-Assessment Policy**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

This policy is adopted in order to comply with the expectations of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education's Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education, Accreditation Standard-7. This Standard states that an accredited institution possess "a procedure in place for the periodic objective assessment of the governing body in meeting stated governing body objectives." The goal of this policy is to ensure that the Westmoreland County Community College Board of Trustees ("Board") and its individual members are carrying out their roles/responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner and to identify strengths and areas for improvement in the Board's functioning.

The Board will engage in a self-assessment to ensure they are seeking feedback and using the information gained to plan for the year and to assess the prior year's plan and performance. The self-assessment instrument will be periodically developed by the Board Governance Committee in order to comply with this policy. The instrument selected shall be recommended to and approved by the Board. Each Board member will be required to complete the self-assessment instrument and submit it to the Secretary of the Board during the first quarter of each calendar year or as otherwise designated. The information gathered will be reviewed by the Board at a subsequent Board retreat scheduled for this purpose. Trends, where appropriate, will also be shared in order to assess performance over a number of years.



### 1.1.14 Recording of Board of Trustee Meetings

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

The Pennsylvania Sunshine Act allows publically advertised meetings of the Board of Trustees ("Board") of Westmoreland County Community College ("College") to be recorded with an audio recorder or a video recorder. This rule applies to members of general public attending the meetings as well as to College employees, officials or individual members of the Board of Trustees. This policy is adopted pursuant to the Sunshine Act to provide guidelines for such recordings in order to better facilitate public meetings and to provide the least amount of disruption.

The Secretary of the Board will record all publically advertised meetings of the Board. These recordings are used in the preparation of minutes; they do not substitute for official, legally approved minutes. Such recordings will be available for access by the general public upon request until such time as the recording of the meeting is disposed of in accordance with the College's Record Retention Policy.

#### **Rules for Use of Recording Devices at Board Meetings:**

1. Individuals attending a regular or special meeting of the Board have the right to use video and/or audio recording devices. Recording devices include tape recorders, video cameras, television cameras, microphones, cameras, wireless telephones, and other similar mechanical or electric or electronic devices.
2. Microphones and recording devices other than those used by the Board or College employees, may not be placed on the Board table or tables reserved for use by the College staff.
3. Use of recording devices may not interfere with, obstruct, or disrupt the orderly transaction of business at any meeting.
4. No recording device may be operated while concealed.
5. Any individual or group desiring to video record a public Board meeting must comply with any reasonable request made by the Board Chair or other meeting chair for the purpose of maintaining order at the meeting.
6. No recording device may be operated prior to the meeting being called to order, while a meeting is in recess, or after a meeting is adjourned.
7. No recording devices which produce sound distracting to the audience or to meeting participants shall be permitted.
8. No recording device maybe used to record private conversations between audience members, officials or others whose comments or questions are made privately and not for public consumption.
9. Operators of recording devices who violate this policy may be asked to leave the meeting.

## 2 Employee Policies

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The following pages contain detailed policies relative to employment with Westmoreland County Community College. The content of these policies pertain to all employees of the college unless otherwise stipulated herein or by the language of bargaining agreements with the Westmoreland County Community College Educational Support Professionals, PSEA/NEA or the Westmoreland County Community College Professional Association.

### 2.1 Section 1 – Employment

#### 2.1.1 Affirmative Action

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

The college supports an affirmative action plan designed to increase the number of qualified women and/or men and minority group members on the college staff when such groups are identified as being underutilized. The *Affirmative Action Plan*, as adopted by the Board of Trustees, is on file in the department of Human Resources.

## Employee Policies

### **2.1.2 Appointments to College Staff**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees - December 9, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

The Board of Trustees shall approve all full-time appointments for president, vice president, associate vice president and all cabinet level positions. The board authorizes the college president to hire all other college positions.

### **2.1.3 Employment Verification and Personal Letters of Reference**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 24, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 24, 2024*

All requests for employment verifications must be submitted in writing, must include the employee's authorization for release of information, and must be referred to the Human Resources Department for action, exception as indicated below. The college will only respond to formal requests for employment verification in writing; and information given will be limited to the following:

- Position title
- Dates of employment

Telephone requests for verification of employment will be limited to confirming information provided by the external party.

Information will be provided without written authorization if such request is in the form of a subpoena otherwise authorized by law.

Personal letters of reference may be provided to an employee by his/her supervisor or department manager, however such personal letters of reference do not reflect the college's official position. As such, any supervisor or department manager who provides a personal reference for an employee must not use their college email address or college letterhead.

#### **2.1.4 Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 26, 2008*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

Westmoreland County Community College has a strong commitment to the principle of equity, inclusion and belonging. We believe it is important to cultivate a college environment that is inclusive and respectful and which encourages creativity and appreciation of difference. In that spirit, the college will embrace people representing all facets of human experience in order to develop, foster and promote a well-educated and enlightened community.

## 2.1.5 Transgender Employee Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

### Introduction

Westmoreland County Community College celebrates and values the diversity of its workforce. The College is fully committed to creating, consistently improving, and maintaining a safe, welcome and inclusive environment for all transgender and non-binary staff, enabling them to work to their full potential and providing equal access to the services and facilities they need.

### Purpose

Westmoreland College does not discriminate in any way on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. This policy is designed to create a safe and productive workplace environment for all employees. This policy sets forth guidelines to address the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming employees and attempts to clarify how the law should be implemented in situations where questions may arise about how to protect the legal rights or safety of such employees. This policy does not anticipate every situation that might occur with respect to transgender or gender non-conforming employees, and the needs of each transgender or gender non-conforming employee must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, the goal is to ensure the safety, comfort, and healthy development of transgender or gender non-conforming employees while maximizing the employee's workplace integration.

### Definitions

The definitions provided here are not intended to label employees but rather to assist in understanding this policy and the legal obligations of the college. Employees may or may not use these terms.

- **Gender identity:** A person's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither - how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.
- **Gender expression:** External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, body characteristics or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.
- **Transgender:** An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.
- **Gender non-conforming:** An umbrella term for those who do not follow gender stereotypes about how they should look or act based on the female or male sex they were assigned at birth.

- **Non –binary:** An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside of these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do. Non-binary can also be used as an umbrella term encompassing identities such as agender, bigender, genderqueer or gender-fluid.
- **Gender-fluid:** An adjective denoting or relating to a person who does not identify as having a single unchanging gender.
- **Transition:** The process of changing one’s gender from the sex assigned at birth to one’s gender identity. The process of transitioning is unique to each person. This can happen quickly or take place over a longer period of time. Individuals who are transitioning may choose to inform family, friends, and co-workers.
- **Sexual orientation:** A person’s physical or emotional attraction to people of the same and/ or other gender. Straight, gay, and bisexual are some ways to describe sexual orientation. It is important to note that sexual orientation is distinct from gender identity and expression. Transgender people can be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or straight, just like non-transgender people.
- **LGBT:** A common abbreviation that refers to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

## EVERYONE HAS A

- Sex Assigned at Birth
- Gender Identity
- Gender Expression
- Sexual Orientation

## Privacy

Transgender employees have the right to discuss their gender identity or expression openly, or to keep that information private. The transgender employee decides when, with whom, and how much to share their private information. Information about an employee’s transgender status (such as the sex they were assigned at birth) can constitute confidential medical information under privacy laws like HIPAA.

Faculty, staff and administrators should not disclose information that may reveal an employee’s transgender status or gender non-conforming presentation to others. Personal or confidential information may only be shared with the transgender employee’s consent and with coworkers who truly need to know to do their jobs.

## Official Records

The College will change an employee’s official record to reflect a change in name or gender upon request from the employee. Certain types of records, like those relating to payroll and retirement accounts, may require a legal name change before the person’s name can be changed. Most records, however, can be changed to reflect a person’s preferred name without proof of a legal name change.



## Employee Policies

A transgender or transitioning employee has the right to be addressed by the name and pronoun corresponding to the employee's gender identity. Official records will also be changed to reflect the employee's new name and gender upon the employee's request. The college will make every effort to update any photographs at the transitioning employee's workplace so the transitioning employee's gender identity and expression are represented accurately.

If a new or transitioning employee has questions about college records or ID documents, the employee should contact Human Resources.

### **Names / Pronouns**

An employee has the right to be addressed by the name and pronoun that correspond to the employee's gender identity, upon request. A court-ordered name or gender change is not required. The intentional or persistent refusal to respect an employee's gender identity (for example, intentionally referring to the employee by a name or pronoun that does not correspond to the employee's gender identity) can constitute harassment and is a violation of this policy. If you are unsure what pronoun a transitioning coworker might prefer, you can politely ask your coworker how they would like to be addressed.

### **Transitioning on the Job**

Employees who transition on the job can expect the support of management and human resources staff. HR will work with each transitioning employee individually to ensure a successful workplace transition.

#### *Before the Workplace Transition Begins:*

1. The transitioning employee should contact Human Resources to make them aware of the employee's upcoming transition.
2. Human Resources will inform the employee of the college's transgender-related policies.
3. Meeting between the transitioning employee and the employee's supervisor – and others, if desired by the transitioning employee – should be scheduled to ensure the supervisor knows of the employee's planned transition.
4. The transitioning employee and Human Resources should discuss all of the individuals who will need to be included in the workplace transition plan. This should include the employee, the employee's immediate supervisor, and someone from HR. All members of this transition team should familiarize themselves with the college's policies and any other relevant resources that provide educational information about transgender issues.
5. A Workplace Transition Plan will be created with the input of the transitioning employee, their supervisor and Human Resources. The Plan will address all of the following areas:
  - a. The date when the transition will officially and formally occur. This means the date that the employee will change their gender expression, name, and pronouns. The transitioning employee may choose to begin using the restroom and locker room associated with their gender identity on this date as well. The transitioning employee will know best when this should occur as they will be able to determine all relevant factors to be considered when choosing this date.

- b. Decide how, and in what format, the transitioning employee's co-workers should be made aware of the employee's transition. It is up to the transitioning employee to decide if they would like to make some co-workers aware of their transition on a one-on-one basis before it is officially announced.
  - c. Decide what, if any, training will be given to co-workers.
  - d. Determine what updates should be made to the transitioning employee's records, and when they will be made. v. Determine dates of any leave that may be needed for pre-scheduled medical procedures.
6. Ensure that all name changes and photographs are updated in advance so that they can go live on the transition day. This includes email addresses

#### *The Day the Transition Will be Made Known to Employees*

1. A work team transition meeting will be held that includes the transitioning employee, the employee's supervisor, the employee's co-workers, and any other relevant team. Otherwise, remote conference any members of the transition team or the employee's work team that cannot be there live. If the employee thinks it would be helpful, a handout about transgender issues can be provided at this meeting. It is up to the employee whether they feel comfortable attending or would prefer not to be there.
2. The employee's supervisor should announce the transition, along with any administrator who are in attendance in order to show solidarity for the transitioning employee. The supervisor must:
  - a. Emphasize the transitioning employee's importance and the College's complete support of the employee's transition.
  - b. Review the College's relevant nondiscrimination policies.
  - c. Indicate that the transitioning employee will be presenting themselves in accordance with their gender identity and this should be respected. The supervisor should also advise co-workers about the transitioning employee's new name and preferred pronoun.
  - d. Be a behavioral model by using the transitioning employee's new name and pronoun in all communication – written and oral, formal and informal.
  - e. Make a point that the transition will not change the workplace and that everything should go on as it did previously.
  - f. Solicit any questions. Refer questions the supervisor cannot answer to HR.
  - g. If training is going to occur, the date should be announced at this meeting. If possible, the training should occur before the date of the employee's official workplace transition.

#### *The First Day of the Employee's Official Workplace Transition*

The transitioning employee's supervisor should be clear that all elements are in place, in the same way the supervisor would for a new hire or transferred employee. These elements include:

1. Making sure that the transitioning employee has a new ID badge and photo if necessary.
2. Ensuring all work documents have the appropriate name and gender and checking that these have been changed in all of the places an employee's name may appear.

### **Restroom Accessibility**

Employees shall have access to the restroom corresponding to their gender identity. Any employee who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason, will be provided access to a unisex single-stall restroom, when available. No employee, however, shall be required to use such a restroom. All employees have a right to safe and appropriate restroom facilities, including the right to use a restroom that corresponds to the employee's gender identity, regardless of the employee's sex assigned at birth. That decision should be left to the transgender employee to determine the most appropriate and safest option for them.

### **Locker Room Accessibility**

All employees have the right to use the locker room that corresponds to their gender identity. Any employee who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason, can be provided with a reasonable alternative changing area such as the use of a private area, or using the locker room that corresponds to their gender identity before or after other employees. Any alternative arrangement for a transgender employee will be provided in a way that allows the employee to keep their transgender status confidential.

### **Dress Codes**

The College does not have dress codes that restrict employees' clothing or appearance on the basis of gender. Transgender and gender non-conforming employees have the right to comply with college dress codes in a manner consistent with their gender identity or gender expression.

### **Discrimination/ Harassment**

It is unlawful and violates College policy to discriminate in any way (including, but not limited to, failure to hire, failure to promote, or unlawful termination) against an employee because of the employee's actual or perceived gender identity. Additionally it also is unlawful and contrary to this policy to retaliate against any person objecting to, or supporting enforcement of legal protections against, gender identity discrimination in employment.

The College is committed to creating a safe work environment for transgender and gender non-conforming employees. Any incident of discrimination, harassment, or violence based on gender identity or expression will be given immediate and effective attention, including, but not limited to, investigating the incident, taking suitable corrective action, and providing employees and staff with appropriate resources.

### **2.1.6 Emergency College Closing**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 25, 2023*

The president of the college, or his/her designee, may close the college or cancel classes at any location of the college because of hazardous or emergency situations — such as snow, power failure, or other events which may be detrimental to the health, safety, or well-being of the students and the employees as it relates to their work. Remote work options may be implemented when feasible at the discretion of the president or his/her designee. If a conflict exists between this policy and the specific terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, then the terms of the collective bargaining agreement shall apply. The president is authorized by the board of trustees to create a procedure to carry out this policy.

### 2.1.7 Recruitment and Hiring

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 24, 2010*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 26, 2010*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The college will recruit, employ, and develop the highest caliber staff possible with appropriate concern for:

- The qualifications for the position, based upon the education and experience specifications as provided in the position description; and organizational fit as determined through the interview process.
- Educational programs, activities and employment practices prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, gender identity or expression, veteran status, union membership or any other classification protected by state or federal law or the proper exercise by an Association member of their rights guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Public Employer Relations Act Number 195.
- Applicants who are relatives of college employees or non-relatives living within the same household will be considered solely on the basis of their own merit. There will be no discrimination against the hiring of relatives, so long as no immediate relative is directly responsible for the decision to hire, supervise, evaluate, or make salary recommendations for the other. Employees are required to disclose their knowledge of the fact that a relative is being considered for a position with the college. For purposes of administration of this policy, "immediate relative" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, stepchild, mother, father, brother or sister; "relative" means an immediate relative, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, cousin, nephew, niece, stepmother or stepfather.

### **2.1.8 Pre-Employment Clearance Requirements**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 5, 2007 and effective January 1, 2008*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 25, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

As a condition of employment at the College, all new employees are required to provide, at their own expense, a current PA Criminal Record Check, a PA Child Abuse History Clearance, and a FBI Federal Criminal History Record Clearance directly to the Human Resources Department prior to a start date being determined. Failure to provide all of these required clearances in a timely manner may result in the employment offer being rescinded.

### **2.1.9 Background Checks and Clearances for Coordinator, Director, Executive Director, Dean and Vice President New Hires**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 23, 2007*

*Policy effective February 4, 2008*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 27, 2014*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

As a condition of employment, all newly hired coordinators, directors, executive directors, deans and vice presidents of the college are required to undergo National Criminal Database Search and Drug Screen Test at the college's expense. In addition, if the college deems it appropriate for the position, the candidate's work history and all other information on the candidate's resume will be submitted for verification to a third party organization at the college's expense.

These background checks and clearances are in addition to the PA Criminal Record Check, PA Child Abuse History and FBI Background Check Clearances required for all new employees prior to a start date being determined.



### **2.1.10 Dual Employment**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

Dual employment occurs when an employee holds two (2) or more paid positions (primary and secondary) within Westmoreland County Community College (College). This practice is permitted provided the procedures set forth in this policy are followed.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that employees work their designated hours and are paid correctly for a secondary position within the College and that one payroll system tracks and documents all work by College employees.

Implementation and compliance of this policy is the responsibilities of the administrators and administrative staff and the Payroll and Human Resources Departments.

College employees may have only one active payroll record. The primary job is the position with the greatest Full Time Equivalent (FTE) hours. The primary department must maintain the active payroll record. They are responsible for tracking all hours worked at all entities and ensuring payment for all regular and overtime hours worked.

#### **Employee Time Reporting Process**

For employees whose primary and secondary job(s) are within the College the primary department is to handle all time reporting. Employees are responsible for ensuring that all time worked is reported to the primary department/division supervisor within the applicable deadline. Employees must receive signed approval from the secondary department supervisor for all time worked in the secondary job(s) before submitting the time record to the primary department/division.

Employees will give their primary department/division a completed time card/sheet each week with the hours worked each day in the secondary job(s). If the secondary job is a teaching assignment the employee must have their primary supervisor approve of the teaching assignment as well as give their primary supervisor a copy of their signed contract. The time card/sheet should be signed by the employee and by the supervisor of the department/division for the secondary job(s). This will ensure that all hours worked will be totaled and any overtime will be paid at the appropriate rate for non-exempt employees. These payments will be processed via the Payroll Department.

#### **Overtime for Employees in Non-Exempt Positions**

Employees in positions classified as non-exempt and who meet the conditions of dual employment will receive overtime pay for all time worked over 40 hours in a work week or 7.5 hours within one day where applicable. All hours worked in all jobs, in all entities, apply toward the calculation of overtime. The overtime rate calculation will take into account multiple rates of pay, as applicable.

Overtime is paid when a non-exempt employee works more than 40 hours or 7.5 hours within one day where applicable. The overtime expense of time-and-a-half pay is paid by the President's/ Vice Presidents' department where the employee's primary job is charged. Overtime is based on a blended

## Employee Policies

weighted average of the hourly rate for the primary and secondary jobs. Note that exempt employees receive straight time pay and do not receive time-and-a-half pay.

The employee submits a time card (signed by the employee and the supervisor) for the secondary job(s) to their primary supervisor. The hours and times worked each day must be recorded on the time sheet. The primary employer processes the pay through the College payroll and payroll will charge the cost back to the secondary employer.

### Time Off

Employees may receive pay from two sources for the same time period. Therefore, employees may use eligible accrued paid time off, vacation or personal from their primary job to work in their secondary job(s), and vice versa.

### Supervisor Approval

Because of the financial and operational implications of employees holding a secondary job(s) within the College, the approval of both the primary department supervisor and the secondary department supervisor is required.

### Human Resources Compensation Office Approval

Holding dual employment within the college is not allowed without prior approval from the Human Resources Department.

### Outside Employment on Personal Time

Paid outside employment will be limited to the employee's own time, defined as evenings, weekends or time outside of their regular scheduled work hours, holidays and vacation, etc... Exceptions to this regulation shall be made only upon written approval of the direct supervisor and the Director/Human Resources. Activities in pursuit of outside employment shall not interfere with employee's duties at the college. The primary obligation of the college employees is owed to the College. The use of the College name in soliciting outside employment is prohibited. No outside employment is permitted that violates college policy on ethical duties or otherwise leads to the perception or actuality that any employee or his/her family has or will gain personally from influencing the College's decision on any matter.

### 2.1.11 Employment Status

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 13, 2023*

Employment status at the college is defined as follows:

- Regular Full-Time — An employee who regularly works a 37.5- or 40-hour work week on a fiscal-year or academic-year basis. For teaching faculty, the minimum ECH as assigned by the college.
- Regular Part-Time — An employee who is normally scheduled to work a maximum of 19 hours per week; however, not to exceed 950 hours in a fiscal year.
- Casual — An employee who normally works a maximum of 10 hours per week; however, is not to exceed 450 hours in a fiscal year. All adjunct faculty are classified as casual employees,
- Temporary Full-Time — An employee who regularly works a 37.5- or 40-hour work week to fill a position for a period not less than six (6) months. For teaching faculty positions, an assignment not exceeding two (2) consecutive semesters.
- Temporary Part-Time — An employee who is normally scheduled to work up to a maximum of 30 hours per week for a period not to exceed six (6) months. In no event shall a temporary part-time employee exceed 950 hours in a fiscal year.
- Temporary Casual — An employee who is normally scheduled to work up to a maximum of 30 hours per week for a period not to exceed six (6) months. In no event shall a temporary casual employee exceed 450 hours in a fiscal year.

### **2.1.12 Equal Employment Opportunity**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 24, 2010*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 29, 2023*

Westmoreland County Community College does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, gender identity or expression, veteran status, union membership, or any classification protected by state or federal law. This policy is applicable to all employment activity, all human resources matters inherent in the employer/employee relationship, and all educational programs.

All employment applications are welcome and hiring decisions are based upon qualifications, skills, ability, and organizational fit. All employment practices and educational programs are guided by applicable labor agreements and federal/state statutes.

### **2.1.13 Personnel Records**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 24, 2024*

The college shall maintain one (1) official personnel file in the Human Resources Department for each employee. Personnel files shall be maintained in a confidential manner. A supervisor or administrator who has a legitimate business reason may request to review an employee's personnel file and must receive approval from the Human Resources Department to do so. Employees may request to view their personnel file in accordance with the Pennsylvania Personnel File Inspection Act (PFA). An employee requesting to view their personnel file may do so by contacting the Human Resources Department. The Human Resource Department will keep a record of all requests to review personnel files, and employees will be required to review this policy and sign an acknowledgement prior to reviewing their file.

Employees shall have the right to write responses to materials contained in their official personnel file as they deem necessary. Such responses shall not be written on the personnel file document but on a separate piece of paper which will be placed in the personnel file. Although the employee may make notes of what is contained in their personnel files, they shall have no right to copy or remove any material from the file. An employee shall have supervised access to their personnel file during regular working hours, provided there shall be no interference with the normal routine of the Human Resources office. Under no circumstances shall personnel files be removed from the supervision of the Human Resources Department. Employees may request a review of their personnel file once per year or more often if reasonable cause is shown.

Personnel files shall contain those employment records defined by the PFA. Personnel files shall not include records of an employee relating to the investigation of a possible criminal offense, letters of reference, documents which are being developed or prepared for use in civil, criminal or grievance procedures, medical records or materials which are used by the employer to plan for future operations or information available to the employee under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

### **2.1.14 Probationary Status**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 25, 2023*

All new full-time and part-time staff other than those with faculty status are subject to a 60 workday probationary period. Employee performance will be evaluated at 45 workday intervals to determine if the employee is satisfactorily fulfilling the requirements of his/her position. Upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period, the employee shall become a full-time or regular part-time employee. If a conflict exists between this policy and the specific terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, then the terms of the collective bargaining agreement shall apply.

## 2.2 Employee Responsibilities and Conduct

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### 2.2.1 Conflict of Interest/Ethics

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 24, 2008*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

#### I. Protecting the Interest of the College

All employees must always act in the best interest of the college regarding the college's business matters, educational matters, and when communicating or partnering with customers, suppliers, contractors and competitors.

All employees should avoid any situation that is a direct or perceived conflict between their personal interests and the interest of the college. Employees dealing with customers, suppliers, contractors, competitors or any person doing or seeking to do business with the college are to act in the best interests of the college with regard to all aspects of their job responsibilities, and to the exclusion of consideration of personal preference or advantage. Employees are required to notify their immediate supervisor and the Director of Human Resources in writing of any prospective situation which may involve a conflict of interest. This includes:

- a. Ownership by an employee or to the employee's knowledge, by a member of the employee's family, of a significant financial interest in any outside enterprise which does or seeks to do business with or is a competitor of the college.
- b. Serving as a director, officer, partner, consultant of or in a managerial position with, or employment in a technical capacity by, an outside enterprise, which does, or it is seeking to do, business with or is a competitor of the college.
- c. Acting as a broker, finder, go-between or otherwise for the benefit of a third party in transactions involving or potentially involving the college or its interests; and
- d. Any other arrangement or circumstance, including family or other personal relationships which might dissuade the employee from acting in the best interests of the college.
- e. Violations of the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act (the "Ethic Act") published at 65 P.a.CS. § 1101, et.seq.

When as required by the policy, an employee discloses prospective situation, which may involve a conflict of interest, the administration shall review the potential conflict. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for the administration to review the matter in conjunction with legal and internal auditing. Approval or disapproval of the situation under review should be documented. While the conflict is being resolved, the employee involved may be assigned new or different duties than those giving rise to the conflict. Each actual or potential conflict of interest must be reported promptly, i.e., as soon as the conflict arises or is discovered.

If a conflict of interest is considered to be unacceptable, the administration should promptly resolve the matter.

## Employee Policies

If Administration determines that the situation is not a conflict of interest, they will notify the employee of the decision in writing. In questions of conflicts of interest, the term 'family' should be interpreted broadly.

One consideration when evaluating potential conflicts of interest is whether the employee's job responsibilities for the college, or those of their subordinates, require making decisions that could be influenced by the interest reported. Other considerations include, but are not limited to, whether or not:

- The outside interest does business or competes with the employee's business, function or site.
- The employee has an active, managerial or decision-making role in the outside interest.
- The employee has access to college information potentially useful to the outside interest.
- The employee or the employee's family members will profit financially from the transaction.
- The situation is governed by the Ethics Act.

In addition to the above, the employees associated with either Westmoreland County Community College Professional Association (WCCCPA) and the Educational Support Professional Association (ESPA) must comply with the "Code of Ethics of the Education Profession," published by the PSEA.

### **II. Gifts, Favors, Loans, Gratuities or Rewards**

No employee shall solicit or accept for personal use, any gift, favor, loan, gratuity, reward, promise of future employment or any other thing of monetary value that might influence or appear to influence the judgment or conduct of the employee in relation to college business.

### **III. Political Endorsements**

The college makes no political endorsements. Employees of the college must, ensure they do not make political endorsements in the name of the college or under the guise of their role with the college. Employees are not permitted to use the college's letterhead, logo or name in connection with politically-related correspondence, or in connection with any other matter in which they are speaking as a private citizen. Employees may also not actively solicit support of any political candidates or any referendum matter during working hours.

### **IV. Prestige of Office for Personal Gain**

Employees may not intentionally use the prestige of their office for their own private gain or that of another.

### **V. Specifications and Bids**

Employees who are involved or assist in procurement specifications may not be involved in bidding or assisting a bidder in that procurement.

## 2.2.2 Internet / E-mail Usage Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 28, 2004*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 24, 2024*

### Purpose of the Internet and E-mail Policy

This Internet and E-mail Policy is designed to help formalize standards for how all Westmoreland County Community College employees connect to and communicate with the college and with the outside world through use of the college's provided Internet, e-mail, and other services. While the Internet provides access to a wealth of valuable information and facilitates communication, it also opens the potential for abuse and unauthorized access to college resources. Internet access and e-mail are valuable and costly college-provided resources and must be used only for legitimate business. Irresponsible use reduces the availability for critical business operations, compromises security and network/data integrity, and leaves the college open to potentially damaging litigation. It is incumbent on each individual to utilize the tools provided judiciously and for the purpose of conducting business on behalf of the college. As such, all correspondence and activities should represent the college in the best possible manner, professionally and with integrity. The college may restrict the use of its computer and network services in response to complainants presenting evidence of violations of college policies, and local, state, or federal laws. Specifically, the college reserves the right to limit access or disclose all materials on college-owned networks and systems without prior consent.

### Tracking Internet Usage

The college tracks all Internet transactions by employees. The purpose is to enable the college to manage its Internet and e-mail resources in a cost-effective and efficient manner and to plan more efficiently for future technology expansion. The college reserves the right to review any content for any reason without the prior consent of the employee, as the college retains all rights to and ownership of the assets and information contained within the institution unless prior arrangement for intellectual property has been agreed to, in writing, by all concerned. The current intention is to monitor content randomly, unless there is reason to do otherwise. The college will also monitor the existence of the traffic being generated, much like a telephone bill tracks the calls made, the numbers called, and the time of the calls. In this manner the college will be aware of how its resources are being used, where they are needed, where new capacity is required, and other infrastructure management issues. Additionally, because of the vulnerability to litigation over inappropriate conduct in the workplace environment, it is the college's responsibility to ensure college resources do not support inappropriate activities. Employees should have no expectation of privacy when using the college Internet/e-mail.

### Internet and E-mail Usage Guidelines

To ensure all employees understand their responsibilities, the following guidelines are established for using college e-mail and Internet access. Any improper use of the Internet or of e-mail jeopardizes the college's legal standing and will not be tolerated.

## Employee Policies

### *Acceptable uses of college e-mail and Internet access*

The college provides Internet and e-mail access for institutional usage. Every employee member has the responsibility to maintain and enhance the college's public image and to use college provided e-mail and access to the Internet in a manner that reflects well on the college. The college recognizes there will be occasional personal use on lunch breaks and during nonworking hours, but this shall not be excessive or unreasonable.

### *Unacceptable uses of college e-mail and Internet access*

The college e-mail and Internet access may not be used for transmitting, retrieving, or storage of any communications of a discriminatory or harassing nature or materials that are obscene or "X-rated," or which a reasonable person may find to be obscene or offensive. Harassment of any kind is prohibited. No messages with derogatory or inflammatory remarks about an individual's race, age, disability, religion, national origin, physical attributes, or sexual preference shall be transmitted. No excessively abusive, profane, or offensive language is to be transmitted through the college's e-mail or Internet system. Electronic media also may not be used for any purpose that is illegal, against college policy, or contrary to the college's best interests. Solicitation of non-college business or any use of the college's e-mail or Internet for personal gain is prohibited. Other unacceptable uses of college-provided system/network services include causing congestion on the servers by broadcasting inappropriate messages to lists or individuals, or excessive use of the storage space. Employees should never share their login and passwords with others; to do so puts the employee at risk. The items above are intended to be examples of unacceptable usage of these services; however, they are not intended to be inclusive of all unacceptable uses.

### *Communications*

Each employee is responsible for all content of any form including text, audio, video, or images that he/ she places or sends over the college's e-mail and Internet system. No e-mail or other electronic communications may be sent that hides the identity of the sender or represents the sender as someone else or someone from another college. All messages communicated on the college's e-mail and Internet system should contain the employee's name.

Any messages or information sent by an employee to another individual via an electronic network (e.g., bulletin board, online service, or Internet) are statements that reflect on the college. While some users include personal "disclaimers" in electronic messages, there is still a connection to the college, and the statements may legally be tied to the college. Therefore, the college requires that all communications sent by employees via the college's e-mail and Internet system comply with all college policies and do not disclose any confidential or proprietary information. Employees are responsible for seeing that the services are used in an effective, ethical and lawful manner.

### **Software**

To prevent computer viruses from being transmitted through the college's e-mail and Internet system, downloading of any unauthorized software is prohibited. All software downloaded must be registered to the college and downloaded by an authorized staff member. Employees should contact the director/ Information Technology, if they have any questions.

## Employee Policies

### *Copyright issues*

Employees on the college's e-mail and Internet system may not transmit copyrighted materials belonging to entities other than the college. Note that non-adherence to this policy puts the college in serious legal jeopardy, opening up the college to significant lawsuits and public embarrassment. All employees obtaining access to other companies' or individuals' materials must respect all copyrights and may not copy, retrieve, modify, or forward copyrighted materials except with permission. If an employee has questions about any legal issues, he/she should speak with his/her supervisor or the director of Human Resources before proceeding.

### *Security*

The college routinely monitors usage patterns in its e-mail and Internet communications. Reasons for monitoring are many, including cost analysis, security, bandwidth allocation, and the general management of the college's gateway to the Internet. All messages created, sent, or retrieved over the college's e-mail and Internet are the property of the college and should be considered public information.

The college reserves the right to access and monitor the content of all messages and files on the college's e-mail and Internet system at any time with or without notice. Employees should not assume electronic communications are totally private and should transmit highly confidential data in other ways. E-mail messages regarding sensitive matters should warn that such communications are not intended to be secure or confidential.

### *Violations*

If necessary, the college reserves the right to advise appropriate legal officials of any illegal violations.

## **Internet and E-mail Ethics Code**

### *Use of Authorized Resources*

Employees of the college must use those computing services and accounts provided and authorized for their use by the college. Each user is responsible for all activities which take place associated with the use of his/her account. Resources may be used only for their authorized purpose, in a manner consistent with the mission of the college. If an employee feels that his/her account has been compromised, he/she needs to change his/her password immediately and notify the director of Human Resources.

### *Maintenance and Resources Integrity*

Employees may not authorize others to use the accounts, systems, services, or resources which the employee has been authorized to access and/or use. It is expected that all authorized users will take the necessary precautions to prevent unauthorized access which includes regular password maintenance, file protection, disconnect from accounts when not in use, etc. Attempts to compromise the security of any college system or service or to access any unauthorized data on such system or service are prohibited.

## Employee Policies

### *Complainant Procedure*

Employees who believe a violation to this policy has occurred should contact the director of Human Resources

Please see **Appendix 2-A** for the Internet / E-mail Usage Agreement.

### 2.2.3 Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 28, 2013*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

#### Purpose:

- To ensure the safety of all minor children while participating in any educational program or activity at Westmoreland County Community College.
- To ensure compliance with the state statutory provision providing similar protections to minor children (23 PA CSA Sec. 6311 (d)) through a requirement of mandatory reporting by any employee of this college in the event of any and all suspected witnessed child abuse, in the course of performing one's professional duties on behalf of the college.

It is the requirement of Westmoreland County Community College that all employees of the college, employed in any capacity at the college, directly report any case of suspected, actual, or directly witnessed child abuse to your immediate supervisor. The immediate supervisor, in conjunction with the school's president or designee shall respond to a report of suspected child abuse consistent with the reporting requirements of the Child Abuse Protective Services Act. The college president shall inform the board of trustees when a mandatory report of suspected child abuse has been submitted.

The purpose of this policy is to protect abused or thought to be abused children from further abuse. It is ultimately the responsibility of supervisors, directors, managers and vice-presidents of the college, once informed of any suspected or actual child abuse, to ensure that reporting to the proper state authority has, in fact, occurred.

Notwithstanding the reporting requirements listed above, reports of the suspected or actual child abuse may be made immediately by telephone to ChildLine (800) 932-0313 by any individual.

#### Definitions

##### Minor

- Any child under the age of 18.

##### Child Abuse

- The term child abuse shall mean intentionally, knowingly or recklessly doing any of the following:
  - Causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
  - Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act.
  - Causing or substantially contributing to a serious mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failure to act.
  - Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act.
  - Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.



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- Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- Causing serious physical neglect of a child.
- Causing the death of the child through any act or failure to act.
- Engaging a child in a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking.
- Engaging in any other harmful act identified in the Child Protective Services Act

## 2.2.4 Resignation – All Staff

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 13, 2023*

### Contract Staff

To resign in good standing, employees are required to submit a letter of resignation requesting release from their contract formatted in accordance with the following:

- a. Letters are to be sent/addressed to the president, with copies provided to the employee's immediate supervisor and the director/Human Resources.
- b. The effected date of the resignation must be specified.
- c. Requests for release require acceptance of the college president.
- d. Requests for release must be submitted in a timely manner as follows:
  - i. Faculty, Counselors, Librarians – Thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated effective date of resignation, preferably prior to the start of the Fall or Spring Semester
  - ii. Functional Analyst, Advisors, Professionals – Thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated effective date of resignation.

### Administrators / Administrative Staff

To resign in good standing, employees are required to submit a letter of resignation requesting release from their contract formatted in accordance with the following:

- a. Letters are to be sent/addressed to the president and a copy provided to the director/Human Resources.
- b. The effective date of the resignation must be specified.
- c. Requests for release must be submitted in a timely manner as follows:
  - i. Cabinet Sixty (60) days prior to the anticipated effective date of resignation.
  - ii. Vice President Sixty (60) days prior to the anticipated effective date of resignation.
  - iii. Dean, Director, Coordinator Thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated effective date of resignation.

### Support Staff / Non-association/Other

To resign in good standing, employees are required to submit a letter of resignation formatted In accordance with the following:

- a. Letters are to be sent/addressed to the immediate supervisor, and a copy provided to the director / Human Resources.
- b. The effective date of the resignation must be specified.
- c. Resignations notice should be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to the effective date of the resignation.

### General

- a. Termination of service with the college shall be the last day worked in all cases.
- b. Unused vacation to which an employee is entitled will be paid in a lump sum concurrent with the termination date, or in the next following pay period
- c. Voluntary exit interviews will be offered with the director / Human Resources prior to the termination date

## 2.2.5 Social Media Usage

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 28, 2013*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

Westmoreland County Community College currently operates accounts on several social media websites, including but not limited to, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and Pinterest. Westmoreland County Community College's social presence is intended to provide the college community with a venue to share thoughts, ideas, and experiences through discussions, postings, photos and videos. This policy addresses the college's official presence on social media sites. In general, individual faculty or student pages are not included in this procedure; however, if an employee or student group at the college creates a page that could be affiliated with the college, the Marketing and Communications Department must be notified. The Marketing and Communications Department reserves the right to remove any posts on college-affiliated pages that are inconsistent with Westmoreland County Community College's social media policy.

### Disclaimer

The college abides by the following:

*Westmoreland County Community College reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to screen and remove any content from any source that the college deems inappropriate. This includes, but is not limited to, content that harasses, abuses, threatens, or in any other way violates the rights of others, as well as commercial content whose purpose promotes selling a product, a service, or other such practices via the Westmoreland County Community College page. Although it may screen and remove content, Westmoreland County Community College is not responsible for the content posted by others on Westmoreland County Community College social media pages. The college also reserves the right to remove posts containing any and all links or posts that are deemed to be off-topic. In addition, Westmoreland County Community College upholds the Terms of Service standards administered by each social media site utilized by the college.*

The college does not take any responsibility for pages developed by others or the content therein.

Oversight of all Westmoreland County Community College-affiliated pages is the responsibility of the Marketing and Communications Department, who will periodically review pages to ensure Westmoreland County Community College's Internet/E-mail Usage Policy is followed and that the pages are being produced in accordance with the best interests of the college.

## 2.2.6 Smoking / Tobacco and Tobacco-Related Products-Free Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – February 28, 2001*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 27, 2011*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 22, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 22, 2025*

In an effort to provide a safe and healthy working and learning environment, Westmoreland County Community College adopts the following Smoking/Tobacco and Tobacco-Related Products-Free Policy:

### I. **Rationale:**

Westmoreland County Community College has a responsibility to its students, staff, faculty and visitors to provide a safe and healthy environment. Research shows that smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke are significant health hazards for both smokers and non-smokers. Improperly discarded cigarette butts and other smoking and tobacco product residue are environmental pollutants that pose dangers to humans and wildlife. In addition to these hazards, smoking and discarded cigarettes may create fire hazards and increased cleaning, maintenance, and repair costs; exacerbate student and employee illness resulting in lost class and work time; decreased productivity; and increased healthcare and insurance costs. In light of the above findings, Westmoreland County Community College will become entirely smoke (smoking) and tobacco-free.

### II. **Definition:**

- A. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, hookah, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including marijuana, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Article.
- B. "Tobacco and Tobacco-Related Products" means any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, blunts, clove cigarettes, or any other preparation of tobacco; and any product or formulations of matter containing biologically active amounts of nicotine that is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, or otherwise distributed with the expectation that the product or matter will be introduced into the human body by inhalation, ingestion, or absorption; but does not include any cessation product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in treating nicotine or tobacco dependence.
- C. "Electronic Smoking Device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that is used by a person in any manner for inhaling vape or aerosol from the product. The term includes such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen, or any other product name or descriptor.

**III. Smoking and Tobacco Use Prohibited on the Westmoreland County Community College Youngwood Campus and all Education Centers**

All employees, student, visitors, and other College constituents are prohibited from using any smoking, tobacco and tobacco-related products on all college-owned and college-operated property. This includes the Youngwood location as well as all Center locations.

**IV. Promotion and Sale of Tobacco Products Prohibited on the Westmoreland County Community College Youngwood Campus and all Education Centers**

The advertising, sale, or promotional distribution of tobacco or other smoking-related products on campus is prohibited.

**V. Compliance:**

The success of this policy depends on the thoughtfulness, civility and cooperation of all members of the campus community, including visitors. Compliance is grounded in an informed and educated campus community. As with all campus policies, it is a standard and reasonable duty of all Westmoreland students, employees and visitors to comply with the provisions of this policy.

Students are subject to disciplinary actions per the Code of Student Conduct if found in violation of this policy. Employees are subject to disciplinary actions per the Discipline Policy if found in violation of this policy. Visitors who do not comply with this policy will be asked kindly to comply and, if they refuse, will be asked to leave the premises by security personnel.

**VI. Dissemination of Policy: Signage**

This policy will be disseminated by publication on the college web page(s) and included in all appropriate publications containing college policies affecting students, employees and visitors. All college building entrances and college property access points will exhibit appropriate signage informing students, employees and visitors of the existence of this policy.

### **2.2.7 Status of Emeritus**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 29, 2004*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2023*

The status of emeritus may be conferred upon a retired full-time administrator, faculty or staff member of Westmoreland County Community College who has met all requirements as a reward for meritorious service. The appointment to emeritus status gives the college opportunity to further recognize retirees for their dedication and valued service to the college.

Retired administrators, faculty and staff members may be granted emeritus status provided they meet the following requirements:

1. The retiree must be recommended by any regular part-time or full-time employee to the president of the college for consideration for emeritus status, as long as there is no conflict of interest (such as family relations)
2. The retiree must have been employed full-time with the college for a minimum of twenty-five years.
3. The retiree must have records of distinguished service while employed at the college.
4. The retiree must have retired in good standing from the college.
5. The retiree must be approved by a majority of the full board of trustees to be granted emeritus status.

Emeritus Status grants the following rights and privileges:

1. Receipt of emeritus title
2. Recognition of emeritus status in the college catalog
3. Recognition of emeritus status in the commencement program
4. Invitation to march at commencement
5. Standing invitation to attend college-sponsored events
6. Provided with college photo ID card which gives access to college computer labs, library and fitness facilities when available

## 2.2.8 Substance Abuse

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 26, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

### Purpose

Employees are Westmoreland County Community College's most valuable resource and, for that reason, their safety and health are of paramount concern. Westmoreland County Community College maintains a strong commitment to its employees to provide a safe, drug-free, alcohol-free workplace and to establish programs promoting high standards of safety and health. Consistent with the spirit and intent of this commitment, Westmoreland County Community College expects employees to report for work in proper condition to perform their duties. The intent of this policy is to prevent the use and the presence of drugs and alcohol in the working environment. Westmoreland County Community College recognizes that substance abuse which leads to chemical dependency (alcoholism and drug addiction) is an illness for which there is effective treatment and rehabilitation. Within the parameters set forth below, employees and their families will be encouraged to utilize rehabilitation programs available through the EAP Program and their health insurance policies to eliminate alcohol and drug-related problems.

### Scope

All employees of Westmoreland County Community College from the administration down are covered by these guidelines. Employees, as a condition of employment, are required to abide by these guidelines. Employees shall acknowledge that they have received and read this document and agree to abide by its terms by signing a copy of the Acknowledgment and Release Form.

### Definitions.

- a. Drugs and Drug Usage refer to: i) the use of illegal drugs or other controlled substances including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, PCP, LSD, heroin, crystal methamphetamine and other narcotics; ii) the abuse of any prescription or nonprescription drugs that may alter mood or consciousness, lead to abnormal behavior, or interfere with acceptable performance, or attendance; iii) improper use or abuse of a chemical or solvent which alters mood or consciousness, e.g., airplane glue, which may be inhaled; or iv) any substance listed in Schedule 1 through 5 of 21 U.S.C. '812.
- b. Westmoreland County Community College Premises are all areas in which the college operates including, but not limited to, its property, Westmoreland County Community College owned or leased equipment or vehicles, privately-owned vehicles entering or parking on college property or in use on the property, lockers, desks, equipment, work space, and storage facilities.
- c. Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of a sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of federal or state criminal drug statutes.
- d. Criminal Drug Statute means a criminal statute involving manufacturing, distribution, dispensation, use or possession of any illegal drug or controlled substance.
- e. Under the Influence means a tested blood alcohol content of .03 or greater or a positive drug test as defined by 49 CFR Part 40.



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- f. Reasonable Suspicion or Reasonably Suspected is when an employee is involved in an accident or suffers a workplace injury or where an employee is observed to be ingesting drugs or alcohol or exhibiting any number of the following symptoms: drowsiness; slurred speech; staggered walking; combative/argumentative behavior; odor of alcohol or marijuana; disoriented behavior; watery, glassy, glazed or red eyes; poor time or distance perceptions or any other behaviors normally associated with being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

### Policy Application.

- a. Discipline for Drug and Alcohol Abuse or Problems.
  - i. The sale, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, use or purchase of drugs or alcoholic beverages on Westmoreland County Community College premises or during working time is against Westmoreland County Community College policy and is cause for immediate discharge. There are only two exceptions. The first exception will apply to alcoholic beverages at Westmoreland County Community College-sponsored social functions. The second exception is for prescription drugs for which the employee has a valid prescription. However, when an employee is prescribed prescription drugs which cause adverse side effects, or which may affect the ability to perform work in a safe and productive manner, the employee should report this fact to the Director of Human Resources prior to taking the drug. Prescription drugs may not be abused and must be taken only according to the doctor's instructions.
  - ii. It is also against Westmoreland County Community College policy to report to work or to work under the influence of intoxicants such as alcohol or unprescribed drugs, as well as prescribed drugs which induce an unsafe mental or physical state. Employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, or may be required to follow the recommendations of their individual physicians or counselors. The determination of what action is appropriate in each case rests solely with Westmoreland County Community College.
- b. Investigation.
  - i. Employees reasonably suspected of possession, use, sale, distribution, dispensation, purchase, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on Westmoreland County Community College Premises or during working hours may be suspended with pay pending an investigation of the circumstances. Westmoreland County Community College will endeavor to complete its investigation within a 72-hour period. Employees who fail to cooperate in the investigation or who refuse reasonable suspicion testing or searches as outlined in this policy will be considered to have violated the policy outlined in 4.a.(1) and be subject to immediate discharge.
  - ii. To ensure that such drugs and alcohol do not enter or affect the workplace, Westmoreland County Community College may take any or all of the following steps while employees are on Westmoreland County Community College Premises or during working hours:
    - a. Westmoreland County Community College may conduct drug and/or alcohol testing on any employee reasonably suspected of being under the influence while on Westmoreland County Community College premises or during working hours or on any employee as a follow-up test as may be prescribed as a result of any last chance agreement made on behalf of the employee. Prior to providing a specimen for

- testing or submitting to a drug and alcohol test, the employee shall be required to execute a consent and release form authorizing release of the test results by the testing agency to Westmoreland County Community College.
- b. When an employee is reasonably suspected of being under the influence, Westmoreland County Community College reserves the right to carry out a search of the employee and his or her personal property and belongings including lockers, desk, bags, work areas and vehicles while on Westmoreland County Community College Premises. Such searches shall be conducted by appropriate security or law enforcement personnel.
  - iii. Westmoreland County Community College will turn over all confiscated Drugs to the proper authorities.
    - a. Conviction. All employees are required to notify the Director of Human Resources of any criminal drug statute conviction or alcohol related crime on Westmoreland County Community College premises within five days after such conviction. This rule shall not apply to any convictions outside the workplace, except in the case where such conviction prevents the employee from performing his or her job or reporting to work as scheduled. In such cases, the employee must notify the Director of Human Resources that there was an outside conviction and the reason that it would affect his or her work. Failure to give such notice may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.
    - b. Rehabilitation.
      - 1. The policy of permitting the use of rehabilitation programs as directed to the employee with an alcohol or drug abuse problem is not to be interpreted as conflicting with Westmoreland County Community College's rule on the sale, purchase, use or possession of drugs or alcohol on Westmoreland County Community College premises or during working hours. Westmoreland County Community College reserves the right to decide whether rehabilitation will be permitted in each specific case depending on the circumstances. Accordingly, any employee denied the opportunity for rehabilitation shall not use inconsistent application of the policy as an argument for lack of "just cause" in discharging such employee for violation of this policy.
      - 2. Employees who are referred to rehabilitation as the result of investigation and/or testing, and employees who voluntarily avail themselves of help for alcohol and drug problems in rehabilitation must continue to abide by the rules outlined in this policy.
      - 3. Employees enrolled in a rehabilitation program for drug and alcohol problems must cooperate with and complete the prescribed treatment program. Failure to do so will be considered a voluntary resignation.
      - 4. Employees who, after participation in a rehabilitation program to which they were referred after testing or investigation, experience a recurrence of their drug and alcohol problem are not eligible for an additional rehabilitation period.
    - c. Drug-Free Awareness Program
      - 1. Westmoreland County Community College will conduct drug-free awareness programs on a regular basis. These programs will inform employees about: i)

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the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace; ii) Westmoreland County Community College's policy of maintaining a drug- and alcohol-free workplace; iii) available drug and alcohol counseling, and rehabilitation programs; and iv) the sanctions that may be imposed for alcohol and drug abuse violations.

2. Employees are encouraged to approach their supervisor or the Director of Human Resources at any time with any questions they have about Westmoreland County Community College drug and alcohol policy as stated herein.

The Acknowledgement and Release Form can be found in **Appendix 2-B**.

## 2.2.9 Telecommunications Usage

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 28, 2004*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 27, 2024*

### Purpose of the Telecommunications Usage Policy

This policy is designed to help formalize standards for how all Westmoreland County Community College employees connect to and communicate with the college community as well as with the external community through use of the college's provided Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) System, voice-mail, and other services (e.g., cellular phones). While the system provides access to a wealth of valuable information and facilitates communication, it also opens the potential for abuse and unauthorized access to college resources. Like other services provided by the college, telecommunications services are valuable, costly and must be used only for legitimate college purposes. Inappropriate use reduces the availability for critical college operations, and leaves the college open to potentially damaging costs and litigation.

It is incumbent on each individual to utilize the tools provided judiciously and for the purpose of conducting business on behalf of the college. As such, all correspondence and activities should represent the college in the best possible manner, professionally and with integrity. The college may restrict the use of its telecommunications services in response to complainants presenting evidence of violations of college policies, local, state or federal laws. Specifically, the college reserves the right to limit access or disclose all materials on college owned/provided resources without prior consent.

### VoIP System Usage

The college tracks telephone usage as to the calls made, the numbers called, and the time of the calls. In this manner, the college will be aware of how its resources are being utilized, where they are needed, new capacity requirements, and other infrastructure management issues. The college, for training, usage monitoring, or other purposes, reserves the right to monitor any communication without prior consent. Additionally, because inappropriate usage may expose the college to litigation, it is the college's responsibility to ensure college resources do not support inappropriate activities. VoIP users should have no expectation of privacy.

### VoIP System Usage Guidelines

To ensure all faculty, staff, student employees and volunteers understand their responsibilities; the following guidelines are established for using the college VoIP System. Any improper use of these services jeopardizes the college's legal standing and will not be tolerated.

### ***Acceptable uses of college VoIP System***

The college provides VoIP services for the faculty, staff, student employees and volunteers to conduct college business. Every user has the responsibility to use the VoIP System in a manner that reflects well on the college. The college recognizes there will be occasional personal use, but personal use shall not be excessive or unreasonable.

**Unacceptable uses of college VoIP System**

- a. Using telecommunications services for any purpose which violates college policies, local, state or federal laws is prohibited
- b. Using telecommunications services for any purpose for commercial purposes or personal gain
- c. Deliberately misrepresenting someone's identity or affiliation via telecommunications
- d. Sending harassing, intimidating, abusive or offensive content to or about others e. Intercepting, disrupting, or altering communications in any manner
- e. Using someone else's identity and password.

The list of unacceptable uses of telecommunications services are meant to be examples of unacceptable uses and are not intended to be all inclusive.

**Violations**

The college reserves the right to advise appropriate legal officials of any illegal violations.

## 2.2.10 Weapons

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 28, 2004*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

Westmoreland County Community College believes an effective learning environment is one that is free of weapons that threaten students, employees, volunteers, and visitor safety. Therefore, the college has a weapons-free policy to minimize any harm or threats to students, employees, volunteers, and visitors.

1. Westmoreland County Community College strictly prohibits possession, carrying, or use of firearms, knives, explosives, or other weapons as defined by the Pennsylvania Criminal Code on college premises, including buildings, grounds, parking areas, and college-owned or leased vehicles.
2. Westmoreland County Community College prohibits all persons who enter college buildings, college property, or other recreational fields from carrying a weapon with the following exceptions:
  - Authorized law enforcement officers acting within the scope of their duties are exempt from this policy. However, they are required to notify college authorities of their presence and purpose on campus.
  - Students in a training class who must bring the weapon to class to be examined, including but not limited to: culinary arts students, municipal police academy cadets and lethal weapons students. This shall only occur when:
3. Westmoreland County Community College employees (except as previously noted) are also prohibited from carrying a weapon while in the course and scope of performing their job, whenever they are on college property at the time or not, and whether they are licensed to carry a handgun or not. Employees may not carry a weapon covered by this policy while performing any task on the college's behalf. The only exception to this policy will be persons who have been given written consent by the college to carry a weapon while performing specific tasks on the college's behalf. The policy also prohibits weapons at any college sponsored functions such as parties, picnics, sporting events, etc

College buildings and grounds will be appropriately posted to advise of this weapons prohibition policy. Carrying a weapon onto college property in violation of this policy will be considered an act of criminal trespass and will be grounds for immediate removal from the college property and may result in prosecution.

Employees who become aware of any person violating this policy should immediately report the violation to the college's Safety Officer.

### 2.2.11 Whistleblower

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 12, 2012*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

The purpose of this policy is to deter and detect fraud by establishing a confidential channel of communication by which employees can report activity that they reasonably consider to be illegal, dishonest or in violation of college policies.

A whistleblower as defined for purposes of this policy is an employee of Westmoreland County Community College who reports an activity that he or she reasonably considers to be illegal, dishonest or in violation of college policies to one or more of the parties specified in this policy. The whistleblower is not responsible for investigating the reported activity or for determining fault or corrective measures; appropriate management officials are charged with these responsibilities.

If an employee has knowledge of or a concern about what might be considered illegal, dishonest or an activity in violation of college policies, the employee is to contact his or her immediate supervisor, or the director/Human Resources. The employee must exercise sound judgment to avoid baseless allegations. An employee who files a report in bad faith or intentionally files a false report of wrongdoing will be subject to discipline.

Whistleblower protections are provided in two important areas: confidentiality and retaliation. Insofar as possible, the confidentiality of the whistleblower will be maintained. However, a whistleblower's identity may have to be disclosed to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law and to provide accused individuals their legal rights of defense. The college will not retaliate against a whistleblower acting in good faith. Any whistleblower who believes he or she is being retaliated against must contact the director/Human Resources immediately. The right of a whistleblower for protection against retaliation does not include immunity for any personal wrongdoing that is alleged, investigated and verified.

#### Procedures

Options for reporting suspected illegal or dishonest activity or an activity in violation of college policies are available. Employees wishing to anonymously report suspicious activity can do so via the Whistleblower web site at <https://westmoreland.edu/about/policies/whistleblower.html>. Employees may also report suspected illegal or dishonest activity or their supervisor or the director/Human Resources.

All reports of suspected or illegal or dishonest activities will be promptly forwarded to the president or his/her designee, who is responsible for coordinating the investigation and any required corrective actions. Employees with any questions regarding this policy should contact the director/Human Resources.

## 2.2.12 Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August, 26, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 28, 2024*

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE** **Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure** **Effective for Complaints on or after August 1, 2024**

#### **Introduction**

On April 19, 2024, the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights issued new Title IX regulations (DOE Regulations) which direct how educational institutions must address incidents of sexual assault and harassment involving both students and employees. These most recent regulations have significantly changed schools' obligations with regard to investigating and adjudicating incidents of sexual assault and harassment involving their students and employees. Consequently, changes are now required to the Westmoreland County Community College (College) current Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure (Current Policy). This new policy is intended to replace in its entirety the Current Policy at the College. The intent of this policy is to comply with DOE Regulations. Any conflict in terms of this policy and DOE Regulations are to be resolved in favor of the DOE Regulations.

#### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Westmoreland County Community College does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, gender identity or expression, veteran status, union membership or any classification protected by state or federal law or the proper exercise by an Association member of their rights guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Public Employer Relations Act Number 195.

#### **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The College, on an annual basis, sends notice of nondiscrimination to all students, bargaining units, and employees. The College notifies applicants for admission and employment upon application. The following is an example of the College's notification.

- The College does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment.
- Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the College's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.
- The College's Title IX Coordinator is the Vice President Enrollment Management for students and the Executive Director/Human Resources for staff.



## Employee Policies

- The College's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located at <https://westmoreland.edu/about/policies/nondiscrimination.html>
- To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to <https://westmoreland.edu/about/policies/equal-opportunity-laws.html>

### **Title IX- Complaints of Sex Discrimination- Grievance Policy**

The College has adopted grievance procedures that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints made by students, employees, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in its education programs or activities, or by the Title IX Coordinator, alleging any action that would be prohibited by Title IX or the DOE Regulations.

### **Title IX- Complaints of Sex Discrimination – Grievance Procedure**

#### **Definitions**

*Complainant* means:

- (1) A student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or the DOE Regulations; or
- (2) A person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or the DOE Regulations and who was participating or attempting to participate in the recipient's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

*Complaint* means an oral or written request to the recipient that objectively can be understood as a request for the recipient to investigate and make a determination about alleged discrimination under Title IX or the DOE Regulations.

*Disciplinary sanctions* means consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination under Title IX that the respondent violated the recipient's prohibition on sex discrimination.

*Party* means a complainant or respondent.

*Relevant* means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation as part of these grievance procedures. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

*Remedies* means measures provided, as appropriate, to a complainant or any other person the recipient identifies as having had their equal access to the recipient's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the recipient's education program or activity after a recipient determines that sex discrimination occurred.

## Employee Policies

*Respondent* means a person who is alleged to have violated the recipient's prohibition on sex discrimination.

*Retaliation* means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the recipient, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the recipient to provide aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or the DOE Regulations, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the DOE Regulations.

*Sex-based harassment* is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy or related conditions, that is:

- (1) *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the recipient to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) *Hostile environment harassment*. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
  - (i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the recipient's education program or activity;
  - (ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
  - (iii) The parties' ages, roles within the recipient's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;
  - (iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
  - (v) Other sex-based harassment in the recipient's education program or activity; or
- (3) Specific offenses.
  - (i) Sexual assault meaning an offense classified as a forcible or non-forcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
  - (ii) Dating violence meaning violence committed by a person:
    - (A) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
    - (B) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
      - (1) The length of the relationship;
      - (2) The type of relationship; and
      - (3) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;

- (iii) Domestic violence meaning felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a person who:
  - (A) Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of the recipient, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
  - (B) Is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
  - (C) Shares a child in common with the victim; or
  - (D) Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction; or
- (iv) Stalking meaning engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:
  - (A) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
  - (B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

*Supportive measures* means individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a complainant or respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent to:

- (1) Restore or preserve that party's access to the recipient's education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the recipient's educational environment; or
- (2) Provide support during the recipient's grievance procedures or during an informal resolution process.

## Complaints

The following people have a right to make a complaint of sex-based harassment, requesting that the College investigate and make a determination about alleged sex-based harassment under Title IX:

- A complainant which includes"
  - A student or employee of the College who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX; or
  - A person other than a student or employee of the College who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX at time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate in the College's education program or activity.
- A parent, guardian, or other authorized legal representative with the legal authority to act on behalf of the complainant.
- The College's Title IX Coordinator
  - When a Title IX Coordinator is notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX (and in the absence of a complaint or the withdrawal of any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process), the Title IX Coordinator must determine whether to initiate a complaint of sex discrimination as required under Title IX.

## Employee Policies

The College may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, when allegations of sex discrimination arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one complainant or more than one respondent is involved, references below to include the plural are applicable.

The College is not permitted to consolidate complaints if consolidation would violate FERPA. Consolidation would not violate FERPA when a postsecondary institution obtains prior written consent from eligible students to the disclosure of their education records.

### **General Provisions**

The College requires that any Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision maker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. As long as there is no conflict of interest or bias, a decision maker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or investigator.

The College presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.

The College has established the following timeframes for the major stages of the grievance procedures:

- Evaluation as to whether to dismiss or investigate the complaint: ten (10) business days
- Investigation, if necessary, will be completed within sixty (60) days with a determination to follow within 10 (ten) business days:
- Appeals from a dismissal or determination must be filed within twenty (20) days.

The College will endeavor to make a determination of all complaints within ninety (90) days of the date of filing.

The College has also established the following process that allows for the reasonable extension of time frames on a case-by-case basis for good cause with written notice of any extension to the parties that includes the reason for the delay. All written notification must be sent to the Title IX Coordinator via email. Additionally, if the Title IX Coordinator or Title IX investigator requests a delay, all correspondence will be sent via the College's email.

The College will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses during its grievance procedures. These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including by speaking to witnesses; consult with their family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise prepare for or participate in the grievance procedures. The parties cannot engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

The College will objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be accessed or considered, except by the College to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by federal or state law or evidence provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
- A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the College obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures; and
- Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based harassment. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

### **Written Notice of Allegations:**

Upon initiation of these Title IX grievance procedures, the College will notify the parties in writing of the following with sufficient time for the parties to prepare a response before any initial interview:

- The College's Title IX grievance procedures and any informal resolution process;
- Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute sex-based harassment, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s);
- Retaliation is prohibited;
- The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the grievance procedures. Prior to such a determination, the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;
- The parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
- The parties are entitled to an investigative report that accurately summarizes this evidence. Both parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not impermissible evidence upon the request of any party; and
- The College's Standards of Student Conduct and Employee Conduct and Work Rules Policies prohibit knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during grievance procedures [include the link to these policies].

If, in the course of an investigation, the College decides to investigate additional allegations of sex-based harassment by the respondent toward a complainant/s that are not included in the written notice

or that are included in a consolidated complaint, it will provide written notice of the additional allegations to the parties.

### **Dismissal of a Complaint**

The College may dismiss a complaint if:

- The College is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- The respondent is not participating in Westmoreland's education program or activity and is not employed by the College;
- The College obtains the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing of any or all of the allegations, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the College determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX even if proven; or
- The College determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX. Before dismissing the complaint, the College will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the College will promptly notify the complainant in writing of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the College will notify the parties simultaneously in writing.

The College will notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed on the bases outlined in the Appeals section. If dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the College will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed on the same bases. If a dismissal is appealed, the College will follow the procedures outlined in the Appeals section.

When a complaint is dismissed, the College will at minimum:

- Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate
- If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and
- Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the College's education program or activity.

### **Investigation**

The College will provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.

The burden is on the College- not on the parties-to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether sex discrimination occurred.

The College will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

The College will provide the parties with the same opportunities to be accompanied to any meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.

- The College will not limit the choice or presence of the advisor for the complainant or respondent in any meeting or proceeding.
- The College may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in these grievance procedures, as long as the restrictions apply equally to the parties.

The College will provide the parties with the same opportunities, if any, to have people other than the advisor of the parties' choice present during any meeting or proceeding.

The College will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible.

The College will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance.

The College will provide each party and the party's advisor, if any, with an equal opportunity to access the evidence that is relevant to the allegations of sex-based harassment and not otherwise impermissible, in the following manner:

- The College will provide an equal opportunity to access the same written investigative report that accurately summarizes the evidence. All parties will be provided an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon request.
- The College will provide a reasonable opportunity to review and respond to the investigative report.
- The College will take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties and their advisors' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the sex-based harassment grievance procedures.

### **Questioning the Parties and Witnesses**

Westmoreland will provide a process that enables the decision maker to question parties and witnesses to adequately assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex-based harassment.

The College will not conduct live hearings. The College's process for proposing and asking relevant and not otherwise impermissible questions and follow-up questions of parties and witnesses, including questions challenging credibility, will:

- Allow the investigator or decision maker to ask such questions during individual meetings with a party or witness
- Allow each party to propose such questions that the party wants asked of any party or witness and have those questions asked by the investigator or decision maker during one or more individual meetings, including follow-up meetings, with a party or witness, subject to the procedures for evaluating and limiting questions discussed below; and
- Provide each party with an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript with enough time for the party to have a reasonable opportunity to propose follow-up questions.



*Procedures for the decision maker to evaluate the questions and limitations on questions:*

- The decision maker will determine whether a proposed question is relevant and not otherwise impermissible before the question is posed and will explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant or otherwise impermissible.
- Questions that are unclear or harassing of the party or witness being questioned will not be permitted. The decision maker will give a party an opportunity to clarify or revise a question that the decision maker determines is unclear or harassing. If the party sufficiently clarifies or revises the question, the question will be asked.

*Refusal to respond to questions and inferences based on refusal to respond to questions:*

- The decision maker may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refuses to respond to questions deemed relevant and not impermissible.
- The decision maker will not draw an inference about whether sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

### **Determination Whether Sex-Based Harassment Occurred:**

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the College will:

- Use the [preponderance of the evidence or, if applicable, clear and convincing] standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination occurred. The standard of proof requires the decision maker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decision maker is not persuaded under the applicable standard by the evidence that sex discrimination occurred, whatever the quantity of the evidence is, the decision maker will not determine that sex discrimination occurred.
- Notify the parties simultaneously in writing of the determination whether sex-based harassment occurred under Title IX including:
  - A description of the alleged sex-based harassment;
  - Information about the policies and procedures that the College used to evaluate the allegations;
  - The decision maker's evaluation of the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and determination whether sex-based harassment occurred;
  - When the decision maker finds that sex-based harassment occurred, any disciplinary sanctions Westmoreland will impose on the respondent, whether remedies other than the imposition of disciplinary sanctions will be provided by the College to the complainant, and, to the extent appropriate, other students identified by the College] to be experiencing the effects of the sex-based harassment; and
  - The College's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.
- The College will not impose discipline on a respondent for sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the Title IX grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in prohibited sex discrimination.
- If there is a determination that sex discrimination occurred, as appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator will:



## Employee Policies

- Coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the College identifies as having had equal access to its education programs or activities limited or denied by sex discrimination;
- Coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and
- Take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the College's education programs or activities.
- Comply with the Title IX grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent; and
- Not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the Title IX grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the determination whether sex discrimination occurred.

The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the College provides the parties with the written determination of the result of any appeal, or, if no party appeals, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

### Appeals

The College will offer an appeal from a dismissal or determination whether sex-based harassment occurred on the following bases:

- Procedural irregularity that would damage the outcome;
- New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the determination or dismissal was made; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome.

If a party appeals a dismissal or determination whether sex-based harassment occurred, the College will:

- Notify the parties in writing of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent;
- Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- Ensure that the decision maker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint;
- Ensure that the decision maker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations;
- Communicate to the parties in writing that the College will provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; and
- Notify the parties in writing of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

Any additional procedures or bases for appeal the College offers will be equally available to all parties.

### **Informal Resolutions, if offered**

In lieu of resolving a complaint through the College's Title IX grievance procedures, the parties may instead elect to participate in an informal resolution process. The College will inform the parties in writing of any informal resolution process it offers and determines is appropriate, if any. The College will not offer informal resolution to resolve a complaint when such a process would conflict with federal, state, or local law. Before the initiation of an informal resolution process, the College will explain in writing to the parties:

- The allegations;
- The requirements of the informal resolution process;
- That any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and initiate or resume grievance procedures at any time before agreeing to a resolution;
- That if the parties agree to a resolution at the end of the informal resolution process, they cannot initiate or resume grievance procedures arising from the same allegations;
- The potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including notice that an informal resolution agreement is binding only on the parties; and
- What information the College will maintain and whether and how the College could disclose such information for use in Title IX grievance procedures if such procedures are initiated or resumed.

### **Supportive Measures**

The College will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person's access to the College's education programs or activities or provide support during the College's Title IX grievance procedures or during the informal resolution process. For complaints of sex-based harassment, these supportive measures may include crisis counseling and referrals to community resources.

### **Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies**

Following a determination that sex-based harassment occurred, the College may impose disciplinary sanctions, which may include but are not limited to those noted in the Standards of Student Conduct or the College Employee Conduct and Work Rules Policy.

## Employee Policies

### 2.2.13 Records Retention Policy Schedule

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 25, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 24, 2024*

Please refer to **Appendix 2-C** for the Records Retention Policy Schedule

## **2.2.14 Unlawful Harassment**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

### **Definition of Unlawful Harassment**

The college is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment for all members of the college community. To that end, the unlawful harassment of employees, students and/or third parties working at or visiting the college is expressly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Unlawful harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, written, physical or graphic, that is based upon an individual's race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status or other classification protected by applicable law, and which: (1) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual's ability to perform job functions or creates an intimidating, threatening or hostile working or learning environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or (3) otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or education opportunities

### **Consequences**

Any form of unlawful harassment against our employees or students by anyone, including supervisors, other employees, other students, outside personnel or vendors will not be tolerated. College employees engaging in unlawful harassment shall be subject to immediate discipline, up to and including termination.

### **Reporting a Complaint**

Any and all complaints of unlawful harassment shall be immediately reported to the immediate supervisor or to Human Resources without fear of reprisal. Complaints may also be submitted to the college's Civil Rights Title IX Policy Complaint Procedure or through any of the other reporting mechanisms described in Board Policy or the applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement. The employee can bypass anyone involved in the unlawful harassment in reporting it. All complaints and related information will be thoroughly investigated and kept confidential to the fullest extent possible in order to conduct a thorough investigation. The results of the investigation shall be promptly reported to the person(s) making the complaint(s).

### **Investigating**

Employees who, after investigation, have been determined to have been engaging in the unlawful harassment of their co-workers or students or the use of improper, offensive, or abusive language which violates the sensitivities of their co-workers or students will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

## **Sexual Harassment**

### **Definition**

## Employee Policies

The college has a strict policy prohibiting all forms of sexual harassment at the work place. This policy applies to all employees, supervisors, students, vendors and non-employees who have contact with our employees and students. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests to an employee for sexual favors, and other visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or offensive nature when either:

- a. Submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment, continued employment, or advancement;
- b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or
- c. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

### Reporting Misconduct

Any employee who feels s/he or other coworker(s) is a victim of sexual harassment should immediately report any misconduct to any of the following: their immediate supervisor, the Director of Human Resources, or the Civil Right Compliance Officer, without fear of reprisal. The employee can bypass anyone involved in the harassment in reporting it. All complaints and related information will be thoroughly investigated and kept confidential to the fullest extent possible in order to complete a thorough investigation. The results of the investigation shall be promptly reported to the person(s) making the complaint(s).

### Outcomes

Employees who, after investigation, have been determined to have been engaging in the sexual harassment of their co-workers or student or the use of profane or abusive language which violates the sensitivities of their co-workers or student will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

### Required Signature

A one-page summary of this sexually harassment policy will be provided to all current and new college employees. Employees are required to sign the summary as proof that they have read and understand the college's sexual harassment policy. A copy of this form will be signed by a Westmoreland representative and returned to the employee. The original will be kept in the employee's personnel file.

## 2.2.15 Communicable Disease Policy for Employees

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 13, 2023*

### Purpose

Westmoreland County Community College is committed to assuring that all necessary training and precautions are taken with regard to communicable diseases. The college adopts this communicable disease policy for employees in an effort to provide a safe working environment, control communicable diseases and the threat of pandemics on campus based upon established rules and regulations of local government officials, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

### Definitions

A communicable disease is an illness which is capable of being spread to a susceptible host through the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent or its toxic product by an infected person, animal or arthropod, or through the inanimate environment. Communicable Disease shall include those diseases listed in 28 Pa Code Chapter 27 as well as those diseases contributing to an outbreak as declared by either the local government officials, the PA DOH or the CDC. Examples of communicable diseases include, but are not limited to: chickenpox, mononucleosis, conjunctivitis, hepatitis A, B and D, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS-related complex, positive HIV antibody status, COVID-19 and other forms of highly contagious influenza, measles, meningitis, tuberculosis and pertussis.

### Practice and Procedure

1. College employees who have symptoms of, are infected with or have a reasonable basis for believing that they are infected with a communicable disease have an ethical and, in some cases, a legal responsibility of reporting this fact to the college in order to protect themselves and prevent spread of the disease to their coworkers and students. The college abides by all state and federal privacy laws and does not intend to deprive employees of the rights afforded to them by these statutes.
2. Employees who wish to report a communicable disease or who have questions regarding their reporting obligations under this policy may make confidential inquiries to the Director of Human Resources. Inquiries made regarding interpretation or application of this policy will remain strictly confidential. Any medical information received by the college regarding an employee's medical condition will be handled in accordance with this policy.
3. Employees shall not be denied access to the workplace solely on the grounds that they have possible symptoms of a communicable disease unless such exclusion is authorized by law. However, if employees are experiencing symptoms, they should seek medical treatment at their medical provider. In addition, employees are encouraged to stay home from work and not enter any college facility until such time as the symptoms subside and they have medical clearance to return to work.

## Employee Policies

4. In the case of a pandemic or similar emergency as declared by local, state or national officials, the college is committed to adhere to the governmental guidelines for workplace safety as issued by state and federal agencies such as OSHA, the PA DOH and CDC. In these cases, the college will issue appropriate workplace directives which must be adhered to by all employees as a condition of employment. Such directives may include medical assessment or examination of employees such as taking body temperatures or other physical examination in the workplace. When such examinations or assessments are required, they will be done in accordance with state and federal law including procedures recommended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
5. Employees who are infected with a communicable disease are expected to seek expert medical advice and are encouraged to advise appropriate health authorities. Local health authorities as well as the PA DOH and CDC can offer guidance and/or counseling to these employees about measures that can be taken to prevent the spread of infection and to protect their own health.
6. Medical information relating to the communicable disease of an employee will be kept strictly confidential and disclosed to responsible college officials only on a need-to-know basis in accordance with applicable law. No person, group, agency, insurer, employer, or institution will be provided any medical information without the prior specific written consent of an employee unless required by law.
7. If an employee reports a communicable disease condition, the employee may be excluded from the college until an appropriate evaluation of the employee's medical condition can be made. The evaluation may be made by a physician or a health department official and testing may be required if appropriate.
8. Employees who work in any School of Health Professions program may have additional requirements, as specified by each program's policy. These employees may be required to report all suspected communicable diseases.
9. The final determination of whether an employee who has contracted a communicable disease is able to remain at work will be made by the Executive Director of Human Resources based upon professional medical evaluation results and recommendations. The attendance an employee on campus or at any college activity may be prohibited until a satisfactory letter or certificate is obtained from one or more licensed physicians or public health officials stating that the employee is not a health risk to students and other employees at the college.

## 2.2.16 Data Handling Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 26, 2024*

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for protecting college data and/or information resources from unauthorized access or disclosure. The goal is to assure that every member of the Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) community can identify non-public data and/or information and follow appropriate security precautions to protect the data and to avoid compromising the privacy rights of others or Westmoreland's institutional rights or obligations.

### Scope

This policy applies to Westmoreland staff, faculty, students, associates, affiliates, contractors, volunteers, or visitors accessing college owned or managed data, in physical or electronic format.

### Contacts

Direct questions about this policy to your area's Security Liaison or Data Governance leaders.

### Data Classification Levels

Every member of the Westmoreland community should be able to identify the appropriate classification level of any data they are accessing or maintaining in electronic or physical form.

Data classification levels range from Level 0 (public) to Level 3 (highly restricted). **Any data and/or information other than Level 0 data is considered to be non-public data unless such data is required to be made available to the public by application of the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act (RTK).**

The four classification levels are:

#### Level 0—Public

- College data and/or information that is purposefully made available to the public.
- Disclosure of Level 0 data and/or information requires no authorization and may be freely disseminated without potential harm to the college.

#### Level 1 - Internal

- College owned or managed data that includes information that is not openly shared with the general public but is not specifically required to be protected by statute or regulation.



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- Unauthorized disclosure of Level 1 data and/or information would not result in direct financial loss or any legal, contractual, or regulatory violations, but might otherwise adversely impact the college, individuals, or affiliates.
- Level 1 data and/or information is intended for use by a designated workgroup, department, or group of individuals within the college.

**Note:** While some forms of internal data and/or information can be made available to the public, the Level 1 data and/or information is not freely disseminated without appropriate authorization.

### **Level 2 - Confidential/Sensitive**

- College owned or managed data and/or information that is confidential business or personal information for which unauthorized disclosure could have a serious adverse impact on the college, individuals or affiliates.
- Level 2 data and/or information is intended for a very specific use and should not be disclosed except to those who have explicit authorization to review such data.
- There are often general statutory, regulatory or contractual requirements that require protection of the data.
- Regulations and laws that affect data in Level 2 include, but are not limited to, RTK the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Graham-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA).

### **Level 3 - Highly Restricted**

- College owned or managed data that is highly restricted business or personal information, for which unauthorized disclosure would result in significant financial loss to the college, impair its ability to conduct business, or result in a violation of contractual agreements or federal or state laws or regulations.
- Level 3 data and/or information is intended for very limited use and must not be disclosed except to those who have explicit authorization to view or use the data.
- There are often governing statutes, regulations, standards, or agreements with specific provisions that dictate how this type of data and/or information must be protected.
- Regulations and laws that affect Level 3 data and/or information include, but are not limited to, RTK, FERPA, Pennsylvania Personnel Records Inspection Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).

### **Guidelines for Appropriate Data Handling**

Whether data is downloaded from a system or application within Westmoreland's protected infrastructure or acquired by some other means, individuals must ensure that the security of the data is protected appropriate to the level of its classification. Data must also be retained in accordance with the Westmoreland College Record Retention Policy.

### **Level 3 Data**

Due to its restricted nature, Level 3 data requires special handling. Some divisions/departments may handle Level 3 data as part of their business processes; however, that data should not be exported or stored outside of its secured location without express permission of the Data Governance Council.

**Note:** A limited number of enterprise applications such as an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system or CMS (Content Management System) hold highly restricted Level 3 data. Access to this data is tightly controlled via specific permissions and management authorization. If unsure whether your business data may be stored in one of these systems, discuss it with a Security Liaison or Data Governance leaders.

### **Research Data**

Research data and/or information is typically highly sensitive in nature or subject to special contractual requirements and its handling should be coordinated through the college's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

### **Related Resources**

- Data Governance Organizational Chart
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) FAQ
- Westmoreland's Directory Information
- Westmoreland's Record Retention Policy

## 2.2.17 Policy on Political Campaign Activities

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 27, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 22, 2025*

### **PURPOSE:**

Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) is committed to the principle of free expression, including the exchange of political viewpoints and ideas, for all members of its community. Westmoreland encourages its students and employees to fully participate in their rights of citizenship, including exercising the right to vote, campaign, and otherwise engage in the political life of our community, state and nation. Nothing in this Policy is intended to limit the rights of students or employees to express personal opinions or engage in political activity in their individual capacities and as private citizens.

However, certain types of politically-related activities by Westmoreland or by Westmoreland employees, in their official capacities, are incompatible with Westmoreland's tax-exempt status under the law. This Policy describes the limitations on Westmoreland involvement and the use of Westmoreland resources in political campaign activities.

### **SCOPE:**

This Policy shall apply to all Westmoreland employees and students at all locations. This Policy does not apply to permissible lobbying and public policy education efforts.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Political Candidate:** an individual who has publicly announced an intention to be a candidate for election to any public office or is being promoted publicly to join a race and become an official candidate. An incumbent public official is not a political candidate until he/she has publicly announced an intention to run for reelection or another public office.

**Political Event:** an event at which a political candidate speaks or is prominently featured; includes any event that has the purpose of promoting the election of a particular political candidate (e.g., debate, speech, rally). A classroom presentation by a political candidate at the request of the instructor of a credit or non-credit course is not a political event if the speaker is chosen solely for reasons other than candidacy for public office.

**Westmoreland Resources:** all Westmoreland property and services such as facilities/space, office equipment, telephones, email, postage, vehicles, Westmoreland name, logo, and other marks, letterhead, and technology resources such as websites and online discussion boards.

**Westmoreland Sponsor:** Westmoreland, a Westmoreland campus, academic department, administrative unit, or Westmoreland-affiliated organization (not including recognized student organizations).

**POLICY:****General Statement**

It is Westmoreland's policy that it, and its employees and representatives, when acting in their official capacities for Westmoreland, may not, directly or indirectly, participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for elective public office. This includes campaigns at the federal, state, and local level.

Political campaign intervention extends beyond candidate endorsements, it includes any and all activities that favor or oppose one or more candidates for political office. For example, Westmoreland and its employees, may not engage in the following activities in their official capacity or on behalf of Westmoreland: solicit or make contributions to political campaign funds; make public statements of position in favor or in opposition to any candidate for public office (in written or oral form, including links to websites); distribute statements prepared by others that favor or oppose any candidate for public office (in written or oral form, including links to websites); or allow a candidate to use Westmoreland's resources without providing other candidates with an equivalent opportunity. Similarly, Students and Recognized Student Organizations are also prohibited from using appropriations from Westmoreland Student Activity Fees to contribute to a political campaign.

Voter education and registration activities are not prohibited by this Policy so long as they are carried out in a non-partisan manner and do not favor or oppose any of the candidates for elective public office. Furthermore, Westmoreland may host political forums and/or debates involving more than one candidate provided no candidate, directly or indirectly, receives an endorsement, preference, or support from Westmoreland. Finally, this Policy is not intended to limit non-partisan courses, coursework, curricular activities and other assignments designed to foster civic engagement, educate students, or enhance public understanding of the political election process.

**Use of Westmoreland Resources for Political Events or Activities****A. Westmoreland-Sponsored Events**

1. **Inviting Political Candidates to Campus.** Westmoreland shall not endorse or oppose any political candidate for elected public office. Westmoreland may, however, provide opportunities to educate its students, employees and community at large on the election process through candidate lectures, forums, debates and other political discourse. As an institution or through a Westmoreland sponsor, Westmoreland may hold certain political events subject to the following terms:
  - a) **Approval.** A political event may be sponsored by Westmoreland, a Westmoreland campus, academic department or administrative unit only with the approval of the President or the President's designee.
  - b) **Format.** A Westmoreland-sponsored political event must be in the format of a candidate forum or debate, question-and-answer sessions, or similar communications in an academic setting; such events cannot be conducted as a campaign rally or similar event. All legally qualified candidates for a political office must be invited to participate on an equal basis with such limitations as may be appropriate after consultation with the Westmoreland Solicitor.

- c) Use of Westmoreland Resources. Westmoreland facilities may be made available for such events in accordance with this and all other applicable Westmoreland policies. Receptions and other social activities associated with this event must include all candidates who were invited to participate in the political event.
  - d) Publicity. All promotional material for political events must include appropriate statements indicating that Westmoreland and Westmoreland officials do not endorse any political candidate or any position of a political candidate. Subject to this restriction, Westmoreland officers may otherwise publicize the event in any appropriate manner and encourage or arrange for coverage by media organizations.
  - e) Costs, Expenses, Fees and Honoraria. No compensation, honorarium, or expenses may be paid to or on behalf of any political candidate by the Westmoreland Sponsor.
  - f) No admission fee may be charged for such events.
  - g) No political fundraising activities may be conducted at such events.
2. **Inviting Individuals in their Non-Candidate Capacity.** The above mentioned terms and conditions do not apply when an individual is invited by Westmoreland in their official capacity (e.g., as a sitting public official, field expert, public figure/celebrity) and not in their capacity as a political candidate. For such events, a non-partisan atmosphere should be maintained and the individual must only speak in their non-candidate capacity and make no reference to the election. Communications regarding the event should indicate the capacity in which the individual is appearing and should not mention the individual's candidacy or the election.

## **B. By Recognized Student Organizations ("RSO"s)**

- 1. **Inviting Political Candidates to Campus.** RSO's seeking to sponsor a political event on campus must do so in accordance with the policies and procedures established by Student Affairs for student organization-sponsored events in general.
  - a) Approval and Notice. The sponsorship must be approved by the organization's leadership and advisor (if applicable), and the Office of the President and Vice President of Administrative Services must be notified prior to reserving campus facilities for the event.
  - b) Use of Westmoreland Resources. Westmoreland facilities may be made available for such events in accordance with this and all other applicable Westmoreland policies.

- c) Publicity. Promotional materials for the political event may not state or imply that the Westmoreland endorses a political candidate or any position of the candidate.
  - d) Costs and Expenses. The sponsoring RSO is responsible for all facility charges and ancillary service costs associated with the event in accordance with Westmoreland policy governing use of facilities by RSOs.
  - e) Westmoreland Indicia. Name, marks, logos, etc. may be used to identify the location of such an event but not in such a way as to suggest that the event is officially endorsed or sponsored by Westmoreland.
2. **Other Political Campaign Activities.** Students and RSOs are encouraged to help educate and inform students about elections, including urging students to exercise their right to vote, and are also free to express their views about political parties, candidates and ballot issues. Students and RSOs are permitted to use student activities fees to support their own expressive activities and viewpoints on public policy issues and other interests and, as noted above, may sponsor events for candidates so long as they comply with the rules and regulations governing student organization-sponsored events. However, funds from the Westmoreland Student Activity Fee may not be used in such a way that could constitute a gift, donation or contribution to a political campaign. This includes purchasing promotional material (not including materials used to promote an RSO-sponsored event) or paying for campaign advertising for a political candidate or organization, providing an honorarium or travel costs to a political candidate or organization, or otherwise contributing to a political campaign.

### **C. By External, Non-Westmoreland Individuals or Groups**

1. Approval and Use of Westmoreland Resources. A candidate, campaign, political party, or other political organization may request to rent Westmoreland facilities that otherwise are available for rent generally by external groups. Campus facilities may be made available for such events in accordance with applicable facilities use policies and any associated guidelines.
2. Publicity. Promotional material for the candidate or campaign event may not state or imply that the Westmoreland endorses a political candidate or any position of a candidate. Requests for press conferences or similar events on campus, by or on behalf of political candidates or their campaigns are subject to this Policy.
3. Costs and Expenses. The political candidate or political organization must pay the full facility use charge and otherwise comply with applicable facilities use policies. The political candidate or political organization must also pay all ancillary service costs associated with the event, including, but not limited to, security, custodial, parking, audio-visual equipment set-up and operation, and the like. All facility use charges and the estimated ancillary service costs must be paid in full.

4. Westmoreland Indicia. Name, marks, logos, etc. may be used to identify the location of such an event but not in such a way as to suggest that the event is officially endorsed or sponsored by the Westmoreland.

#### **D. By Westmoreland Employees**

Westmoreland employees and representatives, in their official capacities for Westmoreland, may not participate or intervene, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. Westmoreland employees and representatives are also prohibited from using any Westmoreland resources (e.g., facilities, funds, vehicles, copy machines, e-mail, telephones, office supplies, and mailing services) for political campaign activities, unless expressly permitted in this Policy. This includes use of Westmoreland seal, letterhead, symbols, or other proprietary marks of Westmoreland in any communication or activity that endorses a political party, campaign, or candidate.

Westmoreland employees and representatives may, in their personal capacity as a private citizen, make any political statement. If an employee's political statement or activity, in light of all of the circumstances, including the employee's affiliation with Westmoreland, could reasonably cause others to perceive the employee's statements or activities to be on behalf of the Westmoreland, then such employee is expected to make clear, by an appropriate disclaimer if possible, that the statements and activities are undertaken in the employee's individual capacity and do not represent the position of Westmoreland. Nothing in this Policy is intended to limit or prohibit an employee's ability, in their personal capacity and on their own time, to become a member in any political party, make personal contributions to a political candidate or organization, or otherwise participate in a political campaign.

This Policy is also not intended to limit public political statements made by Westmoreland employees outside of their official capacity, the scholarly research of Westmoreland faculty members or the dissemination of factual material and scholarship. Pursuant to existing Westmoreland Policy on academic freedom, this Policy shall not be construed to prohibit faculty from expressing personal political views in their instructional role, provided that the faculty member does not advocate or oppose a political candidate or claim to speak on behalf of Westmoreland.

#### **Campus Visits by Political Candidates and Political Dignitaries**

The Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President of Administrative Services must be notified prior to the visit of any political candidate (whether the visit is at the request of Westmoreland, a Westmoreland Sponsor, a Recognized Student Organization, or a Non-Westmoreland Group renting Westmoreland Facilities) to any campus.



## 2.2.18 Employee Conduct Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 28, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 11, 2024*

### **Objective**

Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) strives to provide the best possible work environment for employees, learning environment for students, and customer service for all clients. Westmoreland expects all employees and others who are engaged to provide services, such as temporary personnel, consultants and independent contractors, to conduct themselves professionally at all times while on college premises, attending college functions or otherwise performing work-related activity.

In addition to maintaining and enforcing this policy to protect the interests and safety of all employees and the organization, Westmoreland complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning employer/employee rights and obligations.

### **Procedures**

Westmoreland is dedicated to providing a safe and secure workplace and strives to ensure that all individuals are treated in a respectful and fair manner. The following are examples of behavior that are considered infractions of Westmoreland's employees conduct expectations. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, as it is not possible to list all forms of unacceptable behavior in the workplace. Inappropriate behavior or actions may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

1. Theft or inappropriate removal or possession of college property or the property of a fellow employee.
2. Willful destruction of college property or the property of a fellow employee.
3. Reporting for work unfit for duty, including being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
4. Possession, distribution, sale, transfer or use of alcohol or illegal drugs in the workplace, while on duty or while operating college-owned vehicles or equipment.
5. Fighting or threatening violence in the workplace, or deliberate or careless conduct that endangers the safety of others.
6. Sexual or other harassment.
7. Using excessively abusive, threatening or obscene language.
8. Using intimidation tactics and making threats.
9. Sabotaging another's work.



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10. Making malicious, false and harmful statements about others.
11. Publicly disclosing another's private information.
12. Possession of dangerous or unauthorized materials, such as explosives, firearms or other weapons on college property.
13. Breach of confidentiality or abuse of position to access, disclose, alter, and/or destroy Confidential Information as defined by college policy without authorization.
14. Falsifying company records or reports, including one's time records or the time records of another employee.
15. Intentional violation or disregard of published college policies.

## Discipline

It is Westmoreland's policy that disciplinary action taken to correct employee conduct should be applied with respect for the rights and dignity of employees and in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining agreement. Supervisors are expected to manage the conduct of their subordinates and, when necessary, issue disciplinary action after consultation with Human Resources. When appropriate, progressive discipline will be administered in accordance with the following:

Verbal Warning  
Written Warning  
Suspension Without Pay  
Fourth Step – Termination of Employment

It is important to note that there is no "right" to progressive discipline. If an employee's initial infraction of established policy/and or procedure is egregious, the initial disciplinary action taken by Westmoreland may begin at any of the steps defined above up to and including termination of employment.

### 2.2.19 Survey Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 26, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

Given the rapid increase and importance of surveys and survey tools, it is imperative that college-wide surveying efforts be coordinated in a way that protects all parties, guards against survey fatigue, and collects the most meaningful and reliable responses possible. Therefore, all proposed survey research conducted by staff, faculty or students must be approved by the office of Planning, Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness and as needed by the the Data Governance Board or Institutional Review Board.

#### **Individuals wishing to conduct surveys will:**

1. Submit a request to [ir@westmoreland.edu](mailto:ir@westmoreland.edu) that provides the following information:
  - Purpose of the survey (what do you want to learn?)
  - Use of the resulting data (what will you do with the survey results?)
  - Survey target audience/respondents (who will be asked to participate in the survey?)
  - Survey format: paper, online or interview
  - Survey type: anonymous or non-anonymous
  - Survey questions/draft survey
  - Anticipated timeline: survey start and end dates
2. Meet with the Office of Planning, Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness as needed prior to implementing any survey.
3. Seek and comply with the college's Institutional Review Board (IRB) procedure, as needed.
4. Be responsible for preparation of any mailings of surveys administered on paper, as well as the compilation of the data from such surveys.

#### **Planning, Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness will:**

1. Provide consultation on the development and administration of surveys and analysis of results.
2. Provide guidance and standards for cover letters, introductory statements, survey types and questions.
3. Maintain a web-based survey tool, use the tool to post surveys for requesters as appropriate (and as time and workload permit), and generate reports.
4. Maintain a survey archive.

#### **The Data Governance Board, as needed will:**

1. Review and approve survey requests.  
The following criteria will be considered when reviewing survey request:
  - Relevance to college mission and/or strategic plan.
  - Minimal burden on college constituents.
  - Usefulness of data to inform college decisions.
  - Efficient use of college resources.
  - Value to the broader population of college constituents.
  - Clarity and functionality of survey and related communications.
  - Inclusive language in alignment with college guidelines.

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- Compliance with any applicable collective bargaining agreement, FERPA, college standards for confidentiality and information security, and IRB policy.
- 2. Prioritize and schedule surveys based on the needs of the college, such that data collection is timely and conducted in a manner that minimizes survey fatigue, duplication of effort, and disruption to the educational environment.
- 3. Annually review the scope and effectiveness of this policy and associated procedures.

### **Scope:**

The scope of this policy includes surveys intended for distribution to any members or prospective members of the Westmoreland County Community College community: applicants, students, faculty, staff, administrators, board members and alumni. A survey is defined broadly as any means of querying a person or group in order to collect data or feedback for the analysis or evaluation of some aspect, either in paper, oral (e.g., interview, focus group), or electronic (e.g., email, web) format.

## 2.2.20 Employee Policy on Privacy and Confidentiality

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Westmoreland County Community College places a high priority on maintaining the confidentiality of its records, documents, agreements, and all other protected information. This Policy is intended to supplement all other college policies dealing with handling of confidential information.

In the course of an employee's duties, access to confidential information about students, employees, other individuals, or the college may be granted. The college's confidential information includes any non-public accessible information under state or federal law such as: business practices, litigation settlement discussions, non-directory student information, proprietary financial information, and technology such as ideas and inventions (whether this information belongs to the college or was shared with us in confidence by a third party). Any questions an employee may have concerning whether information is "confidential" should be directed to their immediate supervisor.

Access to confidential information is for the purpose of performing job duties and responsibilities with the college, and for no other purpose. Specifically:

1. Employees will look at and use only the information needed to assist students, employees, other individuals, or to do their job and may not look at records or seek other confidential information that is not needed to perform their job.
2. Student, employee, other individual information or any other confidential information is not to be shared with anyone who does not have an official need to know. Employees are expected to be especially careful not to share this information with others in casual conversation or by having others present in the room during remote meetings or telephone conferences where confidential information is discussed.
3. Employees are required to handle all records, both paper and electronic, with care to prevent unauthorized use or disclosure of confidential information. Confidential information may not be removed from an employee's work area or copied unnecessarily.
4. Because electronic messages may be intercepted by other people, e-mail, Google Chat, or other public computer forums will not be used to transmit personal information about employees or students such as home addresses, personal phone numbers, grades or other personal information not accessible to the general public unless authorized.
5. If confidential information is no longer needed, it will be disposed of in a way that ensures that others will not see it. Recognizing the appropriate disposal method will depend upon the type of information in question. (See Records Retention Policy)
6. If job responsibilities include sharing the College's confidential information with outside parties, only processes and procedures approved by the College to do so will be utilized.
7. Employees must handle all confidential information stored on a computer or uploaded to Cloud Storage or downloaded to CDs, flash drives, etc. with care to prevent unauthorized access to,

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disclosure of, or loss of this information in accordance with the current College's policies and procedures for handling electronic information and data. See the College Data Handling Policy for further guidance.

## 2.2.21 Virtual Meeting Conduct Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

As our workforce continues to operate with some or all employees working at locations other than college offices, the following expectations for employees are being clarified to avoid issues that may cause disruption during virtual meetings.

- The Colleges Conduct and Work Rule Policy and other policies continue to apply to offsite work locations during virtual meetings.
- While distractions are often unavoidable, try to keep them to a minimum. No music or television in the background during meetings.
- Keep yourself muted during video or audio conferencing unless you are speaking.
- Turning on video is required with the exception of intermittent interruptions.
- Smoking, Tobacco and Tobacco-Related Products, or vaping is not permitted during a video conference.
- Casual dress is acceptable; however, use discretion. No visible apparel that would not be appropriate for the workplace.
- Avoid multitasking. Give your full attention to the meeting as if you were face to face.
- Maintain confidentiality. Individuals not invited to the meeting should not attend or be in a position to become aware of the meeting content.
- Do not record the meeting without the express consent of all attendees. Recording without such consent may violate Pennsylvania law.

The College appreciates the effort that all of our employees have shown in the transition to remote work, and we hope these guidelines help to clarify the College's expectations when attending virtual meetings.

While gentle reminders may be all that is necessary in some circumstances, egregious or continued violations of these expectations and/or other College policies will result in disciplinary action.

## 2.2.22 Civil Right Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 11, 2024*

Westmoreland County Community College does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, gender identity or expression, veteran status, union membership or any classification protected by state or federal law or the proper exercise by an Association member of their rights guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Public Employer Relations Act Number 195.

Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state law including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and with federal law, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure is a separate policy and can be found in the College's Policy Manual.

The College prohibits retaliation against any person who in good faith reports a possible violation of this policy, provides information during an investigation, or engages in any protected activity under the law.

### **Reporting Concerns**

Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Executive Director/Human Resources and/or the Title IX Coordinator at 724-925-4079 or in Room 250, Westmoreland County Community College, Student Achievement Center, Youngwood, PA 15697. The College will investigate all complaints of violation of this policy in accordance with College policy and federal, state, and local laws and regulations. After investigation, the College will take appropriate remedial action if necessary to ensure compliance with this policy.

## **2.3 Wages and Hours of Work – Administrative**

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## Employee Policies

### 2.3.1 Administrative Categories

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 13, 2023*

Full-time administrative positions shall be assigned to one of the administrative categories indicated below:

#### **Administrators**

- Vice President
- Executive Director
- Dean
- Director

#### **Administrative Staff**

- Coordinator

#### **Administrative Support Staff**

- Administrative Assistant/Secretary

## Employee Policies

### **2.3.2 Administrative Performance Evaluation**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

The purpose of the administrative performance evaluation program is to increase individual and college-wide administrative performance. All administrative employees shall be evaluated annually by their respective supervisors.

## Employee Policies

### 2.3.3 FLSA Employment Classifications

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 27, 2024*

The Human Resources Department shall be responsible for determination of exempt or nonexempt status for all staff positions in accordance with the guidelines established by the federal FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act). Exempt and non-exempt are defined as follows:

- Exempt — Positions classified as exempt are those excluded from the compensatory/overtime provisions of the FLSA.
- Nonexempt — Positions classified as non-exempt are those that must be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1-1/2) times the regular hourly rate for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a given work week.
- For overtime purposes the work week begins at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday and ends at midnight the following Saturday.

## Employee Policies

### 2.3.4 Employment Contracts

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

Full-time employees assigned to the following administrative categories shall be provided employment contracts:

- Administrators
- Administrative Staff

Employment contracts shall specify the period of employment, employment category, annual salary, division/department, position title, and type of appointment. Employees hired coincident with the beginning of a fiscal year shall receive an employment contract for the full fiscal year. Employees hired during the fiscal year shall receive an employment contract on a pro rata basis for the remaining portion of the fiscal year. Employment contracts are not a guarantee of pay or employment for the full term of the contract. Employment may be terminated sooner for failure to abide by the college's established policies and procedures or for other reasons constituting just cause for termination.

#### Nonrenewal

Notice of nonrenewal of a current contract shall be in writing and must be issued no later than April 1 of the current contract year.

## Employee Policies

### 2.3.5 Hours of Work

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 13, 2023*

#### **Administrators/Administrative Staff**

The normal work week is a minimum of forty (40) hours, exclusive of a nonpaid, one-hour lunch period.

#### **Administrative Support Staff**

The normal work week is forty (40) hours as assigned, exclusive of a one-hour nonpaid lunch period. All nonexempt staff should report to work no earlier than five (5) minutes before the start of their regular work shift; and leave no later than five (5) minutes after the end of their regular work shift. Employees are responsible for accurate reporting of work hours in Time Clock Plus (TCP), including entering time off/leave requests. Timecards must be signed off by employees and the immediate supervisor prior to 10 a.m. on the Monday of the preceding pay period. Deliberate falsification of hours worked is cause for immediate dismissal.

## Employee Policies

### **2.3.6 Part-Time Teaching by Administrative Employees**

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 22, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

Teaching by an administrative employee must be approved on a prior teaching basis by the employee's respective vice president; and must be done outside the normal workday. Teaching shall normally be limited to 3 ECH per semester; however, may be extended to a maximum of 6 ECH, subject to prior review and supervisory approval. Administrative employees who are teaching part-time and, for any reason, are unable to meet a class must be given a deduction in salary for that class.

## Employee Policies

### 2.3.7 Salary Administration

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 22, 2008*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 27, 2024*

#### **Salary**

Salary for all administrative positions are established by the board of trustees based upon the recommendation of the college president and shall be reviewed annually.

#### **Salary Adjustments**

Salary adjustments shall be recommended by the college president and approved by the Board of Trustees. Employees hired in the second or third quarter of a fiscal year shall be eligible for a prorated salary increase. Employees hired in the last quarter of a fiscal year shall not be eligible for a salary increase until July 1 of the fiscal year that follows completion of one (1) year of service. However, should salary minimums be increased, individual salaries below the minimum will be adjusted to the new minimum. Any administrator, administrative staff member, or administrative support staff member who transitions into another position at the college will have their salary evaluated based on the salary of the new position.

## **2.4 Benefits and Employee Conveniences – Administrative**

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## Employee Policies

### 2.4.1 Employee Benefits

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 24, 2007 (retroactive to July 1, 2007)*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 27, 2011*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The college shall offer the following insurance benefits for regular full-time and temporary full-time employees.

#### Health Insurance

Regular full-time and temporary full-time employees shall pay a portion of their health insurance cost by contributing a co-premium amount as determined by a percentage of their total wages and their selected type of coverage. Total payments made by members is calculated by multiplying the member's total wages by the percentage rates below.

Single	2.50%
Employee/Spouse; Member and Children	3.48%
Family (Employee, Spouse, Children)	4.72%

Regular full-time and temporary full-time employees will contribute to their group health insurance while they are off on any unpaid leave at the same bi-weekly cost as before they went on unpaid leave.

The college provides the following insurance/retirement benefits for regular full-time and temporary full-time employees.

#### Dental Insurance

Coverage under a basic dental plan for employees and their eligible dependents.

#### Vision Care Insurance

Coverage under a basic vision plan for employees and their eligible dependents.

#### Life Insurance

Coverage for employees only in the amount of three (3) times the employee's annual salary rounded to the next highest thousand is provided.

#### Long-Term Disability Insurance

Coverage for the employee in the event of long-term disability. There is a one-year waiting period for LTD eligibility.

#### Retirement

All full-time employees are eligible for and required to enroll in one (1) of three (3) retirement plans offered by the college:

## Employee Policies

- TIAA-CREF
- SERS – As of July 1, 2015 SERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the college.
- PSERS – As of July 1, 2015 PSERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the college.

### Workers' Compensation

An employee who is disabled as the result of a work-related injury/illness shall be paid the difference between their base weekly wage and any compensable amount paid under the Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation Act, social security, or other public, tax-supported disability program for a period of one (1) year or the duration of the disability, whichever is shorter. After one (1) year, payment of the difference between the base weekly wage and any compensable amount paid under the foregoing programs shall be terminated. Sick leave may be taken at the expiration of one (1) year to the extent the employee has accumulated sick leave available. Sick leave, vacation entitlements, personal days, and paid holidays shall not be granted during such periods of disability.

## Employee Policies

### 2.4.2 Holidays

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 27, 2011*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The following are observed as paid holidays for regular and temporary full-time employees of Westmoreland County Community College:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Spring Break – Two (2) weekdays as scheduled annually on the academic calendar
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- The Day Before, Thanksgiving Day, and the Day After
- Winter Break – Any regularly scheduled work days starting December 24 through and including January 1

Monday will be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Sunday, and Friday shall be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Saturday; except for those days which have been identified as Winter Break. If a holiday is observed during an employee's vacation, he/she shall be entitled to an additional day of vacation.

## Employee Policies

### 2.4.3 Interview / Relocation Expenses

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

Westmoreland County Community College will provide reimbursement of certain interview and/or relocation expenses for newly-employed administrative personnel classified as vice president, dean, or director I in accordance with the following:

#### **Interview Expense**

Reimbursement for round trips in excess of sixty (60) miles shall be provided as follows:

- Travel
  - Personal Automobile — Applicable tolls and mileage at the college's standard reimbursement rate for the most direct route to the college and return.
  - Public Transportation — Cost for tourist-class rate for the most direct route to the college and return.
  - Lodging/Meals — Lodging and meals will be provided to the applicant for the day before and the day of the interview.

#### **Relocation Expense**

Transportation costs for the employee and family while relocating will be reimbursed as follows:

- Enroute
  - Personal Automobile — Applicable tolls and mileage at the college's standard reimbursement rate for the most direct route to the college.
  - Public Transportation — Cost for tourist-class rate for the most direct route to the college.
  - Lodging/Meals — Lodging and meals will be provided to the applicant while enroute to the new location.
- Household/Personal Effects
  - A one-time reimbursement payment may be provided for the expense of relocating household/personal effects over 100 miles. Reimbursement will be made in accordance with the following:
    - Vice president not to exceed \$3,500
    - Executive Director or Dean not to exceed \$2,500

#### **Exceptions**

Where unusual circumstances exist, or where conditions are such that application of the policy would result in hardship, exceptions to this policy may be made with prior approval of the president or their designee.

#### **Administration**

Administration of this policy is assigned to the director/Human Resources.

## Employee Policies

### 2.4.4 Leaves of Absence

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 24, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 25, 2007*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 27, 2009*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 27, 2011*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

#### Family/Medical Leave

1. Family and Medical Leave shall be administered in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and its accompanying regulations.
2. Employees shall be granted an unpaid family and medical leave for the birth of a child; the adoption of a child; their own serious health condition; serious health condition of a spouse, son, daughter, or parent, or any other qualifying reasons under FMLA up to twelve (12) weeks within a 12-month period of time with benefits upon written request, certification by attending physician, and appropriate approvals.
3. Upon returning from Family and Medical Leave, an employee has the right to return to the same or equivalent position. If the position has been abolished, the employee will have the right to return to an equivalent position in accordance with FMLA.
4. The college will use the rolling 12-month period looking backward to determine eligibility for Family and Medical Leave.
5. The college will consider any qualifying leave as Family and Medical Leave. Such qualifying leave may be in the form of workers' compensation leave, non-work-related disability leave or simple sick leave. The college will notify employees within five (5) work days of commencement of the qualifying leave if such leave is designated as Family and Medical Leave. Paid sick leave will be used during any period of FMLA leave resulting from the serious health condition of an employee.

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):

- Upon written request, certification and appropriate college approval, employees shall be granted unpaid family leave for a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that a spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty status in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation (an action or operation against an opposing military force)—up to twelve (12) weeks within a 12-month period of time, with benefits.
- Upon written request, submission of attending physician's certification, and appropriate college approval, employees shall be granted unpaid family leave to care for a spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin (nearest blood relative) of the employee who has incurred an injury in the line of duty in the Armed Forces—up to twenty-six (26) weeks within a 12-month period of time, with benefits.

## Employee Policies

### Sick Leave

Employees shall receive twenty (20) sick days per fiscal year.

- Up to three (3) days per year may be used for the care of immediate family members. Immediate family is limited to spouse children and parents.
- Unused sick days shall accumulate to a maximum of two hundred (200) days.
- Newly-employed individuals shall be credited with 1.66 sick days per month for each month remaining in the fiscal year.
- Medical certification may be required if an absence due to illness/injury continues beyond three (3) working days.

### Jury Duty/Court Appearance

- Employees called for jury duty or for an appearance before a court or government agency shall be excused from their college responsibilities without loss of salary.
- If the employee is compensated for their appearance, their college salary will be reduced accordingly, with the exception of compensation for mileage expense. • Verification of a summons for jury duty, any other appearance, and/or compensation paid must be submitted to the immediate supervisor as soon as possible

### Bereavement Leave

When an employee is absent from duty because of a death in their family, there shall be no deduction in wages or benefits for any absence not in excess of the following:

5 Days	4 Days	2 Days	1 Days
Spouse, child, parent, brother, sister	Son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent-in-law, grandchild	Grandparent, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, uncle, aunt	Niece, nephew

When necessary, the college may grant an exception of bereavement leave as defined above.

### Military Leave

An administrative employee who is a member of the National Guard or a reserve unit of the armed forces of the United States, and who is ordered on active duty for annual training shall be granted leave with pay (less the amount paid by the military) for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) working days.

Employees who are members of the National Guard who are ordered to emergency duty shall be granted a leave of absence with pay (less the amount paid by the military) for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) working days.

Employees who take military leave will have all the rights stated in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.

## Employee Policies

### **Miscellaneous Leave**

Employees may request miscellaneous leave without pay or benefit. Requests for miscellaneous leave in excess of ten (10) days must be submitted in writing and subsequently approved by the board of trustees.

### **Personal Leave**

Full-time employees shall be entitled to two (2) personal days per year for personal reasons, which may accumulate without limitation. Such leave may be taken one (1) day at a time if desired.

## Employee Policies

### 2.4.5 Tuition Reimbursement for Administrative Employees

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 12, 2012*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 27, 2024*

Regular full-time administrative employees shall be eligible for tuition reimbursement under this policy in accordance with the following:

- Reimbursement shall be for credit courses taken at accredited institutions of higher learning, provided such courses are not offered by Westmoreland County Community College.
- Employee must attain a grade of "C" or better. Approved courses are those which, in the judgment of the college, add to employee effectiveness in their current position. Courses which prepare the employee for future responsibilities will be considered, subject to review and approval. In all cases, the decision of the college shall be final.
- Courses must be approved in advance by the director/Human Resources.
- The College will allocate a total of \$20,000 per fiscal year for tuition reimbursement for eligible administrative employees and the director/Human Resources will administer the tuition reimbursement program.



## Employee Policies

### 2.4.6 Tuition Waiver

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

Full-time and regular part-time employees, their spouses, and dependents (as defined by the Internal Revenue Service) shall be permitted to take courses at the college without tuition charge. In the event the employee dies, retires, or is disabled, this privilege is continued for a period not to exceed five (5) years. In addition, the college will waive the general fee.

This tuition waiver policy does not apply to regular part-time and full-time employees who have either been terminated or had their contracts not renewed. If any of the terms of this policy conflicts with those contained in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, then the terms of the collective bargaining agreement shall apply.

## Employee Policies

### 2.4.7 Vacation for Administrative Employees

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

All full-time administrative employees are entitled to vacation days based on the employee's job classification. Vacation may be taken on a fiscal-year basis (July through June) any time after credited; however, it must be pre-approved by the employee's immediate supervisor. Administrators, administrative staff and administrative support staff earn vacation in accordance with the following schedule:

Classification	Role	Eligibility	Monthly Accrual (Days)	Annual FY Accrual (Days)
Administrators	Vice President	Upon Hire	1.66	20.00
	Executive Director			
	Dean			
	Director			
Administrative Staff	Coordinator	Upon Hire	1.50	18.00
Administrative Support Staff	Administrative Assistant	Less than 2 years	0.83	10.00
		2 years, but less than 3	0.92	11.00
		3 years, but less than 4	1.00	12.00
		4 years, but less than 5	1.08	13.00
		5 years, but less than 6	1.16	14.00
		6 years, but less than 7	1.25	15.00
		7 years, but less than 8	1.33	16.00
		8 years, but less than 9	1.42	17.00
		9 years and over	1.50	18.00

Administrative support staff attaining their tenth (10) years of continuous service with the college shall be granted a bonus of one (1) day of paid leave. Bonus days shall be granted in 5-year increments beginning with college recognition of the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) year of continuous service and granted on the employee's anniversary date. Bonus days will be added to the employee's vacation accrual. Employees may carry over unused vacation days from one fiscal year to another, not to exceed a maximum of ten (10) days.

## **2.5 WCCCPA Bargaining Unit Agreement**

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The bargaining agreement between the college and the Westmoreland County Community College Professional Association covers all full-time employees classified as faculty (teaching and non-teaching), professional, and paraprofessional. The language contained within that agreement supersedes the language of any similar issues covered by the policies in this manual.

The WCCCPA Bargaining Unit Agreement can be found in **Appendix 2-D**.

## **2.6 ESP/PSEA/NEA Bargaining Unit Agreement**

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The bargaining agreement between the college and the Westmoreland County Community College Educational Support Professionals, PSEA/NEA covers all full-time and regular part-time employees classified as secretarial, clerical, technical, maintenance, and custodial. The language contained within that agreement supersedes the language of any similar issues covered by the policies in this manual.

The ESP/PSEA/NEA Bargaining Unit Agreement can be found in **Appendix 2-E**

## Employee Policies

### 2.7 Regular Part-Time Employees

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – July 1, 1998*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 27, 2007*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 24, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 26, 2024*

#### Hours of Work

Regular part-time employees are scheduled for a maximum of nineteen (19) hours per week; however, may be scheduled in excess of that amount for short periods due to requirements. In no event shall a regular part-time employee exceed 950 hours during the fiscal year. Nonexempt staff should report to work no earlier than five (5) minutes before the start of their regular work shift; and leave no later than five (5) minutes after the end of their regular work shift. Work hours shall be reported by submission of time cards at the end of the pay period. Time cards shall be signed by the employee and his/her supervisor and submitted to the Payroll Office by Thursday preceding the next pay. Accurate reporting of work hours is essential. Deliberate falsification of a time card is cause for immediate dismissal.

#### Overtime

All regular part-time employees who are classified as nonexempt who work in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1-1/2) times their base rate for all hours worked beyond forty (40).

#### Probationary Status

All new regular part-time employees are subject to a 60-workday probationary period. Employee performance will be evaluated at 45-day intervals to determine if the employee is satisfactorily fulfilling the requirements of his/her position. Upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period, the employee becomes a regular part-time employee.

#### Wages

Wages for all regular part-time positions are established by the board of trustees based upon the recommendation of the college president; and are reviewed annually.

#### Benefits

Regular part-time employees of the college are entitled to the following benefits:

- Retirement — Regular part-time employees are eligible for and required to enroll in one (1) of the three (3) retirement plans offered by the college.
  - TIAA-CREF
  - SERS – As of July 1, 2015 SERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the college.

## Employee Policies

- PSERS – As of July 1, 2015 PSERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the college.
- Holidays — Regular part-time employees shall receive their regular pay for the following holidays:
  - New Year's Day
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  - Memorial Day
  - Independence Day
  - Labor Day
  - Thanksgiving Day
  - Christmas Day
- Tuition Waiver — Regular part-time employees and their spouses and dependents (as defined by the Internal Revenue Service) shall be permitted to take courses at the college without tuition charge. In the event of the employee's death, retirement, or disability, this privilege is continued for a period not to exceed five (5) years. In addition, the college will waive the application fee, the student services fee, and the computer services fee.
- Fringe Benefits — The only fringe benefits provided to regular part-time employees are those mandated by law.

### 3 Academic Student Policies

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The following pages contain detailed policies relative to academics and students of Westmoreland County Community College.

### 3.1 Staff Publication

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 26, 1991*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

#### **Policy:**

A faculty member shall not realize profit from sales to students of textbooks, or any other instructional materials, that is subsidy or self-published. Materials produced in this way may only be sold at cost, including documented publication fees. This policy does not apply to commercially published items.

#### **Definitions:**

**A commercial publisher** distributes books under its own imprint. It purchases manuscripts from authors, and handles the cost of producing those manuscripts: Cover and interior design, typesetting, printing, marketing, distribution, etc. The author is not expected to pay any of these costs. The books are owned by the publisher and remain in the publisher's possession until sold; the author receives a portion of sales in the form of royalties.

**A subsidy publisher** also distributes books under its own imprint. However, it does not purchase manuscripts; instead, it asks authors to pay for the cost of publication. With the exception of certain types of publishers such as university or scholarly presses, any publisher that requests a fee from the author is a subsidy publisher. As with commercial publishers, the books are owned by the publisher and remain in the publisher's possession; authors receive royalties.

**A self-publisher** is an author who pays for the cost of designing, printing, and distributing his or her book. Frequently, the author invents and registers a publishing "imprint." Self-published books are the property of the author and usually remain in the author's possession; all sales proceeds belong to the author.

Source for Definitions: <https://www.writing-world.com/publish/subsidy.shtml>



### **3.2 Academic Degrees, Diplomas & Certificates**

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

#### **Purpose**

Programs should be responsive to the needs of students and the community and focus on providing a quality educational experience. This policy regulates programs following the Westmoreland County Community College's Mission and the regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

#### **Policy**

The board of trustees shall approve changes for associate of applied science, associate of arts, associate of fine arts, associate of science, diplomas and certificates. This includes new programs, changes in programs, and deletion of programs.

### 3.3 Admissions

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 22, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 23, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees - October 26, 2022*

The Board of Trustees shall authorize the college administration to develop and institute policies and procedures pertaining to the admission of students to the college and limited enrollment programs.

#### **Early Enrollment for High School Students**

High school students who are 16 years or older and in their junior or senior years may earn college credit at Westmoreland by demonstrating potential for college-level work and securing a recommendation from their high school guidance counselors or principals.

High school students with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale and who demonstrate readiness for entry into college-level coursework may enroll in College in the High School classes upon recommendation from their high school guidance counselor or principal.

#### **Requirements for Regular Admission**

High school graduates or those who hold a GED high school equivalency, HiSet, or DD 214 (certificate or discharge from active duty) are granted admission to the college. Individuals 18 years of age and older who have not earned a high school diploma or a GED, HiSet, or DD 214 are admitted to the college if they can demonstrate their ability to benefit from the college experience. After successfully completing 30 credits at Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland), they may be eligible to petition for a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma. Forms for Commonwealth Secondary School Diplomas are available at the Department of Education, GED, Harrisburg.

#### **Admissions to Specific Programs**

In addition to the general requirements, some programs have specific admission requirements.

Students who do not meet the requirements for a specific program may become eligible after completing appropriate course work, however, they must finish the selective process.

#### **Readmission**

Former students who wish to return after a lapse of two years must submit a new Application for Admissions. A re-entering student who has attended any other institution since leaving Westmoreland must request that an official transcript from each school be sent directly to the Office of the Registrar.

### 3.4 Scholarship Program

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

The Westmoreland County Community College Board of Trustees has established the President's Scholarship and the Trustees Meritorious Scholarship to attract the area's most ambitious students as they graduate high school.

The President's Scholarship will be awarded annually to ten students who graduated from high school in Westmoreland County within the current year with at least a 3.5 GPA out of 4.0 and demonstrates Ambitious ideals including but not limited to, volunteering, extracurricular activities, employment, etc. The scholarship will cover the cost of tuition for the academic year and general fees, excluding lab fees, and requires full-time attendance. Students selected for this scholarship will also serve as Ambassadors in the Student Ambassador program at the College. Scholarships are awarded upon a completed FAFSA, submitted high school transcript, and an interview for the Ambassador program. The scholarship is renewable as long as students complete all requirements of the Ambassador program and maintain a 3.0 GPA.

The Trustee's Meritorious Scholarship will be awarded annually to twenty students who graduated from Westmoreland, Fayette, or Indiana County high schools within the current year, and has at least a 3.0 out of 4.0 GPA and demonstrates Ambitious ideals including but not limited to, volunteering, extracurricular activities, employment, etc. For students living in Westmoreland County, the scholarship covers the cost of tuition for one academic year. For students living in Fayette or Indiana Counties, the scholarship covers half the tuition for the academic year. Students must be enrolled full-time and are responsible for all fees. Students selected for this scholarship will also serve as Ambassadors in the Student Ambassador program for the College. Scholarships are awarded upon a completed FAFSA, submitted final high school transcript, and an interview for the Ambassador program.

The President's Scholarship and the Trustee's Meritorious Scholarship are competitive and selective programs. All eligible students are encouraged to apply, and complete applications will be reviewed by a selection committee.

### 3.5 Grading System

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 23, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 22, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 28, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2024*

The board of trustees shall authorize the college administration to develop and institute policies and procedures pertaining to grades.

#### **Grading and Academic Record Symbols Policy**

**Purpose:** As Westmoreland County Community College is dedicated to maintaining academic integrity and student success, this policy ensures compliance with federal Title IV guidelines, other college policies, and provides comprehensive assessment components. Further, it specifies the each course taken for academic credit will be assigned a final grade by the faculty who delivers instruction.

**Scope:** Credit bearing courses at Westmoreland County Community College

**Policy:** Courses shall be graded using the grading system established by Westmoreland County Community College and made available to students.

The grading and academic record symbols are as follows:

#### **Evaluative symbols included in the grade point average**

- A – Excellent
- B – Good
- C – Satisfactory
- D – Passing (Less than satisfactory)
- F – Failing

#### **Evaluative symbols not included in the grade point average**

- P – Pass (At least satisfactory)
- NP – No Pass (Less than satisfactory)
- TA - Transfer in grade A
- TB - Transfer in grade B
- TC - Transfer in grade C
- TD - Transfer in grade D

**Non-Evaluative symbols:**

- I – Incomplete
- I^ – Incomplete for P/NP courses
- IP – In progress
- RD – Report delayed
- W – Withdrawal
- M – Military withdrawal
- MW – Medical withdrawal

**Academic Forgiveness**

Students returning to Westmoreland County Community College after a four-year absence may petition that the credits with D and F grades earned during their previous enrollment at the college be removed from the computation of the cumulative grade point average. This petition may be made only after completion of 12 additional college-level credits after the student returns with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher for these 12 credits. Once approved, previously earned credits with D and F grades are not used for calculating the student's grade point average, however, they remain on the transcript with an appropriate notation. Students should meet with the counselor or their faculty advisor to initiate the process. This is not included in the Satisfactory Academic Progress for federal financial aid, and is only applicable to the student's Westmoreland GPA.

**Repeating Courses**

Students may repeat courses. Programs may limit the number of repeats allowed. The most recent evaluative grade will count towards credential progress. Non-evaluative symbols (see above) will not count towards GPA.

**Incomplete Grades**

"Incomplete" is appropriate when the student has completed most of the course requirements, is passing based on work completed, and has contracted to make up the remaining or outstanding work. The faculty member must submit an Incomplete Form to their Academic Dean so the form can be attached to the student's record. The grade of "incomplete" is given only at the discretion of the instructor if, in the instructor's judgment, the student has furnished satisfactory evidence that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other extenuating circumstances. The incomplete (I) automatically changes to an F grade and the incomplete (I^ ) automatically changes to an NP grade if the work is not completed by the date specified by the instructor, not to exceed 120 days after term end.

**Grade Appeal**

All final grades posted on a student's grade report at the end of a semester are considered correct unless a question is raised within one year of its recording. Students should address inquiries or appeal to the instructor of the course within one year from the end of the courses.

### **3.6 Academic Honors**

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

The board of trustees shall authorize the college administration to develop and institute requirements for recognition to the Dean's List and President's List for full and part-time students.

#### **President's List/Dean's List**

At the end of each semester, full-time students who have achieved a semester grade point average (GPA) of 4.0 are named to the President's List; full-time students who obtain a GPA between 3.50 and 3.99, are named to the Dean's List. Developmental courses are not included in the calculation of the GPA.

Part-time students who have achieved a GPA of 4.0 are named to the President's List. The GPA is calculated upon the completion of at least 12 credits, 24 credits, 36 credits, and 48 credits.

Part-time students who have achieved a GPA of 3.50 to 3.99 are named to the Dean's List. The GPA is calculated upon the completion of at least 12 credits, 24, credits, 36 credits, and 48 credits.

### 3.7 Graduation Requirements

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 22, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 25, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 24, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 27, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 26, 2024*

The board of trustees shall authorize the college administration to develop and institute policies and procedures pertaining to graduation requirements for associate degree programs, diplomas and certificates.

To be eligible for graduation, all students must:

- Complete the requirements for their program of study as listed in the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment or any subsequent catalog including the current one.
- Earn at least 30 credits of degree requirements or 15 credits of diploma requirements at Westmoreland County Community College under faculty instruction and evaluation. This does not include transfer credits, credits awarded for CLEP and other standardized exams, and credit by exam or portfolio.
- Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher in all course work.
- Fulfill all financial obligations to the college.

Note that developmental courses (those courses which have course numbers below 100) carry no quality points, may not be used to meet graduation requirements, and will not transfer to all senior institutions.

### **3.8 Graduation Honors**

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The board of trustees shall authorize the college administration to develop and institute policies and procedures pertaining to graduation with honors.

Students who have earned an overall grade point average of 4.0 are graduated "with highest honors." Students who have earned an overall grade point average of at least 3.75 and below 4.0 are graduated with "high honors." Students who have earned an overall grade point average of at least 3.50 and below 3.75 are graduated "with honors." Grade point average is calculated based only on college-level courses (100 level and above) taken at Westmoreland County Community College.



### 3.9 Additional Degrees

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 23, 2002*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 13, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 24, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 26, 2024*

The board of trustees shall authorize the college administration to develop and institute policies and procedures pertaining to awarding of additional degrees.

A second associate degree is awarded only when all the program requirements for the second associate degree have been met and when students have successfully completed 15 additional credits that are not duplicated in the first associate degree program. A second diploma is awarded only when all the program requirements for the second diploma have been met and when students have successfully completed 9 additional credits that are not duplicated in the first diploma program. A second certificate is awarded only when all the program requirements for the second certificate have been met and when students have successfully completed 6 additional credits that are not duplicated in the first certificate program. Appeals for exceptions to this policy must be made in writing to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

### 3.10 Code of Student Conduct

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 25, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2022*

#### **Purpose and Rationale**

Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) is a learning-centered college focused on student success thus a positive educational environment is imperative. In order to ensure the health, safety, protection, and positive learning environment, Westmoreland has established the Code of Student Conduct.

Westmoreland holds that the purpose of the policies regarding the student conduct and disciplinary process is to establish guidelines for the educational environment within the College. Further, Westmoreland views the student conduct in a holistic and developmental manner; thereby, seeking educational growth and development throughout the process.

Whereas Westmoreland is a learning-centered environment, every member of the campus community should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct, Student Handbook, and College Catalog.

#### **Statement of Jurisdiction and Authority of Administration of the Code of Student Conduct**

The following policies and procedures regarding conduct and disciplinary action are applicable to any Westmoreland location or function, the use of College properties, College-sponsored events and activities on or off campus. Westmoreland reserves the right to take any necessary and/or appropriate steps to protect the safety and well-being of the campus community. While Westmoreland's jurisdiction will generally be limited to conduct occurring on campus properties or at Westmoreland sponsored activities, a student who is charged with a crime as a result of off campus behavior, and who represents a risk to the reputation, health, or safety of the campus community may also be subjected to the Student Code of Behavioral Conduct disciplinary process. Finally, jurisdiction may be extended when a student, or student organization, commits a prohibited act off campus against a student, faculty, or employee of Westmoreland, or the College itself, when such an act is related to the student or accuser's status within the College.

The Vice President of Enrollment Management has been designated by the College President as the person responsible for implementing and enforcing the Code of Student Conduct. In cases where conflicts of interest arise, the Vice President of Enrollment Management's designee will coordinate the process.

#### **Definitions**

##### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

All students have the basic right to have the freedom to learn, meaning that they are free to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them both through the curriculum and co-

curriculum. This right is based on mutual respect and responsibility. When a student enrolls at Westmoreland, they agree to abide by all College policies and regulations. The violation of any rule within the Student Code of Behavioral Conduct could result in disciplinary action. Further, Westmoreland will abide by any and all state, local, and federal laws with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County.

### Standards of the Student Code

- I. Westmoreland students are expected to positively contribute to the positive learning environment. Violations of this standard include:
  - a. Engaging in behavior that is discriminatory, bullying, harassing, or abusive to any individual or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender, gender identity, race, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, age, marital status, military status, national origin, sexual orientation, and/or disability. Violations can occur through various modalities including email, texts, phone calls, social media, and/or in-person.
  - b. Intentionally, or knowingly, engaging in conduct that endangers the life or property of another individual or entity. This includes the threat of harm, attempt of harm, or actual harm to oneself, another person, or the cause for a reasonable fear of such harm. Threatening behavior can include written statements, actions, gestures, etc., and can occur via emails, texts, phone calls, social media, verbally, in writing, and/or in-person.
  - c. Engaging in conduct that is disorderly, lewd, or otherwise disruptive to the learning and/or educational process.
  - d. Engaging in sexual contact with another person without consent. This type of conduct is referred to as sexual assault (Please Title IX Policy as a cross-reference).
  - e. Stalking (including through social media), dating or domestic violence committed by one student against another that occurs on or off campus that negatively affects the learning environment of the student/s (Please reference Title IX Policy).
  - f. Engaging in any act of hazing, or any other kind of initiation to any student organization or athletic organization.
  - g. Engaging in retaliation of any kind.
  - h. Unauthorized use of electronics or other devices that make audio, visual, or photographic recordings.
  - i. Interfering with the normal operations of the College.
  - j. Interfering with classroom instruction.
- II. Westmoreland students are expected to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the campus community. Violations of this standard include:
  - a. Entering, or remaining, in any lab, classroom, office, building, or campus facility after closing time without proper authorization.

- b. Use, possession, distribution, sale or purchase of illegal substances on college property or at college sponsored events.
  - c. Use, possession, sale, or purchase, of alcoholic beverages without following the procedures as outlined in the College's Student Drug and Alcohol Policy.
  - d. Use, possession, or sale of Illegal drugs (Please reference the College's Student Drug and Alcohol Policy)
  - e. Incapacitation due to the use or abuse of alcohol or a controlled substance, or appearing in an intoxicated or altered state on College premises, at College-sponsored events, or while officially representing the College - particularly when there is a danger to self, others, or property.
  - f. Operating a motor vehicle in a reckless manner.
  - g. Use, possession, sale, purchase or concealment of any firearms, licensed or unlicensed, including BB/Pellet guns, sling shots, and sharp edged objects which can be used as weapons, explosives or dangerous chemicals.
  - h. Theft, willful defacement or willful destruction of college property or personal property of others.
  - i. Theft, including, but not limited to intellectual property such as work products and computer software, either physically or through unauthorized invasion of computer files.
  - j. Using another person's ID to gain access to the data communications network or the Internet.
  - k. Using the data communications network for private or personal business or for any other purpose which is inconsistent with the research or instructional needs of the college.
  - l. Failure to identify oneself when requested to do so by a College Administrative Official, Security Officer, Faculty, or Staff member.
- III. Westmoreland students are expected to observe the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures of the College and local, state, and federal laws. Violations include:
- a. Knowingly engaging in behavior that is disruptive to the educational process, both inside the classroom and out. Examples of this conduct include conduct that disrupts College activities, such as blocking entrances and exits to classrooms, or conduct that infringes on the rights of others, or organizing such conduct.
  - b. Unlawful gambling
  - c. Underage possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages.
  - d. Possessing, distributing, or using illegal drugs, or prescription drugs not prescribe by a medical doctor for one's use.
  - e. Withholding, or intentionally giving false information to a college official.
  - f. Forging, altering, or misusing any College document, i.e. transcripts, diplomas, etc.

- g. Violating any federal, state, or local law on or off campus at a college-sponsored event.
- h. Failing to comply with College policies as outlined in the College Catalog and/or Student Handbook.

### **Procedures for Dealing with Violations to the Code of Student Conduct**

The Vice President of Enrollment Management, or their designee handles all violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

#### **Reporting a Violation**

- 1. Any student, faculty member, College official, College employee, or member of the campus community may file a charge(s) of misconduct against a student.
- 2. All alleged violations should be submitted in writing within two weeks of the point in which the violation was known to occur.

#### **Investigation an Alleged Charge of Misconduct**

- 1. Upon receiving a charge of misconduct, an investigation of the charge will occur.
- 2. The investigation will typically include an interview with the person within the campus community filing the charges of misconduct, the complainant, or victim, possibly witnesses, and finally, the respondent, or the student who the charges of misconduct were filed against.
- 3. Temporary Suspension- The Vice President of Enrollment Management, or designee may suspend the student from the College for an interim period pending disciplinary proceedings.
  - a. The time period should be clearly defined, i.e., two days, three days, etc.
  - b. The Temporary Suspension may come immediately effective without prior notice if needed to conduct further investigation of the alleged violation.
  - c. The student suspended on a temporary basis will have an expedited Conduct Hearing (within five business days).
    - i. If insufficient evidence is found prior to the first Conduct Meeting, and further investigation is needed, then the temporary suspension may continue until the next Conduct Meeting.
- 4. As a result of the investigation, the College may:
  - a. Dismiss the allegations as unfounded, or
  - b. Administer disciplinary act as deemed appropriate based upon the severity of the violations.
    - i. If the investigation yields that disciplinary actions are needed, the respondent will be informed in writing and asked to meet with the Vice President of Enrollment Management, or designee for a Conduct Meeting.

#### **Disciplinary Actions**

- 1. As aforementioned, the respondent will be informed of the alleged violation of the Student Code of Behavioral Conduct in writing, and subsequently scheduled for a Conduct Meeting.

2. During the Conduct Meeting, the respondent will have the opportunity to present their side of the alleged violation.
3. All steps will be taken to resolve the charges through mutual agreement and to determine the appropriate disciplinary actions. Steps to resolve the conduct violations could include mediated discussions with students and/or faculty, letters of apology, and letters of corrective action. A written summary will be provided at the conclusion of any mutual agreement.
4. If a mutual agreement is not reached, then the student will receive notification of disciplinary action within three (3) working days.
5. Disciplinary actions can include, but are not limited to:
  - a. **Educational Sanctions** - A student may be assigned a paper, a project, and/or readings which must be completed within a prescribed timeframe and are designed to help students who violate the Code of Conduct reflect and learn from their violations.
  - b. **Probation** - Terms of probation may include restricted access to designated areas of campus (e.g. Cafeteria, Library, etc.) and/or restricted participation in College activities or athletics. If a student violates the restrictions imposed, or becomes involved in any other violations of conduct while on disciplinary probation, additional sanctions may be imposed after a meeting with the Vice President of Enrollment Management, up to and including suspension or dismissal from the College. Probationary notice is to be given to the student in writing with the terms of the probation and the rationale carefully detailed.
  - c. **Written Warning** - A Written Warning is a letter from the Vice President of Enrollment Management to a student found in violation of the Code of Student Conduct. The specific violation is to be stated in the letter along with a rationale for why it violates the Code of Student Conduct, and it will be copied to the President of the College.
  - d. **Restitution** - Any student found in violation of the Student Code of Behavioral Conduct that has an associated expense to the College or members of the campus community may be required to make financial restitution to all parties involved. Failure to do so within a given period of time could result in further disciplinary action.
  - e. **Monetary Fines** - Monetary fines could be imposed in cases where deemed necessary.
  - f. **Community Service**- an unpaid service to the benefit of the campus community, or community at large. Failure to comply within a given period of time could result in further disciplinary action.
  - g. **Dean's Hold** - A hold applied to the student's account that prohibits all academic and financial transactions without the consent of the Vice President of Enrollment Management.
  - h. Mandated referral to an evaluation by psychologist, or mental health professional.
  - i. **Withdrawal for a Course** - The Vice President of Enrollment Management, or designee, may choose to withdraw a student from a course or transfer them to another section.
  - j. **Classroom Removal** - A faculty member may temporarily remove a student from class who disrupts the educational environment. If the faculty member removes the student for more than one class session, he/she will submit a written report within 48 hours of the incident for review by the Vice President for Enrollment Management. A Conduct Meeting will be scheduled on a priority basis and decisions as to whether or not a student can return to class will be made in consultation with the faculty member.

- k. **Suspension** - Suspension shall be a specific period of time in which a student is prohibited from enrolling at the institution. Typically, a student who is suspended will receive a "W" for all of his/her courses.
- l. **Expulsion** - Expulsion is the immediate removal of a student from the College prohibiting future enrollment at the institution. Typically, a student who is suspended will receive a "W" for all of his/her courses.

### **Appeal Process**

A student who wishes to appeal the decision concerning a violation of the Student Code of Behavioral Conduct must appeal the decision by filing a written appeal with the Judicial Board within 10 business days of the decision.

**Judicial Board:** The Judicial Board has been designed to treat adjudicated incidents of violation of the college rules and regulations by students who appeal the decision made by the college. Such incidents exclude behavior that can be defined as academic in nature. Appeals can only be forwarded to the Judicial Board for consideration if there is: (1) additional information not available for initial consideration; (2) extenuating circumstances not made known; (3) an error or irregularity in the Code of Conduct process.

The Judicial Board shall consist of five members, which will include three student representatives selected and approved by Student Government Association and one faculty and one staff appointed by the Vice President of Enrollment Management.

**Procedures:** All appeals made in connection with a nonacademic matter will be forwarded to the chairperson of the Judicial Board.

1. The appeal must be presented in written form, and should include all facts. This should include particular dates, times, actions, and people involved.
2. All parties asked to appear at the hearing will be given five business days' notice of the hearing. They will also be given a written statement of charges and the procedure which will be followed in the hearing. In order for a hearing to take place, a quorum of three members must be present with at least one of whom must be faculty and/or staff. The Judicial Board will assume responsibility for its procedural operation which will include electing a chairperson and conducting hearings according to the following guidelines:
  - a. Hearings shall be conducted in private.
  - b. Admission of any person, not a party to the hearing, shall be at the discretion of the chairperson.
  - c. The complainant and/or the accused student are responsible for presenting his or her own case.
  - d. Both the student and complainant shall have the right to present witnesses and shall have the opportunity to cross examine the other's witness.
  - e. Relevant records, exhibits and written statements may be admitted as evidence for consideration by the Judicial Board, at the discretion of the chairperson. These records, exhibits and written statements must be submitted to the chairperson at

least three days before the Judicial Board meets.

- f. Formal rules of civil and criminal procedures, and/ or technical rules of evidence, will not be strictly applied in Judicial Board proceedings.
- g. There shall be a transcript of the hearing, provided by the college, in the form of an electronic recording. No unauthorized recording devices will be permitted in the room. The record shall become the property of the college.
- h. After the hearing, the Judicial Board shall meet in closed session to determine, by majority vote, whether the student's appeal should be upheld and/or to determine a different sanction.
- i. All proceedings presented to the Judicial Board should be kept confidential.
- j. The Judicial Board's decisions and recommended sanctions shall be prepared in writing within five business days and directed to the Vice President of Enrollment Management. The decision of the Judicial Board is final.



### 3.11 Drug and Alcohol

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 24, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2022*

Westmoreland County Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, employees, and community members. This includes the College and its Centers being an alcohol/drug free environment.

#### **Alcohol and Drug Use**

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and Drug-Free Schools and Campus Regulations (34 CFR Part 86), students are encouraged to read and understand all information pertaining to the College's drug and alcohol abuse prevention policies and programs.

#### **Alcohol**

The College maintains the following guidelines pertaining to alcoholic, or otherwise intoxicating, beverages:

- 1 The use of alcohol, or other intoxicating beverages, is prohibited in college classroom, laboratories, faculty and administrative offices, libraries, computer labs, athletic facilities, and all other public campus areas. However, with prior consent of the Board of Trustees and the President, the provisions herein may be waived with respect to any specific affair that is sponsored by the institution and/or the Westmoreland County Community College Foundation. State law will be enforced at all times on college property as it pertains to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- 2 The College will not sponsor student events which focus primarily on the consumption of alcohol.
- 3 Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any student event held on the college campus.
- 4 Students seeking assistance or educational materials about alcohol should contact the Counseling personnel found in Student Success Services in the Student Achievement Center on the Youngwood Campus.

#### **Controlled Substances**

The College maintains the following guidelines in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Campus regulations (34 CFR Part 86):

- 1 No student shall, or attempt to, possess, manufacture, deliver, distribute, sell, purchase, use, or be under the influence of controlled substances, abuseable volatile chemicals, dangerous drugs as defined by state and federal law, steroids, "designer drugs" (i.e., substances such as the inappropriate/illegal use of prescription drugs, use of inhalants, use of herbal, natural, or look-alike controlled substances), any other intoxicating or mood-altering substance, or behavior altering drugs at the College, on the College property, or while attending on-campus or off-campus College sponsored activities.
- 2 Possession of any pipe, syringe, hypodermic needle, or any instrument adapted for the use of smoking, injecting, or ingesting any narcotic or hallucinatory drug is strictly prohibited.

## Academic Student Policies

- 3 College officials will cooperate with local, state, and federal authorities to ensure compliance with laws for unlawful use, possession manufacture, distribution or sell of illicit drugs or alcohol and will advise students that convictions or violations of these laws can lead to fines and/or imprisonment.
- 4 Students seeking assistance or educational materials regarding drugs and other controlled substances should contact the Counseling personnel located in Student Success Services in the Student Achievement Center on the Youngwood Campus.

### **Violations**

Students who violate the drug and alcohol policy are subject to disciplinary action as stated in the student Code of Conduct. Further, they may be subject to legal sanctions if convicted of a crime or offense.

### **Legal Sanctions for Possession, Use, and Sale of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol**

#### ***Alcohol***

Pennsylvania Liquor Code, 47 Pa., C.S.A., 1-101 controls the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Conviction of offenses or crimes related to the Pennsylvania Liquor Code may result in the imposition of a fine, suspension of a driver's license, and/or imprisonment.

#### ***Drugs***

Federal law, i.e., the Controlled Substances Act, and state law, i.e., the Pennsylvania Controlled Substances Act, establish five schedules of controlled substances based on level of danger and medical use, and penalties of offenses related to each schedule. Conviction of crimes or offenses pertain to the five schedules of controlled substances may result in fines or imprisonment.

### **References**

<http://www.lcb.state.pa.us/PLCB/index.htm> <http://www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Laws-Regulations/Pages/DUI-Legislation.aspx#>.

VpgGE7YrLcs <https://www.dea.gov/druginfo/ds.shtml>

### 3.12 Satisfactory Academic Progress

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – February 28, 2013*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 10, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 3, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 5, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 28, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 26, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

Federal and state regulations governing student financial aid mandates that institutions of higher education establish standards of "Satisfactory Academic Progress" (SAP) for students receiving federal financial aid. These standards apply to all Federal Title IV aid programs. The Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards apply to all students seeking federal Title IV financial aid, regardless of whether a student has received Title IV financial aid in the past. Federal regulations require that all students receiving federal financial aid make continued progress in their educational programs and toward their educational goals. (CFR 34 668.34).

Federal financial aid programs include:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
- Federal TEACH Grant
- Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Federal Direct Student Loans (including Parent Loans)
- Federal Work Study

Failure to meet SAP Requirements may also affect your eligibility for:

- State Financial Aid Programs
- Westmoreland County Community College Scholarships
- Scholarships awarded by entities outside of the school with a SAP requirements for award eligibility
- Other financial assistance programs awarded by Westmoreland County Community College

**IMPORTANT:** Students may be academically eligible to continue to take courses at Westmoreland, but be ineligible for federal financial aid. Students who regain financial aid eligibility will not be able to receive financial aid for any previous term during which they were ineligible for aid.

#### **Program of Study**

A student must declare an eligible program of study to be eligible to receive federal financial aid.

#### **Process of Determining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):**

In accordance with the HEA regulations, the Financial Aid Office will monitor SAP after grades are posted at the end of each term (fall, spring, and summer).

### Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards:

- **Qualitative Standard** (Cumulative Grade Point Average) –A student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0. Cumulative GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total credit hours attempted for which the student received grades. Credit hours attempted will be cumulative and will include all hours for which the student was enrolled as of the census date, defined as the day following the last day for registration and payment as outlined in the College catalog, of each academic term, or for which the student received a grade.
- **Quantitative Standard** (Completion Rate) –A student must maintain a minimum cumulative completion rate of 67%. A student's completion rate can be calculated by dividing the number of credit hours completed by the number of credit hours attempted. Transfer credits should count as both attempted and completed credits.
- **Maximum Timeframe** –A student must successfully complete the program of study within its timeframe. Federal regulations specify that the timeframe may not exceed 150% of the published length of the program. When students exceed the timeframe for their programs of study, they are no longer eligible to receive financial aid. However, students can submit an appeal to have their eligibility extended if there are extenuating circumstances

### Satisfactory Academic Progress Review

Students are evaluated at the end of each academic term (fall, spring and summer). A student with a status of Unsatisfactory may either appeal to have their financial aid eligibility reinstated, or may notify the Financial Aid Office when they are meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy. The appeal procedure is detailed in the College catalog. The review process will assign a status for each student of:

- **SATISFACTORY:** Student has met progress standards and is eligible for aid for the following semester or academic year.
- **WARNING:** Student has not met progress standards, but may continue receiving federal aid. Student is encouraged to seek tutoring to assist with the improvement of his/her GPA and progress. A student in the 'Warning' category is calculated based on cumulative evaluation through prior term enrollment.
- **UNSATISFACTORY:** Students who fail to meet the conditions of a Warning, which are to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a minimum cumulative completion rate of 67%, will be placed on Unsatisfactory. Students who are placed on Unsatisfactory forfeit their financial aid.
- **MAXIMUM TIME-FRAME:** A student is no longer eligible to receive Federal or State financial aid due to having exceeded the maximum allowed credits for earning his/her program of study. Students submitting a Maximum Time Frame Appeal must include an Academic Plan reflecting the date for completion of their program of study. The advisor or counselor must sign the academic plan prior to submittal.

## Academic Student Policies

- **PROBATION:** Probation occurs when students on Unsatisfactory or Maximum Time Frame have had their SAP appeal and Academic Plan approved by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal's Committee for financial aid reinstatement. Students in the status of probation will have their financial aid eligibility reinstated for one more semester. A student on probation may not receive aid for the subsequent payment period unless:
  - The student is now meeting the financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress policy at the end of the probation period (semester); or
  - The student adheres to the financial aid student academic plan.
- **CONTINUED PROBATION:** Students may remain on Continued Probation status for as long as needed to raise their cumulative GPA above a 2.0 as long as they maintain a 2.3 term GPA each semester and complete at least 6 credit hours in the Fall and Spring, and 3 credit hours in the Summer. Students with a completion rate of less than 67%, must complete all attempted classes taken during the probation period to remain on continued probation. That means that each continued probation student would have to make a 2.3 GPA in the classes they are currently enrolled in and not withdraw or make failing grades. The student will be cleared from probation when their cumulative GPA reaches a 2.0 or higher and/or their completion rate is 67%. Student will be required to submit an appeal request and be approved for each term of continued probation.
- **DENIED:** If the appeal is denied by the SAP Appeal's Committee, no further financial aid will be awarded to the student until the conditions of the SAP policy have been met. The student will be responsible for the payment of all tuition, fees, book charges, and any other costs associated with enrollment. The student may reapply for appeal in subsequent terms if they do not regain satisfactory academic progress after one term after being denied an appeal.

### Appeal/Review Deadlines

Students wishing to appeal their SAP status of 'Unsatisfactory' must submit their SAP appeal form with relevant supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid no later than the Census date for each term. Please refer to the Satisfactory Academic Progress Procedures on the [www.westmoreland.edu](http://www.westmoreland.edu) website.

### Regaining Eligibility

If a student fails to meet the satisfactory academic progress standards, but meets the standards later at some point, the student can once again be eligible to receive federal Title IV aid. In such cases, financial aid eligibility will begin with the academic semester after which the student re-establishes progress. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Westmoreland Financial Aid Office after completing coursework that allows the student to regain eligibility for financial aid. Students cannot regain eligibility while a term for which they were not previously eligible is still in session. Students must complete the term and regain satisfactory academic progress to be eligible for federal Title IV aid for the next term.

## Academic Student Policies

### Developmental Coursework

Developmental credits for which students receive a letter grade (not pass/fail) are calculated in Satisfactory Academic Progress for GPA. Developmental credits are also counted towards credits attempted, but are not included in the Maximum Time Frame calculation. Note: Maximum of 30 attempted Developmental credits are funded with federal financial aid. This restriction holds for all the federal grants and loans described on this site. You can, however, still receive federal financial aid payments for credit bearing course work, subject to your ability to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

### Repeated Courses

All Repeated courses will be counted in the total number of attempted credits for SAP calculation. The school will use the most recent letter grade earned for the course towards the GPA calculation for SAP. A student who passes a course (with a letter grade of D or higher, may retake the class one additional time and receive financial aid for that course. W grades do not count against total number of retakes

### Incompletes

Courses with an "I" (incomplete) will be considered as courses attempted, but not successfully completed. Although Westmoreland's academic policy provides students up to an additional semester to complete an incomplete (I) grade, one or more "I" grades can adversely affect the Minimum 67% Pace of Completion component of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. The incomplete automatically changes to an F grade if work is not completed by the date specified by the instructor, not to exceed one semester. At the end of the following semester, whatever grade is earned for the incomplete course will be used in the SAP calculation for that term. Previous SAP calculations will not be adjusted for an "I" grade that has been converted after the calculation was completed unless the "I" grade was originally posted in error.

### Transfer Credits

Transfer credits accepted by Westmoreland County Community College will be included in overall attempted credits, but not the GPA calculation. Attempted credits will be used in the calculation of Maximum Time Frame and Completion rate.

### Change in Program

A change of program does **not** "reset" SAP. All attempted and completed credits are used when calculating GPA, Completion Rate, and Maximum Time Frame. Students must make sure that they have their correct program of study "active" on their school record and must only take coursework that is required to complete that program of study. SAP evaluation is completed on the most recently added, highest level, "active" program on a student's record.

### Self-Paid Enrollment

All periods of enrollment at Westmoreland must be included when calculating SAP regardless of whether or not federal financial aid was previously received.

## Academic Student Policies

### **Notification**

Students will be notified via the student's Westmoreland email account. It is also the responsibility of the student to be aware of these guidelines and his/her academic progress in his/her educational program.

### **State Grant Academic Progress**

Academic progress requirements for state grant programs can vary from the federal academic progress policy. Academic progress requirements for the Pennsylvania State Grant are communicated directly to recipients with their state grant notification by PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency); questions about appeals for Pennsylvania State Grant eligibility must be directed to PHEAA at 1-800-692-7392 or [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org).

### 3.13 Student Email Policy

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 25, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) provides electronic mail (Email) resources to support an environment conducive to teaching and learning; specifically, to assist students in their educational endeavors, to encourage communication and engagement with peers, faculty, and staff, and to provide a primary mode of communication to the Westmoreland community.

A student's Westmoreland e-mail account will serve as the official email account through which the College will communicate when communicating via e-mail.

The following policy is in place to ensure the proper use of Westmoreland student email accounts. Policy violations will be investigated by designated Westmoreland officials, and may result in actions including the loss of computer privileges, or appropriate legal action if acts constitute a civil or criminal offense.

This policy encompasses all use of student email regardless of the platform.

#### **Access**

Students are provided with a Westmoreland email account and allotted five gigabytes (5 GB) of storage space after acceptance to the college. Access is discontinued after graduation, an absence of six consecutive semesters (two years), or upon disciplinary determinations.

#### **Use**

Students are expected to use email appropriately in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct otherwise the student's improper use of student email could result in a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

#### **Misuse**

Access to Westmoreland email may be revoked if misused in ways that could harm the college community.

Examples of misuse include, but are not limited to,

- Transmitting or storing files/documents that include forgery, plagiarism, or violations of copyright laws; emails or files that are obscene, abusive, threatening, or otherwise harassing; or messages that contain viruses, worms, spyware, or any form of malware.
- Violating laws or regulations or encouraging illegal activity.
- Interfering with others' ability to conduct institutional business.
- Incurring costs to the institution for commercial or personal financial gain.
- Providing a third-party with email addresses obtained from the institution without written consent.



## Academic Student Policies

### Acceptable Use

- A means of communication between faculty, staff and students.
- As a method of sending and receiving important notifications and information.
- As a tool for collaboration in the instructional process.

### Prohibited Use

- Sending documents that include forgery, plagiarism, or violations of copyright laws.
- Sending or forwarding emails that are obscene, abusive, threatening, or otherwise harassing.
- Using the email system to violate a law or regulation, or that encourages illegal activity.
- Knowingly, or recklessly transmitting email messages that contain viruses, worms, spyware or any form of malware.
- Use of email that interferes with other's ability to conduct institutional business.
- Use of email that will affect direct costs to the institution or for commercial purposes and/or personal financial gain.
- Providing a third party with an individual's email address or a list obtained from within the institutional system without express written permissions.

### Termination of Student E-Mail

- Westmoreland students will not have their email terminated unless separated from the college due to suspension or expulsion.

### Disclosures

- Students have no individual rights to privacy with regard to a student Westmoreland email account.
- The college has the right to review sent or received emails at any time for monitoring purposes or for purposes related to institutional business. Westmoreland reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of a student's email without consent of the user to the extent permitted by law. This will occur when Westmoreland believes it has a legitimate business or legal need and after proper authorization has been obtained from the appropriate authority at Westmoreland.
- Westmoreland may monitor email communications at any time, if it is deemed necessary.
- Westmoreland reserves the right to access, review, and disclose the email addresses of students to the extent required by the PA Right to Know laws, and allowed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

### 3.14 Residency Policy

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 28, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees — January 23, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2022*

Residency requirements are established for the purposes of assessing tuition and fees. Residency is determined on a student's true and fixed home, and for a dependent student (as defined by the IRS) is determined by the parent's residence.

#### **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Residency**

To establish residency in the state of Pennsylvania, you must demonstrate continuous residence for twelve consecutive months prior to registration at Westmoreland County Community College.

Documentation must be received prior to the start of the term.

#### **Westmoreland County Residency**

To establish residency in Westmoreland County, a student must demonstrate continuous residence for at least four months. Documentation of proof of residency must be received prior to the start of the term.

Exceptions may be made for students moving into Westmoreland County if they can provide documentation that demonstrates an intent to remain in Westmoreland County. These exceptions may include a move due to employment, or parent's employment or for other purposes than attending college full-time. All documentation of proof is necessary. Further, a student may also need to demonstrate financial independence as a part of establishing residency.

Additional exceptions can be made whose status indicates that they are in or transitioning out of child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

#### **Veterans and their Dependents (House Bill 131)**

Westmoreland County Community College allows veterans, their spouses, and dependent children; military personnel, their spouses, and their dependent children; and civilian personnel working on a military base, their spouses, and their dependent children, who are admitted to a community college, to be charged the in-state, in-county rate, provided that the student is a resident of the state on the first day of the semester.

#### **County Corporate Sponsorship**

Westmoreland County Community College allows students whose residency is out-of-county, but who are employed by a company located in Westmoreland County that offers a tuition payment plan, to pay in-county rates as long as the Human Resources department of the company verifies this each semester by letter on company's letterhead and tuition payment plan.

## Academic Student Policies

### **Documents for Residency**

- PA Driver's License showing current address
- PA State ID Card with current address and issue date
- Voter Registration Card
- Utility bills in student's name
- Documentation from employers

### 3.15 Withdrawal

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 22, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 23, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

The withdrawal period for any College course is between the 20% and 75% points of the term. The specific dates are set by the length of the term and students may withdraw from the course by following the withdrawal process as specified in the Student Handbook.

Students wishing to withdraw after the 75% period of the course may request to do so for extenuating circumstances and with appropriate documentation. These cases will be reviewed by a committee, chaired by the Director of Student Success.

Extenuating circumstances that are related to a medical illness should follow the Medical Withdraw Policy.

Extenuating circumstances that are related to military service should follow the Military Withdraw Policy.

### **3.16 Establishment of an Institutional Review Board**

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 22, 2014*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

To assure the protection of human subjects and to comply with federal law including the 45 CFR 46 statute, Westmoreland County Community College requires researchers to submit proposals for studies involving human subjects to the college's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for review and approval prior to commencing with the proposed study.

### 3.17 Animals on Campus

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 28, 2017*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2022*

#### Introduction

Westmoreland County Community College strives to create a safe environment conducive to learning. As such, the Westmoreland campus community, in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, outlines the requirements for accessibility, behavior, and treatment of animals on campus.

#### Scope

The policy applies to all students, employees, and visitors to the Youngwood Campus or Centers.

#### Policy

1. All domestic animals on College property, including open space, athletic fields, playing fields, and intramural areas, must be leashed and under personal control of the owner at all times. Animals are not to be tied or secured to trees, posts, shrubs, and/or left unattended. Each owner is responsible for his/her animal, including clean-up.
2. To protect public health and safety, animals are not permitted in College buildings, subject to the followings exceptions:
  - a. A service animal assisting an individual with a disability:
    - i. The service animal must be under the control of its handler. Where it is not readily apparent that an animal is a service animal, the College may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.
    - ii. Westmoreland may exclude a service animal if the animal is not housebroken; would pose a direct threat to the health, safety, or property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by reasonable accommodation; is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control; would fundamentally alter the nature of a program or activity; or is not being cared for by the individual.
    - iii. Westmoreland is not responsible for the care or supervision of service animals.
    - iv. Individuals handling the service animals are responsible for the control of their animals at all times and for ensuring the immediate clean-up and proper disposal of all animal waste. Individuals must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including vaccination, licensure, animal health and leash laws.
    - v. Westmoreland may impose charges for damages caused by a service animal in the same manner the College imposes charges for damages to property,
  - b. A service animal or professional therapy dog accompanied by a qualified handler or professional trainer in certain areas open to the general public, subject to the restrictions and requirements set forth in the applicable Pennsylvania state statutes;
  - c. Animals used as part of an academic, or college sponsored, program.

## Academic Student Policies

3. Emotional support animals are not allowed on campus without prior approval. If a student has a diagnosis that is included in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, then the support animal will be considered in the request for accommodations that is coordinated by the Counselor for Disability Services. Students must follow the accommodation request process
4. All animals on Westmoreland's campus must have current vaccinations evidenced by a tag on the animal or a vaccination certificate in the immediate possession of the owner.
5. A control agency will be called to remove and impound disruptive, aggressive, unattended or at-large animals. All animals are subject to the applicable county and/or borough codes regulating animals.

### Definitions

**Service Animal:** A "service animal" is one that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, and the work or tasks performed by the animal are directly related to the individual's disability. This definition encompasses all "service animals" as defined by the applicable regulations to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Domestic Animal:** Domestic Animals are those species of animals that normally and customarily share human habitat and are normally dependent on humans for food and shelter, including dogs, cats, and other common domestic animals, but not including feral or wild animals. Service Animals are not considered Domestic Animals for the purpose of this policy.

### 3.18 Transgender Student Policy Related to Gender Identity and Expression

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 24, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2022*

Westmoreland County Community College has created policies intended to provide direction for people on campus with varied gender expressions.

#### **Purpose**

This policy sets forth guidelines to address the needs of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming students. Westmoreland Community College is committed to creating a safe campus environment for transgender, non-binary & gender non-conforming students. This policy cannot anticipate every situation that might occur with respect to transgender, non-binary & gender non-conforming students as the needs of each individual must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, the goal is to ensure the safety, comfort, and healthy development of transgender, non-binary & gender non-conforming students while maximizing integration and minimizing stigmatization of the individual. Students who are considering or are in the process of transitioning to the gender they identify with, should consult with their campus Student Success staff for guidance and assistance with their transition in the campus environment. Likewise, any transgender, non-binary & gender non-conforming student who believes they have been discriminated or retaliated against, for any reason, should contact the College Title IX Officer.

#### **Scope**

This applies to credit and noncredit College students.

#### **Names & Pronouns**

Using appropriate names and pronouns is an important way of establishing norms of respect with the students.. For everyone, using appropriate names and pronouns signals your willingness to be inclusive. A student has the right to be addressed by the name and pronoun that corresponds with an individual's gender identity. A court-ordered name or formal surgical or medical gender change is not required. Additionally, transgender students have the right to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity, consistent with College policy.

#### **Privacy**

All students have the right to discuss their gender identity openly, or to keep that information private. College administrators, faculty and staff should not disclose information that may reveal an individual's transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming presentation to others unless or until the individual student requests or consents to such disclosure.



## **OFFICIAL STUDENT RECORDS**

### **Legal Name Change**

If a student has legally changed their name, then legal documentation must be provided so that academic records can be updated accordingly. Students can refer to the Student Handbook or the Student Portal for additional procedures.

### **Preferred Name Change**

The college recognizes that as a community many of its members use names other than their legal names to identify themselves. The college acknowledges that a “preferred name” can and should be used wherever possible in the course of college business and education. To foster a College environment that is inclusive and that encourages self-expression, Westmoreland has established guidelines whereby any current student may use a chosen first name on campus. We strive to have this name used wherever their legal names are required by law, industry standard, or strong business need.

### **Restroom/Locker Room Accessibility**

Gender-inclusive (GI) restrooms are available in some campus buildings. Gender-inclusive restrooms provide a safe and comfortable facility for all, regardless of gender identity and expression. All students have a right to safe and appropriate restroom facilities, including the right to use the restroom that corresponds to the student’s gender identity.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Sex assigned at birth** - The sex, male, female or intersex, that a doctor or midwife uses to describe a child at birth based on their external anatomy. Also referred to as biological or legal sex.

**Gender Spectrum** - The concept that gender exists beyond a simple man/woman binary model but instead exists on a continuum. Some people fall towards more masculine or feminine aspects, some people move fluidly along the spectrum, and some exist off the spectrum entirely.

**Gender identity** - One’s innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One’s gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

**Cisgender** - A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.

**Transgender** - An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

**Non-binary** - An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as

## Academic Student Policies

falling completely outside these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do. Non-binary can also be used as an umbrella term encompassing identities such as agender, bigender, genderqueer or gender-fluid.

**Gender non-conforming (GNC)** - An umbrella term for those who do not follow gender stereotypes, about how they should look or act based on the female or male sex they were assigned at birth.

**Gender-fluid** - A person who does not identify with a single fixed gender or has a fluid or unfixed gender identity.

**Gender expression** - External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, body characteristics or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

**Title** - This includes a prefix such as "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Miss" and "Ms.," and "Mx." **Legal Name** - The name legally given to an individual, reflected on a birth certificate, a court order, or certificate of naturalization.

**Preferred (or Chosen Name)** - A chosen name (sometimes known as a preferred name, a nickname, or a name-in-use) is the use of a name, usually a first name, that is different from a person's legal name. There are many reasons why someone may use a chosen name.

**Personal (or Preferred) Pronoun** - Pronouns are how we refer to each other in the third person and serve as a reflection of gender identity and expression. Similar to using a chosen name, respecting the pronouns of a student, faculty or staff member supports a positive and inclusive campus culture. ie. She/Her/Hers, He/Him/His, They/Them/Theirs, Ze/Hir/Hirs.

### 3.19 Teaching Faculty Qualifications

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 26, 2016*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Westmoreland College employs competent faculty qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution.

Faculty members must meet the college's requirements, as outlined in the Faculty Qualifications Manual, to teach credit courses at Westmoreland College. These requirements include those of applicable professional accrediting and/or approval agencies.

Academic degrees presented for credentialing will be awarded from regionally accredited institutions. In the event that the faculty member is a graduate of an institution outside of the United States, a further review of credentials will be conducted at the applicant's expense to ensure appropriate academic preparation.

A limited exemption renewal may be granted to faculty on a semester-by-semester basis if qualified faculty in any course classification are not available to instruct courses. The academic dean and a mentor within the teaching discipline will work closely with the instructor to develop an instructional and professional development plan. Approval for a limited exemption will be submitted with accompanying documentation to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

### 3.20 Transfer Credit

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 24, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 9, 2020*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 24, 2023*

Westmoreland County Community College will observe the following provisions in accepting transfer credit from other postsecondary institutions.

The consideration of transfer credits or recognition of degrees will not be determined exclusively on the basis of the accreditation of the sending institution or the mode of delivery but, rather, will consider course equivalencies, including expected learning outcomes, with those of the College's curricula and standards.

#### Maximum

There is no limit on the number of transfer hours that can be accepted. Students must meet residency requirements (See Policy 3.10) at Westmoreland County Community College for completion.

#### Transcripts

Before transfer credit is entered on the permanent record, a student must provide the college with an official transcript issued by the institution granting the credit.

#### Appeal Procedures

It is possible that errors in the articulation of course work, or omission of prior coursework can occur. In the event a student believes that this has happened, the appeal procedure is as follows:

- A. Students should first contact the Records office to discuss the evaluation results and provide any additional documentation needed to assist with the review.
- B. If the issue is not resolved, the student should complete the Transfer Credit Appeals form to the Registrar. The Registrar will communicate with the appropriate academic dean for further guidance and communicate the final decision to the student in writing within ten (10) working days. The decision is final.
- C. Appeals must be submitted no later than four months after the completion of the initial evaluation.

### 3.21 Credit for Prior Learning

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 24, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Students may earn academic credit in certain college courses if they have gained skills and/or knowledge from previous education, occupational training and experiences, and/or self-study. In some programs, students may be permitted to start at a more advanced level if they can demonstrate college-level competency substantively similar in nature and quality to the competency they would acquire in courses offered by the College. Please refer to the Credit for Prior Learning Handbook for specifics on earning this credit.

The areas, number of credit hours granted, and scores required on examinations will be reviewed annually and recommended by the Academic Affairs Committee.

No more than 50% of the program conferred by Westmoreland County Community College can be earned through credit for prior learning.

## Academic Student Policies

### 3.22 Credit Hour

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 24, 2018*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 23, 2023*

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide documentation regarding the College's procedure for determining credit hours awarded for on-ground, online, and blended courses pertaining to its programs and coursework. Credit hours may be calculated differently for other modes of instruction, such as labs, practicums, clinical, internships, and directed study. Programs should clearly state course objectives, learning outcomes, workload expectations, and credit hours awarded for these specific types of learning environments.

#### Regulations

The College complies with credit hour guidelines and policies set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the United States Department of Education, and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

The U.S. Department of Education defines a credit hour as

"...an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than-

(1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or

(2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours." (34 CFR 600.2)

At Westmoreland County Community College, the semester credit hour is the basic unit of academic credit. One semester credit is equivalent to one 50-minute faculty instruction time per week for 15 weeks, and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work per credit hour per week.

Credits Awarded	Minimum Contact Time per Week for 15 Weeks	Minimum Instructional Time over a 15-Week Period	Minimum Student Work Outside of Class Per Week
1	50 minutes	750 minutes	100 minutes
2	100 minutes	1,500 minutes	200 minutes
3	150 minutes	2,250 minutes	300 minutes
4	200 minutes	3,000 minutes	400 minutes
5	250 minutes	3,750 minutes	500 minutes

## Academic Student Policies

Westmoreland adheres to these credit hour requirements for on-ground, online, and blended classes regardless of the length of term.

### 3.23 Academic Readiness

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 23, 2022*

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a foundation of knowledge and competencies that will assist students in successfully pursuing and attaining an academic credential.

#### Definitions

**College-Level Courses** - A college-level course is a course that meets college-level standards. Credits earned in a college-level course apply toward the requirements of a certificate, diploma, or degree. These courses are numbered 100 and over and are calculated into the grade point average.

**Developmental Courses** - A developmental course is a course designed to prepare students for entry into college-level courses. Developmental course credits do not apply toward a certificate, diploma, or a degree. These courses are numbered below 100 and are not calculated into the grade point average.

#### Policy

Placement is required of full-time and part-time credential-seeking students, visiting high school students, some visiting college students and non-credential seeking students upon completion of 12 credit hours.

English Placement is determined based on PA high school GPA and/or interview with an advisor. Rubrics are available during placement assessment and educational planning.

Math Placement will be determined based on the score of a standardized test. Rubrics are available during placement assessment and educational planning.

College-Ready students (those who don't need to test) include:

- Students who have an associate or bachelor's degree from an accredited college and have submitted official transcripts.
- Visiting college students with approval from their home institution may enroll in the approved course.
- Students transferring into Westmoreland with official transcripts with courses in composition and mathematics may be exempt from placement.
- Students with SAT or ACT scores from within the previous five years that demonstrate college readiness. Rubrics are available during placement assessment and educational planning.
- Students with a GED or HiSet score meeting specific scores in the last 5 years. Rubrics are available during placement assessment and educational planning.



## Academic Student Policies

### Appeal Process

Students will be informed of an appeal process if they are dissatisfied with placement in composition or mathematics. Exceptions to placement may be granted by the appropriate dean or designee.

### Process for Amending

The Westmoreland data team will review results annually. If changes are recommended based on solid data, the proposal will be presented first to the deans meeting and shared with faculty. Approval is required by Academic Affairs. The process is implemented by Student Services and data is collected by Institutional Research to be shared with the data team.

### 3.24 Credit Overload

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Students who wish to take more than 19 credits must submit a Credit Overload Petition prior to registration. The request will be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval. Students must indicate their reason for request, proposed class schedule with overload, and the extent of non-academic obligations. Unofficial transcripts and anticipated class schedule must also be attached to the petition.

### 3.25 Anti-Hazing

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

**References:** Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1090, amending Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding a chapter Chapter 28, Anti-hazing.

**Policy:** All acts of hazing are prohibited at Westmoreland County Community College. No Westmoreland student, individually or as part of a registered student club or organization, is permitted to engage in behavior that is likely to cause physical or psychological harm to any other person within the college community. Such behavior is a violation of this policy, the Code of Student Conduct, and may be considered a criminal act in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### **Policy Overview and PA Law:**

All acts of hazing are prohibited. No student or Westmoreland County Community College registered student club or organization shall engage in an act that is likely to cause physical or psychological harm to any other person within the college community.

Under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, 18 Pa.C.S. §§ 2801 et seq., hazing is defined as follows:

A person commits the offense of hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student, applicant or admitted individual into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student, applicant or admitted individual membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a minor or student, applicant or admitted individual to do any of the following:

- 1) Violate federal or state criminal law;
- 2) Consume any food, drink, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance that subjects the minor or current student, applicant or individual to a risk of emotional or physical harm;
- 3) Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements;
- 4) Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
- 5) Endure brutality of a sexual nature; and
- 6) Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student, applicant or admitted individual.

The definition of hazing does not include reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement or military training, contests, competitions or events.

Hazing is also a crime and constitutes a summary offense. If the hazing results in or creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a minor or student, applicant or admitted individual, it is a misdemeanor of the third degree.

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Aggravated hazing, a felony of the third degree, results from hazing that causes serious bodily injury or death to a minor or student, coercion or the force of alcoholic consumption or drug by the minor or student.

The College, and organizations, are subject to criminal penalties for intentionally, knowingly and recklessly promoting or facilitating hazing or aggravated hazing.

Consent is not a defense to a criminal charge of hazing or a charge under the College's Code of Student Conduct.

### Definitions

Organization(s) - An association, corporation, fraternity, sorority, order, society, corps, club or service, social or similar group, whose members are primarily minors, students or alumni of the organization, or the College.

Hazing - Any action, situation, activity or complicity in activity, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental, emotional, and/or physical health or safety of a student or alumnus or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in any College organization.

### Reporting

All individuals within the college community, i.e., students, staff, faculty, and administrators have a responsibility to report acts of hazing.

Any individual student or student group found responsible for hazing or participating in hazing activities is subject to disciplinary action by the College as well as possible criminal prosecution under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Law.

### Jurisdiction and Procedures

1. Charges of violations of this policy by an organization should be referred to the Vice President of Enrollment Management.
  - A. In all cases of alleged violations of this policy, the organization advisor, college advisor, and/or other relevant parties will be notified.
  - B. During the period of formal investigation or adjudication of alleged violations of this policy, all new member-related activities, organization activities, and/or college recognition/sponsorship of the organization may be summarily suspended.
2. Charges of violations of this policy by a student should be referred to the Vice President of Enrollment Management in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.
3. Organizations and individuals may also be criminally charged with a violation of the Pennsylvania Anti-Hazing Law, 24 P.S. 5351 et seq.

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### Violations and Sanctions

Violations and sanctions will be determined in accordance with the Westmoreland County Community College Code of Student Conduct.

### References

Link to Pennsylvania's Anti-Hazing Law:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2017&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=1090&pn=1825>

### 3.26 Copyright

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

Westmoreland County Community College will adhere to the provision of the U.S. copyright law (Title 17, United States Code, Section 101 et. seq.), including the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA) and the Technology Education and Copyright Harmonization Act (TEACH Act), and other federal copyright laws as they are adopted. Students are required to comply with all local, state, federal, and international copyright laws, and with college policies regarding the use of copyright-protected materials at Westmoreland. Whenever copyright protected works are used and fair use does not clearly apply, Westmoreland requires students to obtain written permission from the copyright owner. Downloading, uploading or transmitting files containing copyright protected works without the permission of the copyright owner is prohibited by Westmoreland policy- a violation of which may subject an infringer to Westmoreland disciplinary action, is illegal, infringes the copyright owner's rights, and may result in legal liability for the infringer and the Westmoreland.

#### Copyright Policy and the Law

Copyright protection subsists, in accordance with United States Copyright Law, 17 U.S.C. 101–1332, in original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, now known or later developed, from which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device. Works of authorship include the following categories:

1. Literary works;
2. Musical works, including any accompanying words;
3. Dramatic works, including any accompanying music;
4. Pantomimes and choreographic works;
5. Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works;
6. Motion pictures and other audiovisual works;
7. Sound recordings; and
8. Architectural works.

In no case does copyright protection for an original work of authorship extend to any idea, procedure, process, system, method of operation, concept, principle, or discovery, regardless of the form in which it is described, explained, illustrated, or embodied in such work.

17 U.S.C. 102

## Academic Student Policies

### ***Fair Use***

An exception to the exclusive rights enjoyed by copyright owners is the doctrine of fair use. The fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or phonorecords or by any other means specified by 17 U.S.C. 106, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. The following factors shall be considered in determining fair use:

1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or for nonprofit educational purposes.
2. The nature of the copyrighted work.
3. The amount and importance of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

17 U.S.C. 107

### **Guidelines as Outline in the "Agreement on Guidelines for Classroom Copying in Not-for-Profit Educational Institutions"**

The purpose of the "Agreement on Guidelines for Classroom Copying in Not-for-Profit Educational Institutions" and "Guidelines for Educational Uses of Music" is to state the minimum and not the maximum standards of educational fair use under 17 U.S.C 107. The guidelines are not intended to limit the types of copying permitted under the standards of fair use under judicial decision and which are stated in Section 107. There may be instances in which copying that does not fall within the guidelines may nonetheless be permitted under the criteria of fair use.

### **Prohibited Use**

Fair use guidelines exempt, the following are prohibited actions:

1. Copying of print materials and sheet music to create or replace or substitute for anthologies, compilations, or collective works. This prohibition against replacement or substitution applies whether copies of various works or excerpts are accumulated, or reproduced and used separately.
2. The use of its technology systems, including, without limitation, use of its website, email system, intranet, digital studios, computer labs, and bulletin board systems ("Technology Resources") in connection with illegal activities, including such activities as circumvention of access control or copy protection technology, unauthorized file sharing, or other methods of downloading, copying, distributing, or sharing copyright-protected works without the permission of the copyright owner, or in connection with making copyright protected materials available for

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downloading, copying, distributing, or sharing by others without the permission of the copyright owner.

3. Copying of or from works intended to be "consumable" in the course of study or teaching. These works include workbooks, exercises, standardized tests, test booklets, answer sheets, and like consumable material.
4. Copying without inclusion of the copyright notice that appears on the printed copy.

### Copyright Infringement

Anyone who violates any of the exclusive rights of the copyright owner or of the author as provided in 17 U.S.C. 106A(a) is an infringer of the copyright or right of the author. The legal or beneficial owner of an exclusive right under a copyright is entitled, subject to the requirements of 17 U.S.C. 411, to institute an action for any infringement of that particular right committed while he or she is the owner of it. 17 U.S.C. 501(a)–(b)

Westmoreland has the right, but not the obligation, to monitor and review any use of the Technology Resources. Westmoreland may monitor user IDs and passwords used to access the Technology Resources, may review information stored or sent using the Technology Resources (including emails and attached files), and may remove and save a copy of such information in Westmoreland's sole discretion.

Westmoreland may utilize technological methods such as traffic shaping, content filtering, or user tracking to identify, block, and/or thwart activities deemed in Westmoreland's sole discretion to be potentially illegal or necessary to conserve the Technology Resources or manage their usage. Westmoreland may retain copies of any information stored on or sent using Westmoreland's Technology Resources, even if the originator of such information deleted such information.

Westmoreland reserves the right to restrict or terminate user access to the Technology Systems or to disable a user ID and/or password at any time without notice if Westmoreland believes that the user has violated this policy, or any state or federal law. Westmoreland reserves the right at all times to disclose, without notice to the user, any information necessary to satisfy any applicable law, regulation, legal process or governmental request, or to edit, refuse to post or to remove any information or materials, in whole or in part, in Westmoreland's sole discretion if Westmoreland believes a user has violated any of portion of this policy or any other Westmoreland policies or guidelines.

Westmoreland investigates notices of copyright infringement submitted to Westmoreland's designated copyright agent and takes appropriate actions under the DMCA, including removal of infringing materials from the Westmoreland website. Students are responsible for reading, understanding, and personally complying with this policy and all other Information Technologies policies set forth in the Student Handbook. Students who violate Westmoreland's policies are subject to disciplinary action by the College, which may include termination of access to the Technology Systems, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from Westmoreland, as further provided in Westmoreland's



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student policies. In addition, a student may face personal legal liability, including civil and criminal penalties for infringement of copyright and other intellectual property laws, which may include injunctions restraining infringing activities, monetary damages, prison time, attorney's fees, and court costs.

### References:

Copyright Law and Regulations: <http://www.copyright.gov/laws/>

Possible Replacement: <https://www.copyright.gov/title17/>

Fair Use: <http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html> Possible Replacement:  
<https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/>

Digital Millennium Copyright Act: <http://www.copyright.gov/legislation/dmca.pdf> Digital Download and Copyrights including Online File Sharing:  
<http://www.usa.gov/topics/science/communications/internet/file-sharing.shtml>

Possible replacement: <https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-digital.html>

### 3.27 Standards for Credit Courses

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Each credit course offered by Westmoreland County Community College shall meet the criteria in PA Code 335.2 and the criteria in PA Code 335.12

1. The course has stated learning goals and consists of a planned sequence of topics or learning activities designed to help students achieve the stated learning goals.
2. The course is summarized in an outline which includes at least the following elements:
  - a. The course title and description
  - b. The learning goals
  - c. A planned sequence of topics or learning activities designed to help students achieve the learning outcomes.
  - d. A list of reference, resource or learning materials to be used by the students.
3. The course is consistent with Westmoreland's mission, and is or was developed, approved and offered in accordance with the policies, standards, guidelines and procedures established by the college for the approval of new courses or programs.
4. An accurate description of the course is published in the college's catalog or other official publication pertaining to the academic semesters, terms or years in which the course is offered.
5. The course is assigned units of credit based on the Westmoreland's Credit Hour policy.
6. The course is delivered, or directly supervised, by an instructor whose qualifications meet the college's requirements for instructors of credit courses.
7. The course's stated learning outcomes are necessary to enable students to attain the essential knowledge and skills embodied in the program's educational objectives, if the course is a requirement of a degree, certificate, or diploma program. The college reevaluates the necessity for the course's learning goals when conducting the academic audit required by PA Code 35.21 and Westmoreland's Program and Discipline Review policy.
8. The course is comparable to similar courses which are generally accepted for transfer of credit to accredited 4-year colleges and universities, if designed for transfer.
9. The course is articulated with other courses so that it is an elective or a requirement of at least one of the college's programs of study which lead to a formal college award.
10. The course is evaluated at least once every 5 years in accordance with PA Code 35.21 and Westmoreland's Program and Discipline Review policy.

### 3.28 Program and Discipline Review

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – May 22, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 23, 2023*

#### Purpose

To assure that programs and courses are meeting the educational needs of its students, Westmoreland County Community College will periodically review programs and disciplines to determine that the objectives are appropriate and that the subject matter, the academic standards, and the methods of instruction are consistent with the stated purpose.

#### Definitions

Program – A structured sequence of courses leading to a certificate, diploma, or associate's degree.

Discipline - A group of courses organized within a branch of knowledge.

Program and Discipline Review - A comprehensive, systematic, ongoing process for the collection, analysis, and assessment of academic program and discipline outcomes in order to: improve student learning, improve the quality of instruction, meet accountability mandates, and demonstrate institutional effectiveness consistent with the mission and goals of the college.

#### Responsibility

The Vice President of Academic Affairs will establish a schedule for program review, which will assure that each program and discipline is reviewed on a rotating basis. An annual report of the findings will be given to the President's Cabinet and the Board of Trustees.

#### Policy

The review process is formative. It documents evidence of the success and quality of the program or discipline and charts a path for improvement. The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) committee shall issue guidelines to be used in the review process. At a minimum, the process will address:

- A. Alignment of the program outcomes with the curriculum and the college's strategic plan.
- B. Evidence that assessment is being used to assure currency and effectiveness of curriculum, instructional methods, and instructional support.
- C. Expected need for new facilities, equipment and supplies.

Other information may be included in the process as appropriate including, but not limited to:

- A. Enrollment and numbers of students declared.
- B. Success of students who have been enrolled in the program as evidenced by follow-up transfer, placement, or employer satisfaction studies.
- C. Fiscal considerations.
- D. Licensure or certification pass rates.
- E. Labor market data.

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### Review Process

- A. The review process consists of annual review and a five-year comprehensive review.
- B. For the five-year comprehensive review:
  - 1. The faculty of the program or discipline will complete a self-study, which along with institutional research data, serves as the basis for the review.
  - 2. Faculty will meet with the academic dean and a member of the IE committee as described by guidelines.
  - 3. The results of the review will be shared with the President's Cabinet and the Board of Trustees as part of the continuous improvement process.

### 3.29 Program Audit

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 11, 2019*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 23, 2023*

#### Purpose

Westmoreland values the diversity of its course offerings and is committed to supporting programs that fulfill the goals of the College's mission statement. In order to ensure the success and quality of new and existing programs, the college is obligated to verify that these programs meet student and industry needs, and that they will meet or exceed external accountability requirements. The goal is to have a standardized, detailed format that uses consistent and accurate sources to provide the data and benchmarks needed to make decisions about certificates, diplomas, or degree programs. This policy sets the minimum requirements to approve a new program or discontinue an existing program.

#### Data elements for AAS programs

- a) Labor market data that reviews need, wage and skills against benchmarks
- b) Hiring trends
- c) Program cost and efficiency
- d) Accreditation requirements
- e) Existence of similar programs
- f) Qualified faculty availability
- g) Facility and equipment needs
- h) Match of program with college mission
- i) Hard and soft skills in position postings
- j) Program Outcomes such as completion, retention, enrollment, employment or transfer after graduation\*
- k) Demand - credit hours, head count\*
- l) Curriculum is relevant and current
- m) Available resources
- n) Student satisfaction\*
- o) Integration of program with other college programs
- p) Transfer and articulation agreements\*
- q) Program and Discipline Audit data\*

\*may not be available for new programs

#### Data elements for transfer programs (AA, AS, AFA)

- r) Program cost and efficiency

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- s) Accreditation requirements
- t) Existence of similar programs
- u) Qualified faculty availability
- v) Facility and equipment needs
- w) Match of program with college mission
- x) Program Outcomes such as completion, retention, enrollment, or transfer after graduation\*
- y) Demand - credit hours, head count\*
- z) Curriculum is relevant and current
- aa) Available resources
- bb) Accreditation
- cc) Student satisfaction\*
- dd) Integration of program with other college programs
- ee) Transfer and articulation agreements\*
- ff) Program and Discipline Audit data\*

\*may not be available for new programs

### Policy

Programs will be audited annually to determine trend data. A needs analysis will be conducted to create or discontinue a program. The program will go through the appropriate curriculum process. The President of the college and the Board of Trustees will have the final authority regarding the discontinuance or addition of any program.

Once a decision has been made to discontinue a program, the following will occur:

1. All affected personnel and, if applicable, their respective collective bargaining agent(s) shall be notified of the discontinuance as soon as possible and treated according to state laws and regulations, their individual employment agreement, applicable collective bargaining agreement(s) and/or other binding document.
2. No new students will be enrolled in the program.
3. Current students will be informed of the teach-out plan for the program. The college will make every attempt to teach-out discontinued programs, but reserves the right to transfer teaching duties to outside sources.
4. Equipment, supplies, curriculum, teaching materials, and all other items pertaining to the programs shall be disposed of in a manner according to their funding sources.

### 3.30 Public Speech

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 28, 2021*

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#### **Purpose**

To embrace free speech and the right of free expression of the members of the Westmoreland County Community College campus and balance those rights with protections against unlawful activity in accordance with the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

#### **Policy**

Westmoreland County Community College is an institution of higher education and its campuses are devoted to the pursuit of learning and the advancement of knowledge through the free exchange of ideas. The free exchange of ideas includes not only the right to speak but the right to listen. The institution must be a place where all ideas may be expressed freely and where no alternative is withheld from consideration. The only limits on these freedoms are those dictated by law and those necessary to protect the rights of other members of the institution community and to ensure the normal functioning of the institution.

The freedom of expression does not mean that individuals or groups may say whatever they wish, whenever they wish, and wherever they wish. Public expression in the form of speech and advocacy may be exercised at such times and places and in such a manner as to assure orderly conduct, the least possible interference with college responsibilities as an educational institution, protection of the rights of individuals in the use of college facilities, and reasonable protection of persons against practices that would make them involuntary audiences.

The college may restrict expression that violates the law, falsely defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat or unlawful discrimination, or unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests except for in cases of off-campus speech. These are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner inconsistent with the college's commitment to a free and open discussion of ideas.

#### **Scope**

The Public Speech Policy applies to Westmoreland County Community College students, faculty, staff, and volunteers as well as vendors and other non-College individuals, entities, and their representatives.

#### Faculty, Staff, and Students

Faculty, staff, and students have the freedom to discuss any problem that presents itself, as the First Amendment permits and shall be permitted to assemble and engage in spontaneous expressive activity as long as such activity is lawful, refrains from "obscenities," and does not materially and substantially disrupt the normal functioning of the institution, subject to the requirements of this policy.

## Academic Student Policies

### Non-Westmoreland County Community College Individuals or Organizations

Non-Westmoreland individuals and organizations and invited guests sponsored by College organizations are expected to uphold the institution's values by carefully planning safe and thoughtful experiences for those involved. Hosts are responsible for the behavior of their guests and should ensure that all participants abide by relevant institution policies.

"Events" shall not infringe upon the rights or privileges of anyone. No one will be permitted to harm others, damage or deface property, block access to institution buildings, or disrupt classes. Events must avoid acts or credible threats of violence, be peaceful, and preserve the normal operation of the institution.

### Definitions

Terms specific to this Policy.

<b>Institution, the College</b>	Westmoreland County Community College.
<b>Freedom of Expression</b>	Encompasses verbal and written means by which individuals may communicate ideas to others, including without limitation to all forms of peaceful assembly, protests, speaking verbally, holding signs, circulating petitions, and distributing written materials.
<b>Obscenities</b>	Expression that cannot be considered valuable to or meet scientific, political, educational, or artistic standards.
<b>Events</b>	College-funded, -operated, -promoted, or -supervised activity or gathering.
<b>Off-Campus Speech</b>	Speech that is outside college-owned, -operated, or -supervised channels and that is not reasonably interpreted as representative of the institution. (Definition adapted from the <a href="#">Third Circuit opinion</a> .)



### 3.31 Noncredit Refund Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 24, 2022*

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#### I. Scope

This policy extends to all noncredit courses with exception of the Volunteer Fire Service Certification Program and related courses.

#### II. Purpose

The refund policy for noncredit classes and materials is being established to give notice of the requirements that must be met to receive tuition and material fee refunds.

#### III. Intended Goals for this Refund Policy

- A. Standards of student responsibilities to qualify for tuition and material fee refunds.
- B. Standards of student notification to qualify for tuition and material fee refunds.

#### IV. Policy

- A. Students who officially deregister from a class by the end of the fourth business day before class starts will receive a full refund of tuition paid.
- B. Material fees will also be refunded if the student officially deregisters from the class by the end of the fourth business day before class starts.
- C. No refunds will be given for either tuition or material fees without notification of four business days prior to the start of any class.

### 3.32 Use of Health / Fitness / Recreation Areas

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 2022*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 26, 2023*

The Athletic and Recreation areas were designed and built to be used primarily for physical development and recreational activities of students, including students participating in intramural and intercollegiate athletics, and clubs. Procedures for these areas are set and reviewed annually by members of Enrollment Management in collaboration with other stakeholders.

### **3.33 Credit Refund Policy**

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees June 28, 2023*

Westmoreland County Community College, in alignment with PA State Code 22.35.30, shall refund 100% of tuition and fees to students taking certificate, diploma, and degree programs that are measured in credit hours until at least 20% of a term has passed (e.g., the third week of fall or spring terms).

### 3.34 Medical Withdrawal

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

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Students who wish to withdraw from all classes due to medical reasons should complete the Request for Medical Withdrawal form. Requests are reviewed by a committee and all decisions are final; there is no appeals process.

All approved requests for medical withdrawals will result in withdrawal from all classes enrolled at the time of the request and the assignment of “MW” grades for all courses taken during the semester requested. A medical withdrawal is “All or Nothing.” It is not possible in this process to withdraw medically from some classes while remaining enrolled in others. All approved requests for medical withdrawals will result in withdrawal and assignment of MW grades for all courses enrolled at the time of the request. Students who do not desire a Medical Withdrawal or desire to withdraw only from selected classes should use the Student Withdrawal Request form.

Requests must be submitted no later than the dates published on the request form. Medical withdrawals must be submitted by “the last day of class per student’s schedule” for the semester in which the medical situation occurred. The last day of class may not be the same for all courses on a student’s schedule. If the end date has passed, a student will not be eligible to petition for a Medical Withdrawal for those courses that have ended prior to receipt of completed Medical Withdrawal documents. Requests for a retroactive medical withdrawal, after the conclusion of a semester, will not be considered.

Appropriate supporting documentation with a recommendation of a full medical withdrawal from a physician or therapist is required. Guidelines for documentation can be found at the bottom of the Medical Request Form.

Students are still financially responsible for all enrollment costs whether withdrawal is approved or denied.

Students who are withdrawn from all courses may be reported to the National Student Clearinghouse as “withdrawn,” which can result in students who receive financial aid to be entered into loan repayment status.

Medical withdrawal requests will only be approved once in a 12 month period.

### 3.35 Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – August 28, 2024*

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure**  
**Effective for Complaints on or after August 1, 2024**

#### **Introduction**

On April 19, 2024, the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights issued new Title IX regulations (DOE Regulations) which direct how educational institutions must address incidents of sexual assault and harassment involving both students and employees. These most recent regulations have significantly changed schools' obligations with regard to investigating and adjudicating incidents of sexual assault and harassment involving their students and employees. Consequently, changes are now required to the Westmoreland County Community College (College) current Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure (Current Policy). This new policy is intended to replace in its entirety the Current Policy at the College. The intent of this policy is to comply with DOE Regulations. Any conflict in terms of this policy and DOE Regulations are to be resolved in favor of the DOE Regulations.

#### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Westmoreland County Community College does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, gender identity or expression, veteran status, union membership or any classification protected by state or federal law or the proper exercise by an Association member of their rights guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Public Employer Relations Act Number 195.

#### **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The College, on an annual basis, sends notice of nondiscrimination to all students, bargaining units, and employees. The College notifies applicants for admission and employment upon application. The following is an example of the College's notification.

- The College does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment.
- Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the College's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.
- The College's Title IX Coordinator is the Vice President Enrollment Management for students and the Executive Director/Human Resources for staff.
- The College's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located at <https://westmoreland.edu/about/policies/nondiscrimination.html>

## Academic Student Policies

- To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to <https://westmoreland.edu/about/policies/equal-opportunity-laws.html>

### **Title IX- Complaints of Sex Discrimination- Grievance Policy**

The College has adopted grievance procedures that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints made by students, employees, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in its education programs or activities, or by the Title IX Coordinator, alleging any action that would be prohibited by Title IX or the DOE Regulations.

### **Title IX- Complaints of Sex Discrimination – Grievance Procedure**

#### **Definitions**

*Complainant* means:

- (1) A student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or the DOE Regulations; or
- (2) A person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or the DOE Regulations and who was participating or attempting to participate in the recipient's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

*Complaint* means an oral or written request to the recipient that objectively can be understood as a request for the recipient to investigate and make a determination about alleged discrimination under Title IX or the DOE Regulations.

*Disciplinary sanctions* means consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination under Title IX that the respondent violated the recipient's prohibition on sex discrimination.

*Party* means a complainant or respondent.

*Relevant* means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation as part of these grievance procedures. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

*Remedies* means measures provided, as appropriate, to a complainant or any other person the recipient identifies as having had their equal access to the recipient's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the recipient's education program or activity after a recipient determines that sex discrimination occurred.

## Academic Student Policies

*Respondent* means a person who is alleged to have violated the recipient's prohibition on sex discrimination.

*Retaliation* means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the recipient, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the recipient to provide aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or the DOE Regulations, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the DOE Regulations.

*Sex-based harassment* is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy or related conditions, that is:

- (1) *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the recipient to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) *Hostile environment harassment*. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
  - (i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the recipient's education program or activity;
  - (ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
  - (iii) The parties' ages, roles within the recipient's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;
  - (iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
  - (v) Other sex-based harassment in the recipient's education program or activity; or
- (3) Specific offenses.
  - (i) Sexual assault meaning an offense classified as a forcible or non-forcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
  - (ii) Dating violence meaning violence committed by a person:
    - (A) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
    - (B) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
      - (1) The length of the relationship;
      - (2) The type of relationship; and
      - (3) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;

## Academic Student Policies

(iii) Domestic violence meaning felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a person who:

- (A) Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of the recipient, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
- (B) Is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- (C) Shares a child in common with the victim; or
- (D) Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction; or

(iv) Stalking meaning engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- (A) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
- (B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

*Supportive measures* means individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a complainant or respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent to:

- (1) Restore or preserve that party's access to the recipient's education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the recipient's educational environment; or
- (2) Provide support during the recipient's grievance procedures or during an informal resolution process.

## Complaints

The following people have a right to make a complaint of sex-based harassment, requesting that the College investigate and make a determination about alleged sex-based harassment under Title IX:

- A complainant which includes"
  - A student or employee of the College who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX; or
  - A person other than a student or employee of the College who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX at time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate in the College's education program or activity.
- A parent, guardian, or other authorized legal representative with the legal authority to act on behalf of the complainant.
- The College's Title IX Coordinator
  - When a Title IX Coordinator is notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX (and in the absence of a complaint or the withdrawal of any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process), the Title IX Coordinator must determine whether to initiate a complaint of sex discrimination as required under Title IX.



## Academic Student Policies

The College may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, when allegations of sex discrimination arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one complainant or more than one respondent is involved, references below to include the plural are applicable.

The College is not permitted to consolidate complaints if consolidation would violate FERPA. Consolidation would not violate FERPA when a postsecondary institution obtains prior written consent from eligible students to the disclosure of their education records.

### **General Provisions**

The College requires that any Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision maker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. As long as there is no conflict of interest or bias, a decision maker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or investigator.

The College presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.

The College has established the following timeframes for the major stages of the grievance procedures:

- Evaluation as to whether to dismiss or investigate the complaint: ten (10) business days
- Investigation, if necessary, will be completed within sixty (60) days with a determination to follow within 10 (ten) business days:
- Appeals from a dismissal or determination must be filed within twenty (20) days.

The College will endeavor to make a determination of all complaints within ninety (90) days of the date of filing.

The College has also established the following process that allows for the reasonable extension of time frames on a case-by-case basis for good cause with written notice of any extension to the parties that includes the reason for the delay. All written notification must be sent to the Title IX Coordinator via email. Additionally, if the Title IX Coordinator or Title IX investigator requests a delay, all correspondence will be sent via the College's email.

The College will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses during its grievance procedures. These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including by speaking to witnesses; consult with their family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise prepare for or participate in the grievance procedures. The parties cannot engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

## Academic Student Policies

The College will objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be accessed or considered, except by the College to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by federal or state law or evidence provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
- A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the College obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures; and
- Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based harassment. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

### **Written Notice of Allegations:**

Upon initiation of these Title IX grievance procedures, the College will notify the parties in writing of the following with sufficient time for the parties to prepare a response before any initial interview:

- The College's Title IX grievance procedures and any informal resolution process;
- Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute sex-based harassment, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s);
- Retaliation is prohibited;
- The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the grievance procedures. Prior to such a determination, the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;
- The parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
- The parties are entitled to an investigative report that accurately summarizes this evidence. Both parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not impermissible evidence upon the request of any party; and

## Academic Student Policies

- The College's Standards of Student Conduct and Employee Conduct and Work Rules Policies prohibit knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during grievance procedures [include the link to these policies].

If, in the course of an investigation, the College decides to investigate additional allegations of sex-based harassment by the respondent toward a complainant/s that are not included in the written notice or that are included in a consolidated complaint, it will provide written notice of the additional allegations to the parties.

### **Dismissal of a Complaint**

The College may dismiss a complaint if:

- The College is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- The respondent is not participating in Westmoreland's education program or activity and is not employed by the College;
- The College obtains the complainant's voluntary withdrawal in writing of any or all of the allegations, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the College determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX even if proven; or
- The College determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX. Before dismissing the complaint, the College will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the College will promptly notify the complainant in writing of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the College will notify the parties simultaneously in writing.

The College will notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed on the bases outlined in the Appeals section. If dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the College will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed on the same bases. If a dismissal is appealed, the College will follow the procedures outlined in the Appeals section.

When a complaint is dismissed, the College will at minimum:

- Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate
- If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and
- Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the College's education program or activity.

## Academic Student Policies

### Investigation

The College will provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.

The burden is on the College- not on the parties-to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether sex discrimination occurred.

The College will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

The College will provide the parties with the same opportunities to be accompanied to any meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.

- The College will not limit the choice or presence of the advisor for the complainant or respondent in any meeting or proceeding.
- The College may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in these grievance procedures, as long as the restrictions apply equally to the parties.

The College will provide the parties with the same opportunities, if any, to have people other than the advisor of the parties' choice present during any meeting or proceeding.

The College will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible.

The College will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance.

The College will provide each party and the party's advisor, if any, with an equal opportunity to access the evidence that is relevant to the allegations of sex-based harassment and not otherwise impermissible, in the following manner:

- The College will provide an equal opportunity to access the same written investigative report that accurately summarizes the evidence. All parties will be provided an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon request.
- The College will provide a reasonable opportunity to review and respond to the investigative report.
- The College will take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties and their advisors' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the sex-based harassment grievance procedures.

### Questioning the Parties and Witnesses

Westmoreland will provide a process that enables the decision maker to question parties and witnesses to adequately assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex-based harassment.

## Academic Student Policies

The College will not conduct live hearings. The College's process for proposing and asking relevant and not otherwise impermissible questions and follow-up questions of parties and witnesses, including questions challenging credibility, will:

- Allow the investigator or decision maker to ask such questions during individual meetings with a party or witness
- Allow each party to propose such questions that the party wants asked of any party or witness and have those questions asked by the investigator or decision maker during one or more individual meetings, including follow-up meetings, with a party or witness, subject to the procedures for evaluating and limiting questions discussed below; and
- Provide each party with an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript with enough time for the party to have a reasonable opportunity to propose follow-up questions.

*Procedures for the decision maker to evaluate the questions and limitations on questions:*

- The decision maker will determine whether a proposed question is relevant and not otherwise impermissible before the question is posed and will explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant or otherwise impermissible.
- Questions that are unclear or harassing of the party or witness being questioned will not be permitted. The decision maker will give a party an opportunity to clarify or revise a question that the decision maker determines is unclear or harassing. If the party sufficiently clarifies or revises the question, the question will be asked.

*Refusal to respond to questions and inferences based on refusal to respond to questions:*

- The decision maker may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refuses to respond to questions deemed relevant and not impermissible.
- The decision maker will not draw an inference about whether sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions.

### **Determination Whether Sex-Based Harassment Occurred:**

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the College will:

- Use the [preponderance of the evidence or, if applicable, clear and convincing] standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination occurred. The standard of proof requires the decision maker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decision maker is not persuaded under the applicable standard by the evidence that sex discrimination occurred, whatever the quantity of the evidence is, the decision maker will not determine that sex discrimination occurred.
- Notify the parties simultaneously in writing of the determination whether sex-based harassment occurred under Title IX including:
  - A description of the alleged sex-based harassment;
  - Information about the policies and procedures that the College used to evaluate the allegations;
  - The decision maker's evaluation of the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and determination whether sex-based harassment occurred;

## Academic Student Policies

- When the decision maker finds that sex-based harassment occurred, any disciplinary sanctions Westmoreland will impose on the respondent, whether remedies other than the imposition of disciplinary sanctions will be provided by the College to the complainant, and, to the extent appropriate, other students identified by the College] to be experiencing the effects of the sex-based harassment; and
- The College's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.
- The College will not impose discipline on a respondent for sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the Title IX grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in prohibited sex discrimination.
- If there is a determination that sex discrimination occurred, as appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator will:
  - Coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the College identifies as having had equal access to its education programs or activities limited or denied by sex discrimination;
  - Coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and
  - Take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the College's education programs or activities.
- Comply with the Title IX grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent; and
- Not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the Title IX grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the determination whether sex discrimination occurred.

The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the College provides the parties with the written determination of the result of any appeal, or, if no party appeals, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

### Appeals

The College will offer an appeal from a dismissal or determination whether sex-based harassment occurred on the following bases:

- Procedural irregularity that would damage the outcome;
- New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the determination or dismissal was made; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome.

If a party appeals a dismissal or determination whether sex-based harassment occurred, the College will:

- Notify the parties in writing of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent;

## Academic Student Policies

- Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- Ensure that the decision maker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint;
- Ensure that the decision maker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations;
- Communicate to the parties in writing that the College will provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; and
- Notify the parties in writing of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

Any additional procedures or bases for appeal the College offers will be equally available to all parties.

### **Informal Resolutions, if offered**

In lieu of resolving a complaint through the College's Title IX grievance procedures, the parties may instead elect to participate in an informal resolution process. The College will inform the parties in writing of any informal resolution process it offers and determines is appropriate, if any. The College will not offer informal resolution to resolve a complaint when such a process would conflict with federal, state, or local law. Before the initiation of an informal resolution process, the College will explain in writing to the parties:

- The allegations;
- The requirements of the informal resolution process;
- That any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and initiate or resume grievance procedures at any time before agreeing to a resolution;
- That if the parties agree to a resolution at the end of the informal resolution process, they cannot initiate or resume grievance procedures arising from the same allegations;
- The potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including notice that an informal resolution agreement is binding only on the parties; and
- What information the College will maintain and whether and how the College could disclose such information for use in Title IX grievance procedures if such procedures are initiated or resumed.

### **Supportive Measures**

The College will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person's access to the College's education programs or activities or provide support during the College's Title IX grievance procedures or during the informal resolution process. For complaints of sex-based harassment, these supportive measures may include crisis counseling and referrals to community resources.

## Academic Student Policies

### **Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies**

Following a determination that sex-based harassment occurred, the College may impose disciplinary sanctions, which may include but are not limited to those noted in the Standards of Student Conduct or the College Employee Conduct and Work Rules Policy.



### 3.36 Change of Program Deadline Policy

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 11, 2024*

Students changing programs must complete the process for making the change no later than one week prior to session start. Change of programs will only be processed for future sessions. Students wishing to change programs within a session will need to wait until the next session for the change.

*(Rationale: When students try to change programs too close to the beginning of a session or after it has begun, it causes students to have to completely rework their schedules which could cause them to have to register in a class after it has met. Data shows only about 30% of students who join a class late pass. Also, this can cause a student's financial aid to have to be completely recalculated and repackaged. This can contribute not only to the delay in getting registered in classes but also to delay in getting books and materials required for the class causing the student to fall even further behind.)*

### 3.37 Course Substitution

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 11, 2024*

In awarding a degree or certificate, Westmoreland County Community College is recognizing the satisfactory completion of a set of courses it deems representative of the academic standards it upholds.

Students should complete the requirements listed in the plan as published in the catalog year the student started in or was accepted into for restricted programs. Course substitution permits a student to substitute an equivalent course for a required course in the student's curriculum. Westmoreland County Community College creates programs with specific outcomes and competencies required. To maintain the integrity of the degree, course substitutions should only be used for extraordinary circumstances, for institutional error, or for students who completed coursework at a previous institution. Substitutions should be very rare for non-transfer students who have been properly advised and are using well-administered degree plans.

Generally, substitutions should only be used for students who completed coursework for their program while at a previous institution or in a former major. The Deans will review any commonly substituted courses on a yearly basis and determine if a curriculum change is warranted.

#### **Guidelines:**

1. The student must be currently enrolled at the college and in the program for the substitution.
2. The course substitution must meet the spirit/content of the substituted course in the student's program, including specified course, program, and institutional outcomes.
3. Course substitutions should not be used to circumvent a course that is part of the student's normal curriculum.
4. A student who fails a required course must repeat that course and may not substitute another in its place. This does not apply to electives.
5. Course substitutions are specific to each program and catalog year and may not transfer from one to the other.
6. Course substitutions cannot be used for Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee (TAOC) programs with the exception of course substitutions that are approved for transfer by our transfer counselor.
7. No more than 20% of the credential (12 credits for a 60-credit degree) can be substituted, and only 2 courses in the major field of the credential can be substituted.
8. Courses are substituted on a one to one basis. Courses cannot be combined to satisfy a course requirement.

## 4 Financial Policies

### 4.1 Basis of Accounting

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The financial records of the college shall be maintained in accordance with requirements established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and guidelines published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

The college is subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's School Code and implementing regulations issued by the Department of Education. The college will abide by all applicable state statutes and regulations in maintaining its financial records.

## 4.2 Chart of Accounts

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The college controller will develop and maintain a comprehensive chart of accounts for the college, consistent with the requirements of the Pennsylvania School Code and generally accepted accounting principles for institutions of higher education in the public sector. To the extent possible, the chart of accounts will be made consistent with the system recommended by the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

### 4.3 Budget Preparation and Adoption

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The president of the college shall prepare annual operating and capital budgets for the college on a fiscal year basis.

The proposed budgets shall be presented by the president to the board of trustees for preliminary approval at the May meeting of the board of trustees, and submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration and approval. The proposed budgets shall lay open for public view for at least four weeks and then presented to the board of trustees for final approval at the June board meeting.

#### 4.4 Fiscal Year Audit

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The college shall make provision for an annual audit of financial activities. The administration requests and receives requests for proposals from certified public accounting firms pursuant to the college purchasing policy, and recommends to the board of trustees a firm that meets the requirements of the college. The board appoints the CPA firm for a maximum period of three (3) years. Such appointments may be renewed.

Audited financial statements shall be submitted as required to the federal and state departments of education.

## Financial Policies

### 4.5 Bonding of Employees

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

All employees responsible for money or disposable property shall be bonded in an amount not less than \$200,000.00.

#### 4.6 Bank Depositories

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Depository banks shall be selected in accordance with the college Purchasing Policy. The board of trustees shall approve the selection of a depository bank for the deposit and investment of college funds. The board shall appoint a bank for a maximum period of three (3) years. Such appointments may be renewed.



## 4.7 Signing of Checks

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – February 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

### Accounts Payable Checks

Accounts Payable checks in amounts equal to or over \$2,000.00 will be listed on an Authorization Report. This report requires signatures of two of the following administrators to approve the release of the checks:

- The President
- Vice President of Administrative Services
- Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Vice President of Continuing Education, Workforce and Community Development
- Controller
- Director/Human Resources

Accounts Payable checks shall carry the controller's facsimile signature.

### Payroll Checks

Payroll checks are signed using the controller's facsimile signature.

## 4.8 Delinquent Account

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – February 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 24, 2024*

Financial obligations for all accounts receivable, including accounts for credit and noncredit students, third party payers or agencies, employees, vendors, and clients owing Westmoreland County Community College, must be satisfied in a timely manner.

### **Clients/Vendors**

All agreements are to include payment terms that must be followed by the clients/vendors upon receipt of college invoice. All financial obligations and accounts owed to Westmoreland County Community College are to be paid when due. Delinquent accounts owed to the College include, but are not limited to overdue payments, dishonored checks, third-party billing for services provided, which have not been paid by contractually agreed upon date, or other payments owed the college.

An account is deemed delinquent when a reasonable effort has been made by the college to collect a debt through telephone calls, email and/or billing(s). Failure to pay any outstanding debt by the due date may result in late payment penalties. A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed on every 30 days past due, with a maximum of \$100.00.

Delinquent accounts 120 days past due may be turned over to an outside collection agency for collection of the debt. Prior to referring an account to a collection agency, the College will make a reasonable effort to notify the account holder of the status of the account(s) and impending collection actions.

The following are consequences of the account being turned over for collection:

- Clients and Vendors must have satisfied their previous financial obligations before any additional programs and services will be provided.
- The College may require advance payment of future services on accounts.
- Vendors that cause the college to write off debt may jeopardize future contracted services.

### **Credit and Non-Credit Students**

Students must complete all financial obligation to the college in order to qualify for continued enrollment. If financial obligations to the college are not fully satisfied:

- Registration for a succeeding term will not be allowed.
- The student will not be permitted to participate in graduation activities.
- No Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be awarded for non-credit students.

The imposition of any or all of the foregoing sanctions shall not relieve the student of his/her financial obligation to the college. The foregoing sanctions shall not be applicable if the financial obligation to the college has been discharged by bankruptcy or otherwise discharged by state or federal law.

## Financial Policies

If the student believes they have fully paid all financial obligations owing to the college, or there exist other extenuating circumstances, the student may request a review of their account.

### **Checks**

Any check given to the college which is returned for insufficient funds will be charged a fee. Checks tendered to the college bookstore or Student Government Association shall also be covered under this policy. A returned check fee will be assessed for each such check.

It is a criminal offense to knowingly issue a fraudulent check or a check with intent to deceive. The college is obligated to report any suspected criminal offense to the authorities and the issuer may be subject to criminal prosecution.

## 4.9 Investment

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

### Statement of Investment Guidelines

#### *Introduction*

Westmoreland County Community College (the college) was established in 1970 under Article XIX-A of the Pennsylvania School Code. The mission of the college is to provide access to quality educational opportunities that meet the diverse needs and interests of the communities it serves. The college is sponsored by Westmoreland County and is governed by a 15-member board of trustees (the board).

#### *Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees*

The board recognizes its responsibility to develop and execute a policy of investing funds under its control.

In addition, the board recognizes its responsibilities to make certain that the college funds are invested subject to restrictions contained in Pennsylvania Act 72, any other applicable statute, and any rules and regulations adopted by the board.

The purpose of this statement is to assist the board in effectively supervising and monitoring the investment activities of the college's assets by:

- Stating in writing the board's attitudes, expectations, goals, and guidelines for the investment of funds
- Delegating various responsibilities to the board's Finance Committee
- Defining the responsibilities of the college's administrative staff, and
- Providing a schedule for reviewing investment activities

#### *Investment Guidelines*

### Board Philosophy

The board recognizes that risk and volatility are present to some degree with all types of investments. However, high and moderate levels of risk and volatility are to be avoided.

### Equity Investments

No college funds should be invested in Equity Investments.

### Fixed-Income Investments

The objective of fixed-income investments are to provide a secure, above average stream of income and to provide a relatively stable market value base. Investment of college funds are limited to obligations of the United States of America or any of its agencies or instrumentalities backed by the full

## Financial Policies

faith and credit of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or any of its agencies or instrumentalities backed by the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth. D. Cash Equivalent Investments It is the board's direction that except for non-investment cash (i.e., petty cash), college funds should be invested in insured, guaranteed or collateralized cash equivalent investments. Such investments should be prudently diversified and would include:

- Instruments issued by, guaranteed by, or insured by the United States government.
- Certificates of deposit issued by national banks which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or for any amounts above the insured maximum, provided that approved collateral in accordance with Pennsylvania law for pledges of assets to secure deposits of public funds with banking institutions shall be pledged by the depository.
- Short-term cash reserve funds issued by national banks which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or for any amounts above the insured maximum, provided that approved collateral in accordance with Pennsylvania law for pledges of assets to secure deposits of public funds with banking institutions shall be pledged by the depository.
- Moneys may be combined from more than one fund under college control for the purchase of a single investment, provided that each of the funds combined for the purpose shall be accounted for separately in all respects, and that the earnings from the investment are separately and individually computed and recorded, and credited to the accounts from which the investment was purchased.

### Delegation of Responsibilities

This Statement of Investment Guidelines will be reviewed annually by the Finance Committee of the board. All recommended changes to the guidelines will be developed by the Finance Committee and submitted to the board for final approval.

On a day-to-day basis, the college's vice president of Administrative Services and/or the college's controller will be administering these guidelines.

The Finance Committee recognizes the valued relationships which have developed between the College and the local banking community. As such, the following guidelines are to be used for cash equivalent investing:

- Certificate of deposit investment rates are to be obtained from local national banks.
- If the interest rate spread is 100 basis points or less, the college administration may select the institution at their discretion.
- If the interest rate spread is greater than 100 basis points, the college administration should select the highest rated institution.
- The college administration may deviate from the above guidelines with approval from both the chairman of the Finance Committee and the chairman of the board.

Timely reports summarizing investment activities will be presented to the Finance Committee on a quarterly basis.

## 4.10 Capitalization Guidelines

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – April 28, 2021*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

### **PURPOSE:**

To establish a uniform capitalization policy for equipment and fixed assets, both tangible and intangible, which meet the capitalization thresholds that complies with federal, state, and Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) reporting requirements.

### **SCOPE:**

This policy applies to Westmoreland County Community College departments, including centers- Westmoreland-Advanced Technology Center, Westmoreland-Public Safety Training Center, Westmoreland-Latrobe, Westmoreland-Indiana County, Westmoreland-Fayette County, Westmoreland-Murrysville and Westmoreland-New Kensington.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Buildings:** includes buildings purchased or constructed. Construction projects are initially capitalized to construction in progress with a cost of \$5,000 or greater. Subsequently, the capitalized expenditures are recorded as an asset

**Building Improvements:** the substitution of a better asset for the one currently used (example - install carpeting where none existed or substitute a concrete floor for a wood floor), or any change to the building which increases its future service potential and extends its useful life (example - substitute a new wooden floor for an old deteriorated wooden floor). Improvements with a value of \$5,000 or greater are capitalized.

**Computer Software:** includes computer software acquired for internal use. Generally, only institutionally significant systems with a cost of \$5,000 or greater are capitalized. Also includes major modifications (such as an upgrade) to the software.

**Other Intangible Assets:** an intangible asset is an asset that 1) lacks physical substance, 2) is nonfinancial in nature and 3) has an initial useful life of one year or more. This includes right-of-way and other types of easements, water rights, timber rights, patents, copyrights, trademarks, licenses and permits with a cost of \$5,000 or more. This also includes gifts of software with rights to use.

**Donated Assets:** assets received in a voluntary non-reciprocal transfer from another entity such as gifts of capital assets. Depending on the type of asset donated, fair market value or like cost appraisal method will be utilized for the capitalization limit.

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**Fabricated Equipment:** includes self-constructed equipment where the total unit cost incurred to fabricate the equipment is \$3,000 or more. Components include enhancement parts that materially and permanently increase the value or useful life of equipment. A system with multiple components which cannot operate independently of each other and together cost \$3,000 or more will also be capitalized. The rule-of-thumb is that for a component to be included in the original acquisition cost of a piece of equipment, it should be an attached or installed option which, as assembled, is expected to operate as one unit for the remainder of its life.

**Moveable Equipment:** an article of non-expendable, tangible personal property that is free standing, movable, is complete in itself, does not lose its identity when affixed to or installed in other property and has a useful life greater than one year. Includes delivery equipment, office equipment, machinery, furniture and fixtures, factory equipment, instruments and vehicles. Has a purchase value of \$3,000.

Exceptions to the equipment definition are:

- Assets purchased as repair parts for existing parts in previously tagged equipment.
- Materials used in repair or replacement in previously tagged equipment
- Household equipment (drapes, bedding, carpet replacement).
- Built-in equipment – such items become part of the building or structure after installation and may be capitalized as building improvements. For example – built-in cabinets, garbage disposals, furnaces, and air conditioners. Please see the definition of Building Improvements.

### **POLICY:**

This accounting policy of Westmoreland establishes the minimum cost (capitalization amount) that shall be used to determine the capital assets to be recorded in the accounting records and financial statements of Westmoreland. Tangible or intangible assets which meet the purchase or fair market value criteria as noted in the definitions portion of this policy will be capitalized over the set useful life of the asset. Items not meeting the thresholds established will be expensed in the period incurred for financial statement purposes.

#### **4.11 Sale of Equipment and Personal College Property**

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

When personal property of the college is determined to be no longer useful to the college, the president is authorized to offer all such property for sale and/or disposal subject to approval of the board of trustees.



#### 4.12 Tuition and Fees

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The board of trustees will approve the tuition for credit and noncredit classes on a fiscal year basis. Also, the board of trustees will approve all fees on a fiscal year basis.

#### 4.13 Tuition Waiver

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

- A. Tuition Waiver will be provided to employees covered by the Westmoreland County Community College professional association and educational support personnel collective bargaining agreements in accordance with the respective terms of these agreements. Tuition waiver for other college employees is as follows:

##### **TUITION WAIVER TERMS; NONBARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES**

**B. Tuition Waiver for Persons 60 Years of Age or Older**

Westmoreland County residents who are 60 years of age or older may register for credit and noncredit courses with a 50 percent reduction in tuition, contingent upon space availability in the class. However, all other fees will be assessed.

**C. Tuition Waiver for Volunteer Firefighters – New Recruits**

In the interest of attracting new volunteers to the fire departments in Westmoreland County, the college will provide tuition waivers to new volunteers.

##### **Eligibility Requirement**

1. Resident of Westmoreland County.
2. Applicants must be new firefighters with no less than six (6) months of experience and no more than one year.
3. Applicants must have a letter from their fire department chief certifying that the applicant is a new volunteer and has provided satisfactory service.
4. Applicant is responsible for all fees and textbooks

**D. Partial Tuition Waiver for Incumbent Volunteer Firefighters**

To support the men and women of Westmoreland County's fire departments as they seek to develop their academic and employability skills, the college will provide a partial tuition waiver for volunteer firefighters who have one year or more of service. Eligibility requirements and conditions for the Westmoreland County Community College partial tuition waiver:

1. Resident of Westmoreland County.
2. Incumbent volunteer firefighter with at least one year of service.
3. Applicant must present a letter from their fire department chief that certifies service.
4. Firefighter must maintain active status with the fire department to continue to receive the partial tuition waiver.
5. Firefighter must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0.
6. Course enrollment is contingent upon seat availability.
7. Tuition waiver is applicable for either part-time or full-time study for a maximum of 60 credits.
8. Firefighter is responsible for one-half of tuition, all fees and textbooks.

## 4.14 Purchasing Policy

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 22, 2014*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 27, 2024*

### Introduction

The Westmoreland County Community College Purchasing Department is responsible for the procurement and contracting for all equipment, materials, supplies, and services necessary for the operation of the College. The Board of Trustees represents the final authority concerning major procurement awards. This Purchasing Policy is intended to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and Local procurement regulations, specifically those outlined in Chapter 35 of the Pennsylvania Code and the Community College Act of 1961.

### Objective

The Purchasing Department objective is to maintain an “open door” policy that provides opportunity for all suppliers, regardless of race, color, creed, or sex to compete for the operating needs of the College. The department will work to promote amiable supplier relations, show concern for our supporting community, and promote fair competition for the needs of the College.

### Authority to Purchase

The Purchasing Department (or the President or designee) is the principle agency authorized by the Board of Trustees to make commitments for supplies, equipment, and contracted services necessary for the operation of the College and is entrusted to comply with all guidelines, policies, procedures, and regulations (Federal, State, and Local) pertaining to the purchase of materials.

### Code of Ethics

The Purchasing Department has adopted and adheres to the Codes of Ethics of the National Association of Educational Buyers as listed below:

- Give first consideration to the objectives and policies of my institution.
- Strive to obtain the maximum value for each dollar of expenditure.
- Decline all personal gifts and gratuities.
- Grant all competitive suppliers’ equal consideration on so far as state or federal statute and institutional policy permit.
- Conduct business with potential and current suppliers in an atmosphere of good faith, devoid of intentional misrepresentation.
- Demand honesty in sales representation whether offered through the medium of verbal or written statement, an advertisement, or a sample of the product.
- Receive consent of the originator of proprietary ideas and designs before using them for competitive bidding purposes.

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- Make every reasonable effort to negotiate an equitable and mutually agreeable settlement of any controversy with a supplier; and / or be willing to submit any major controversies to arbitration or other third-party review, in so far as policies of my institution permit.
- Accord a prompt and courteous reception in so far as conditions permit to all that call on legitimate business missions.
- Cooperate with trade, industrial, and professional associations, and with governmental and private agencies for the purpose of promoting and developing sound business methods.
- Foster fair, ethical, and legal trade practices.
- Counsel and cooperate with NAEP members and promote a spirit of unity and a keen interest in professional growth among them.

*(National Association of Educational Buyers - 1988)*

### Conflict of Interest

All Purchasing Department employees shall perform his or her duties in an impartial manner, free from bias caused by their own personal or financial interests. It is also a conflict of interest and prohibited to approve any purchase of goods and / or services from any employee or relative of an employee for any amount under any circumstance. All Purchasing Department employees shall act in the best interest of the College. See Westmoreland County Community College – Employee Policy – Employees’ Ethics Conflict of Interest.

### Unauthorized Purchases

No individual has the authority to enter into purchase contracts unless specifically authorized by the Board of Trustees or the President. Any such purchases are considered unauthorized and become a personal obligation to the vendor by the individual making the purchase, unless approved in writing by the President.

### Competitive Bidding / Quotes

The securing of bids and price quotations (other than for budgetary purposes), receiving of bids and quotations, and the negotiation of terms and conditions of purchases are the sole responsibility of the Purchasing Department or the designees of the College President.

### Contracts for Personal Property, Equipment, Supplies, and Services

- If a contract is \$30,000 or greater, the College shall, with public notice, solicit competitive bids and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, meeting specification, after approval by the Board of Trustees. A minimum of three (3) responsible bids must be received or a written explanation as to why it was not possible to obtain three (3) bids. Note: When it is deemed that there are not a sufficient number of suppliers, in the distribution area of the public bid notification, to supply responsible bids, the Purchasing Department, with concurrence of the Solicitor and written approval of the President or designee shall solicit competitive bids without public notice.
- If a contract is \$5,000 or greater but less than \$30,000, the College shall solicit written competitive quotes from a minimum of three (3) responsible suppliers and shall award the

## Financial Policies

contract to the lowest responsible supplier, meeting specification, after approval by the College President or designee. (See Westmoreland County Community College – Authorized Signature Procedure)

- If the contract is less than \$5,000, the College may award the contract without soliciting competitive quotes with the approval of the College President or designee. (See Westmoreland County Community College – Authorized Signature Procedure)

### Contracts for Construction, Reconstruction, Maintenance, and Repair Projects

- If a contract is \$20,000 or greater, the College shall, with public notice, solicit competitive bids and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, meeting specification, after approval by the Board of Trustees. A minimum of three (3) responsible bids must be received or a written explanation as to why it was not possible to obtain three (3) bids. Note: When it is deemed that there are not a sufficient number of suppliers, in the distribution area of the public bid, to supply responsible bids, the Purchasing Department, with concurrence of the Solicitor and written approval of the President or designee shall solicit competitive bids without public notice.
- If a contract is \$5,000 or greater but less than \$20,000, the College shall solicit a minimum of three (3) competitive written quotes and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible supplier, meeting specification, after approval by the Board of Trustees. A minimum of three (3) responsible bids must be received or a written explanation as to why it was not possible to obtain three (3) bids. If the contract is less than \$5,000, the College may award the contract without soliciting competitive quotes with the approval of the College President or designee. (See Westmoreland County Community College – Authorized Signature Procedure)

### Additional Notes on Public Bids

- The procuring department will provide a completed Purchase Requisition containing a complete listing of requirements or specifications for the requested material or service to assist the Purchasing Department in developing the competitive bid, quote, or proposal request. The requisition must have appropriate financial account codes and approvals.
- All bids under public notice shall be in a written format, delivered to the designated place in an appropriately marked sealed envelope and/or electronic submission, at or before the designated bid due date and time. All bids under public notice will be opened publicly unless otherwise noted in the bid notice.
- A Bid Bond shall accompany bids for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair under public notice for projects over \$20,000, unless otherwise noted in the bid notice or bid package, with corporate surety or certified check in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid. If a bidder, upon award of the contract, fails to comply with the requirements as to a bond guaranteeing the performance of the contract, the bid bond or certified check shall be forfeited.
- The College will not require Bid Bonds for the purchase of personal property, equipment, supplies and services under public notice for bids.
- The bidder to whom a contract is awarded for construction, reconstruction, or repair projects shall furnish a Performance Bond to guarantee the performance of the contract and payment for labor and materials. Bonds shall be in accordance with the Public Works Contractors' Bond Law of 1967. Failure to furnish said bonds shall void the previously awarded contract.

## Financial Policies

- All bids for construction, reconstruction, and repair projects that are state or federally funded are subject to Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Labor Law Compliance Prevailing Wages Project Rates in effect at the time of the Bid package issuance.
- All bids for construction, reconstruction, and repair projects must include proof of insurance meeting the minimum requirements set forth in the Bid Request.
- The College and its Board of Trustees reserve the right to reject any and all bids, or any parts thereof, or items therein, and waive any technicalities or informalities in bidding. The College further reserves the right to award the contract on a split order, lump sum, or individual item basis, or to reissue the solicitation.
- Contracts for Construction, reconstruction, Maintenance, and Repair will contain a contingency, not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the total value of the contract, to cover omissions and changes to scope of work during the course of the contract.
- Contracts will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, kind, quality, and material being equal.
- The Purchasing Department will make every effort to ensure Westmoreland County suppliers are given the opportunity to bid on projects within their capabilities.

### Exceptions to Competitive Bidding

Some materials and services due to unique circumstances necessitate exceptions to the competitive bid / quote requirements. When it is deemed that these circumstances occur, back up documentation and justification are required, to obtain the exemption and are subject to the regular approval process and additional signatures as noted. In all cases the Purchasing Department will research each exception to ensure competitive bidding is not possible. The Purchasing Department with the concurrence of the College Solicitor and the written approval of the President or designee shall proceed with the purchase. The following situations are exempt from competitive bid requirements:

- Goods, equipment, or services needed immediately because of an emergency at the College that creates a threat to public safety or further substantial damage to buildings, the President or designee may waive the requirement for competitive bids.
- Requirements for professional services from attorneys, accountants, auditors, educational consultants, appraisers, insurance agents, architects and designers, etc. However, the Board of Trustees at its discretion may choose to solicit competitive bids for professional services.
- Item(s) to be purchased can only be procured from a single source in a given state or region due to exclusivity by the manufacturer. (Follow Sole Source / Single Source Guidelines)
- Competitive bidding is precluded by the existence of Patent Rights, Copyrights, or similar circumstances. (Follow Sole Source / Single Source Guidelines)
- Procurement of components, replacement parts, warranty services, or technical services in connection with the assembly, installation, servicing, or the instruction of personnel, relating to a particular piece of equipment which can only be provided by a single source. (Follow Sole Source / Single Source Guidelines)
- The procurement is for an item which must be compatible to or match a particular brand, to those items already on the College premises. (Follow Sole Source / Single Source Guidelines)

## Financial Policies

- Purchase of used, reconditioned, or refurbished equipment from a single known source.
- Items that due to the complexity or technical nature of the item or service to be purchased, it is determined that it is not possible to draft an adequate specification or adequately detailed description of the item or service, for the solicitation of competitive bids.
- Purchase of materials, equipment, or services using PA State Contracts, COSTARS Contracts, PEPPM Contracts or other purchasing consortiums or networks.
- Any good or service competitively bid through use of a Consultant or Broker.

### Sole Source / Single Source Guidelines

By definition, a Sole Source is an item or service that due to its uniqueness or technology can only be purchased from one source, generally the manufacturer. A Single Source item or service is one that can only be purchased from one source due to restrictions of the manufacturer (defined territories, etc.).

Brand preference or Supplier preference does not constitute a Sole Source / Single Source. Both cases will require justification and approval. Each justification must include the following information:

- Department where the item or service will be used.
- Complete description of the item or service and the function it will serve.
- Explanation of the uniqueness of the item or service and why the Manufacturer or Supplier is the only one qualified to supply the item or service at the exclusion of all others. Why is this item or service superior to similar items or services and why are other similar items or services deficient?
- Explanation of what will occur if the purchase requested is not made.
- Describe the research that was completed to determine that no other competitor exists.  
Provide list of other suppliers / manufacturers investigated
- Provide a list of other suppliers who supply similar but not an identical item or service.
- If Single Source, a letter from the manufacturer must be provided detailing why this is a single source.

All Sole Source / Single Supplier purchase greater than \$30,000 must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

### Public Contracts

The Board of Trustees authorizes the Purchasing Department to recommend purchases from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of General Services State Contract, COSTARS Contracts, Pennsylvania Education Purchasing Program for Microcomputers (PEPPM) Contracts, and other contracts and consortiums available to institutions of higher education, for items in excess of the Quote or Public Bid amount. Purchases using these contracts do not require advertising, public bids, or quotes. The Purchasing Department shall qualify pricing obtained from these contracts for purchases in excess of \$30,000 to ensure the best pricing for the College. The contract to be used will be researched by the Purchasing Department to ensure the contract is being properly used for the requested materials. These purchases shall be approved by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Public Bid / Quote guidelines above.

## Financial Policies

### Licenses, Service Agreements, and Maintenance Contracts

Contracts for Software Licenses, Service Agreements, and Service Contracts will be issued by the Purchasing Department following the purchase of the covered item. These will be approved by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Bid / Quote Guidelines above. In the case of multiyear contracts, the entire amount for the length of the contract will be taken to the Board of Trustees for approval prior to the first year of the contract. Once approved, subsequent years will not be brought back to the Board of Trustees for approval. Multi-year agreements / contracts will be for no longer than three (3) years, with the option for two (2) additional one (1) year options. All extensions to the original contract will be taken to the Board of Trustees for approval.

### Change Orders

Change Orders will be issued to correct any Purchase Order discrepancy, invoice pricing discrepancy, or for partial payment of the Purchase Order total amount.

- Change Orders for Purchase Orders for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or repair, previously approved by the Board of Trustees, must have approval of the Board if the amount exceeds \$20,000 or is over the contingency amount specified in the original Purchase Order.
- Change Orders for Personal Property, Equipment, Supplies, or Services, not previously approved by the Board of Trustees, must have approval of the Board if the new total amount exceeds \$10,000.



#### 4.15 Travel Policy

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 1, 2000*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – February 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – September 28, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – June 22, 2011*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 24, 2024*

It is the policy of Westmoreland County Community College to reimburse employees for all reasonable and necessary expenses related to and incurred during authorized travel for college business.

Westmoreland County Community College is a publicly funded institution, and as such, employees are expected to exercise prudence, discretion, and economy in their choice of travel purpose, mode of travel, accommodations, meals and miscellaneous expenses.

##### Travel Authorization

Westmoreland County Community College employees who depart from their assigned place of work during normal assigned working hours on college business travel must have the appropriate supervisory authorization.

The college recognizes, however, that some employees do travel to off-campus locations as a normal and routine part of their duties. Such travel shall be authorized through their job description, and shall not normally need special supervisory authorization. Employees who normally travel within the county as part of their job duties, however, are expected to provide their supervisor with a schedule.

##### Travel Requests/Approvals

###### *Travel Requests*

1. Day Trips – While it shall not be necessary to submit a Travel Request Form for day trip, employees who do not normally travel as a part of their job duties must obtain supervisory authorization in advance of the trip.
2. Overnight Trips – Employees are required to complete a Travel Request Form and obtain approvals from their immediate supervisor and their appropriate vice president in advance of the trip. Every effort should be made by the employee to estimate the cost of the travel as accurately as possible.

Note: Reservations should not be made, and travel arrangements should not be committed or booked prior to the employee's Travel Request Form being approved.

##### Supervisor's Approval Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the employee's supervisor who is approving the travel request to be familiar with the college's travel policy in order to assure the appropriateness of the travel, the reasonableness of the request, and the availability of budgeted funds.

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### Travel Reimbursement

Employees must document all requests for travel expense reimbursement by completing a Travel Expense Voucher. A travel expense voucher must be submitted in a reasonable amount of time not to exceed the end of the fiscal year. This includes a trip where there are no reimbursable expenses. All requests must be clearly itemized, be accompanied by appropriate receipts, be submitted on a timely basis and finally, have the approval of the employee's supervisor and the appropriate vice president prior to being submitted to the Accounting Department for reimbursement.

### *Transportation*

#### 1. College-Owned Vehicle Use

The college maintains a small number of vehicles which may be used for college related travel. Employees are required to follow the procedures outlined by the Facilities Department.

Every attempt should be made to utilize these vehicles first, prior to using personal vehicles for college related travel, when it is most efficient and cost-effective to do so.

#### 2. Personal Vehicle Use and Mileage Reimbursement

Employees who use their personal vehicles for college related travel will be reimbursed for mileage at the current college rate determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Evidence will be required upon submission of reimbursement. Mileage reimbursement should be from the college or employee's home, whichever is lesser of the two.

Employees are expected to maintain adequate insurance on their personal vehicles. The college will not be liable for damage to an employee's vehicle which may occur while an employee is traveling on college related business.

#### 3. Ground Transportation and Automobile Rental

Employees are expected to use the most cost effective and efficient mode of transportation. Rental cars may be approved on a case-by-case basis with consultation of the immediate supervisor.

#### 4. Commuting Expense

Driving from the employee's home to the college and back is a personal commuting expense and not a reimbursable travel expense. As such, any related commuting expenses (i.e., tolls) are not reimbursable as a travel expense.

Mileage for college related trips should be calculated using the employee's normal workplace. Employees may occasionally have to depart on and/or return from a business trip directly from their home without first reporting to their normal work place. In such cases, the employee must

## Financial Policies

calculate the estimated mileage for the trip as if they had departed from and returned to their normal workplace and claim the lesser of the two for reimbursement.

### 5. Air Travel

All air travel must be booked through the employee's Cabinet member's administrative support staff. Employees should obtain an estimate to use for travel request approval, however, reservations should not be finalized until the employee's travel request has been approved by their supervisor and/or appropriate vice president. The following general considerations should be used when making airline reservations:

- a. Travel arrangements should always be booked as far in advance as possible to obtain the lowest possible fares.
- b. Coach or reduced fares are to be used for domestic travel.

### 6. Other Modes of Transportation (Car, Train, Bus, etc.)

There may be occasions when employees may find travel by car, train or bus to be economical and advantageous. Carpooling or use of the college van should be considered for trips involving multiple college employees. Employees will be allowed and encouraged to use alternative modes of transportation if significant savings over air fares results after considering the added costs of hotels, meals and/or extended time away from the employee's job. A comparison of costs should be included on the employee's Travel Request. In any case, the college's reimbursement will be limited to the least expensive travel mode available. 7.

### 7. Vehicular Violations

Employees are expected to obey all traffic laws when driving college-owned vehicles, their personal vehicles, or rental vehicles on college related business. Employees who are charged with traffic violations while driving on college related business are not only responsible for the related fines, but may also be subject to college disciplinary actions.

### 8. Other Transportation Expenses

The actual amount of turnpike tolls, parking expenses or other related transportation expenses incurred during college related travel is reimbursable to the employee. Receipts must be submitted with the employee's request for reimbursement.

## Lodging

All lodging reservations must be handled by the employee's Cabinet member's administrative support staff. The college will not reimburse the employee for additional costs associated with upgrading room accommodations or for additional persons staying in the room (i.e., spouse, children, etc.).

## Financial Policies

Employees attending professional association meetings or seminars should normally stay in a hotel where special conference rates are available for participants. However, comparative costs for lodging at other nearby hotels, along with associated extra transportation expenses, should be checked to verify that the conference hotel rate is the most advantageous.

The college will only pay for the room rental for the employee during the approved trip length. No additional amenities will be covered by the college.

If a guaranteed hotel reservation must be canceled, it is the responsibility of the employee to advise the hotel or the employee's Cabinet member's administrative support staff as soon as possible or at least prior to 6 p.m. (local time of the hotel) on the scheduled day of arrival to avoid non-cancellation penalties. Penalties incurred for non-cancellations will be the responsibility of the employee.

### Meals – Per Diem

Employees will be reimbursed for meals, including gratuities, on the following per diem basis while traveling on college business:

Breakfast	\$ 13.00
Lunch	20 .00
Dinner	26.00
Total	<u>\$ 59.00</u>

Most conferences include some or all meals during the conference as part of the registration fee. An employee should not claim per diem meal reimbursement for these conference meals. The college will not reimburse employees for any alcohol purchased.

### Incidental and Miscellaneous Travel Expenses

A reasonable amount of incidental or miscellaneous travel expense (i.e., baggage handling) incurred while traveling on college related business is reimbursable to the employee.

NOTE: The cost of all expenses which cannot be supported as business related will be considered personal expenses and be the responsibility of the employee.

### Travel Advances

Requests for a travel advance should be approved by the employee's supervisor. Travel advances are only available if the advance is over \$100. The advance should not exceed 75% of the total estimated travel expense net of any travel costs paid directly by the college. Employees are encouraged to use a personal credit card to charge reimbursable expenses whenever possible.

### Travel Time as Hours of Work

Westmoreland will follow all state and federal laws as well as the college's policies and agreements in determining travel time as hours of work.

#### 4.16 Sale of Real Estate Property

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – October 28, 2015*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The Board of Trustees may dispose of the college's full ownership interest in real property by sale or exchange for other real property if the Board of Trustees finds the property to be unnecessary or undesirable for the college's purposes. Any sale of real property must be for adequate consideration and done in accordance with applicable law. Any valid restrictions placed on the use or disposal of real property acquired with money obtained through a grant shall be honored, except as may be allowed by the granting authority. The net proceeds of any sale of real property shall be paid into the college's general fund.

To ensure that adequate consideration is realized by the sale, three sources of opinion on the value of the real estate shall be obtained. At least one of these sources must be property appraisal performed by a certified general appraiser (the "Appraisal"). The other two opinions of value may be obtained in letter form from a real estate agent familiar with fair market values of real property in the area in which the property being sold is located (the "Opinion"). The sale price of the real property will be considered adequate if the sale price exceeds the average of the Appraisal and the closest Opinion of value to the Appraisal.

If the Board of Trustees deems it necessary, the board of trustees may engage the services of a licensed real estate broker to secure prospective purchasers, and pay them the customary real estate agents' commission charged in Westmoreland County. The contract with the real estate broker shall include a provision which excludes payment of commission on any sale to a buyer who demonstrated an interest in purchasing the property from the college prior to listing the property with the agent.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this policy, the board of trustees may offer the real property for sale to Westmoreland County through the Board of County Commissioners at a fair price negotiated between the two boards.

## 4.17 Electronic Signature (eSignature) Policy

*Approved by the Board of Trustees – January 26, 2022*

### A. Purpose

The eSignature Policy shall be used by Westmoreland County Community College (college) to increase productivity and ensure convenient, timely and appropriate access to information by using electronic signature technology to collect and preserve signatures on documents quickly, securely, and efficiently. In addition to increasing productivity and efficiency, this policy furthers the college's goals of reducing the consumption and storage of paper documents and the maintenance and supply of printers. This policy establishes when electronic signature technology may replace a hand-written signature, with the goal of encouraging the use of paperless, electronic documents whenever appropriate and allowed by law. This policy applies to all signatures used in processing various college documents and assumes the college signer has been given the authority to sign as determined by the president or their designee.

### B. Intended Goals for eSignature

- **Security and Legal Compliance:** The use of e-forms and eSignature provides a secure method of signing and transferring documents electronically. A document cannot be altered after the signer has completed the eSignature.
- **Integration into business processes:** The eSignature process may fit into pre-existing business practices, providing automated processes.
- **Simplified workflow:** eSignatures eliminate resource-intensive processes that require the college and the public to manually sign documents. Features of the eSignature process include automation of simple forms, ability to track and review changes, vary the recipient roles, tag signatures, etc.
- **Cost benefits:** There is a potential cost-savings from not having to print, file, scan, and store paper copies. The college will save also on certified mail, postage, printing, ink, envelopes, and paper.

### C. Policy

This policy applies to documents requiring a signature of any person where the signature is intended to show authorship, approval, authorization, or certification. It is the policy of the college to encourage the use of electronic signatures in all internal and external activities, documents, and transactions where it is operationally feasible to do so, where existing technology permits, and where it is otherwise appropriate based on the department's preferences. In such situations, affixing an electronic signature to the document in a manner consistent with this policy shall satisfy the college's requirements for signing a document.

#### **D. Requirements of eSignature**

1. The use of eSignatures is permitted and shall have the same force and effect as the use of a "wet" or manual signature if all the following criteria are met:
  - a. The eSignature is unique to the person using it.
  - b. The eSignature is capable of verification.
2. The eSignature is under the sole control of the person using it.
  - a. Email notifications requesting eSignatures must not be forwarded.
  - b. These requirements prohibit the use of proxy signatures.
3. The eSignature is linked to the data in such a manner that if the data is changed after the eSignature is affixed, the eSignature is invalidated.

#### **E. Common Types of Documents**

This policy is intended to broadly permit the use of eSignatures. Examples of common types of documents are listed with notes on each type of document.

##### **Notes Memos, Forms, Board Letters, and Other Correspondence**

- ➔ Yes, eSignature is recommended.

##### **Contracts**

- ➔ Yes, eSignature is recommended.

##### **Certificates, Permits**

- ➔ Yes, if allowed by law departments should work with college counsel to determine where applicable laws permit an eSignature to be used.

##### **Documents Requiring Notarization**

- ➔ No

##### **Document Requiring the Board President's Signature**

- ➔ No

#### **F. Documents Involving Other Parties**

In the case of contracts or transactions which must be signed by outside parties, each party to the agreement must agree in advance to the use of an eSignature. No party to a contract or other document may be forced to accept an eSignature; they must be permitted to decide either way. Such consent may be withdrawn by the other party at any time such that future documents must be signed in hardcopy format. When a document is electronically signed by all parties, the college will provide a copy of the electronically signed document to the other parties in an electronic format that is capable of being retained and printed by the other parties.

### **G. Storage and Archiving of Electronically Signed Documents**

If a document exists only electronically, steps should be taken by each department to ensure that a fixed version of the final document is stored in some manner. It is up to the department to decide how to store these final electronic documents so long as it does so in a manner consistent with any applicable college document retention policies and any applicable laws.

### **H. eSignature Solution Providers**

The college's Information Technology Department will be responsible to determine acceptable technologies and eSignature providers consistent with current state legal requirements and industry best practices to ensure the security and integrity of the data and the signature.

### **I. Conclusion**

The use of eSignature is intended to make Westmoreland College Community College business practices more efficient. The process eliminates the need to print, file, and store paper copies of documents that can now be authenticated digitally and stored electronically.



## 4.18 Bad Debt Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 24, 2024*

### I. Rationale

The College should provide for the possibility that some present and future revenues in the receivable accounts may not be collectible. This policy facilitates an accurate forecast of this allowance based on actual experience and relevant data. It applies to the recording of all revenue in the College's financial records, and sets the College's financial procedures for handling and removing uncollectable debts.

#### A. Scope

All accounts receivable, including accounts for credit and noncredit students, third party payers or agencies, employees, vendors, and clients/customers owing Westmoreland County Community College a receipt of funds as noted on an account statement and/or invoice.

#### B. Definitions

1. Accounts Receivable - money owed to the college for goods or services provided to students and/or other parties.
2. Student Accounts - accounts containing charges and payments for normal student (credit and non-credit) activity, such as tuition and fees. These accounts are used by faculty and staff for purchase of similar services.
3. Allowance - a budgeted operating expense created by the student accounts receivable department with the expectation that some doubtful accounts exist in the College's general ledger.
4. Doubtful Account - Monies owed to the College with low probability of repayment. This category may include, but is not limited to taxes, tuitions, fees, other charges, etc.
5. Vendor- an entity with a relationship with the College resulting in an accounts receivable statement/invoice/balance. All other accounts receivable for services provided by non-community members, such as conference services, tuition guarantees, advertising, and equipment charges.
6. Client/Customer- Business, Industry, and Nonprofits engaging in contract or workforce training resulting in an invoice
7. Third Party - an Agency who agrees to pay on behalf of a student (credit or noncredit) or Client.

### II. Policy Statement

Accounts will be reviewed for write off at least annually and may be reviewed on a semi-annual or quarterly basis. The effect of a write off is the elimination of an individual, uncollectible account receivable from the Westmoreland accounts receivable ledger; the debt remains owed to the institution and collection efforts may continue.

## Financial Policies

An accounts receivable amount is determined to be uncollectible when it may include one of the following criteria:

- All reasonable collection efforts have been exhausted.
- The cost of further collection action will exceed the amount recovered.
- The debtor cannot be located.
- The debt was discharged in bankruptcy.
- The statute of limitations for collection of the debt has expired.
- The debtor has died and there is no known estate or guarantor.
- It is not in the public interest to pursue collection of the debt.
- Other cases as determined by administration.

Debt will be written off in alignment with the signature signing policy and it falls into one of the categories listed above.

## 4.19 Privacy Policy

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 24, 2024*

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### Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy describes Our policies and procedures on the collection, use and disclosure of Your information when You use the Service and tells You about Your privacy rights and how the law protects You.

We use Your Personal data to provide and improve the Service. By using the Service, you agree to the collection and use of information in accordance with this Privacy Policy.

### INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

#### Interpretations

The words of which the initial letter is capitalized have meanings defined under the following conditions. The following definitions shall have the same meaning regardless of whether they appear in singular or in plural.

#### Definitions

For the purposes of this Privacy Policy:

**Account** means a unique account created for You to access our Service or parts of our Service.

**Business**, for the purpose of the CCPA (California Consumer Privacy Act), refers to the Company as the legal entity that collects Consumers' personal information and determines the purposes and means of the processing of Consumers' personal information, or on behalf of which such information is collected and that alone, or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of consumers' personal information, that does business in the State of California.

**Company** (referred to as either "the Company", "We", "Us" or "Our" in this Agreement) refers to Westmoreland County Community College, 145 Pavilion Lane  
For the purpose of the GDPR, the Company is the Data Controller.

**Consumer**, for the purpose of the CCPA (California Consumer Privacy Act), means a natural person who is a California resident. A resident, as defined in the law, includes (1) every individual who is in the USA for other than a temporary or transitory purpose, and (2) every individual who is domiciled in the USA who is outside the USA for a temporary or transitory purpose.

**Cookies** are small files that are placed on Your computer, mobile device or any other device by a website, containing the details of Your browsing history on that website among its many uses.

**Country** refers to: Pennsylvania, United States

**Data Controller**, for the purposes of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), refers to the Company as the legal person which alone or jointly with others determines the purposes and means of the processing of Personal Data.

**Device** means any device that can access the Service such as a computer, a cellphone or a digital tablet.

**Do Not Track** (DNT) is a concept that has been promoted by US regulatory authorities, in particular the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), for the Internet industry to develop and implement a mechanism for allowing internet users to control the tracking of their online activities across websites.

**Facebook Fan Page** is a public profile named ConnectWCCC specifically created by the Company on the Facebook social network, accessible from <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectWCCC/>

**Personal Data** is any information that relates to an identified or identifiable individual. For the purposes for GDPR, Personal Data means any information relating to You such as a name, an identification number, location data, online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.

For the purposes of the CCPA, Personal Data means any information that identifies, relates to, describes or is capable of being associated with, or could reasonably be linked, directly or indirectly, with You.

**Sale**, for the purpose of the CCPA (California Consumer Privacy Act), means selling, renting, releasing, disclosing, disseminating, making available, transferring, or otherwise communicating orally, in writing, or by electronic or other means, a Consumer's personal information to another business or a third party for monetary or other valuable consideration.

**Service** refers to the Website.

**Service Provider** means any natural or legal person who processes the data on behalf of the Company. It refers to third-party companies or individuals employed by the Company to facilitate the Service, to provide the Service on behalf of the Company, to perform services related to the Service or to assist the Company in analyzing how the Service is used. For the purpose of the GDPR, Service Providers are considered Data Processors.

**Third-party Social Media Service** refers to any website or any social network website through which a User can log in or create an account to use the Service.

**Usage Data** refers to data collected automatically, either generated by the use of the Service or from the Service infrastructure itself (for example, the duration of a page visit).

**Website** refers to Westmoreland County Community College, accessible from <https://westmoreland.edu>

**You** means the individual accessing or using the Service, or the company, or other legal entity on behalf of which such individual is accessing or using the Service, as applicable. Under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), You can be referred to as the Data Subject or as the User as you are the individual using the Service.

## **COLLECTING AND USING YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

### **Types of Data Collected**

#### **Personal Data**

While using Our Service, we may ask You to provide Us with certain personally identifiable information that can be used to contact or identify You. Personally identifiable information may include, but is not limited to:

- Email address
- First name and last name
- Phone number
- Address, State, Province, ZIP/Postal code, City
- Others

#### **Usage Data**

Usage Data is collected automatically when using the Service.

Usage Data may include information such as Your Device's Internet Protocol address (e.g. IP address), browser type, browser version, the pages of our Service that You visit, the time and date of Your visit, the time spent on those pages, unique device identifiers and other diagnostic data.

When You access the Service by or through a mobile device, we may collect certain information automatically, including, but not limited to, the type of mobile device You use, Your mobile device unique ID, the IP address of Your mobile device, Your mobile operating system, the type of mobile Internet browser You use, unique device identifiers and other diagnostic data.

We may also collect information that Your browser sends whenever You visit our Service or when You access the Service by or through a mobile device.

#### **Information from Third-Party Social Media Services**

The Company allows You to create an account and log in to use the Service through the following Third-party Social Media Services:

- Google
- Facebook
- Twitter

If You decide to register through or otherwise grant us access to a Third-Party Social Media Service, We may collect Personal data that is already associated with Your Third-Party Social Media Service's account, such as Your name, Your email address, Your activities or Your contact list associated with that account.

You may also have the option of sharing additional information with the Company through Your Third-Party Social Media Service's account. If You choose to provide such information and Personal Data, during registration or otherwise, you are giving the Company permission to use, share, and store it in a manner consistent with this Privacy Policy.

## Tracking Technologies and Cookies

We use Cookies and similar tracking technologies to track the activity on Our Service and store certain information. Tracking technologies used are beacons, tags, and scripts to collect and track information and to improve and analyze Our Service. The technologies We use may include:

**Cookies or Browser Cookies.** A cookie is a small file placed on Your Device. You can instruct Your browser to refuse all Cookies or to indicate when a Cookie is being sent. However, if You do not accept Cookies, you may not be able to use some parts of our Service. Unless you have adjusted Your browser setting so that it will refuse Cookies, our Service may use Cookies.

**Flash Cookies.** Certain features of our Service may use local stored objects (or Flash Cookies) to collect and store information about Your preferences or Your activity on our Service. Flash Cookies are not managed by the same browser settings as those used for Browser Cookies. For more information on how You can delete Flash Cookies, please read "Where can I change the settings for disabling, or deleting local shared objects?" available at [https://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player/kb/disable-local-shared-objects-flash.html#main\\_Where\\_can\\_I\\_change\\_the\\_settings\\_for\\_disabling\\_\\_or\\_deleting\\_local\\_shared\\_objects\\_](https://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player/kb/disable-local-shared-objects-flash.html#main_Where_can_I_change_the_settings_for_disabling__or_deleting_local_shared_objects_)

**Web Beacons.** Certain sections of our Service and our emails may contain small electronic files known as web beacons (also referred to as clear gifs, pixel tags, and single-pixel gifs) that permit the Company, for example, to count users who have visited those pages or opened an email and for other related website statistics (for example, recording the popularity of a certain section and verifying system and server integrity).

Cookies can be "Persistent" or "Session" Cookies. Persistent Cookies remain on Your personal computer or mobile device when You go offline, while Session Cookies are deleted as soon as You close Your web browser. Learn more about cookies: [Use of Cookies by Free Privacy Policy](#).

We use both Session and Persistent Cookies for the purposes set out below:

### **Necessary / Essential Cookies**

Type: Session Cookies

Administered by: Us

Purpose: These Cookies are essential to provide You with services available through the Website and to enable You to use some of its features. They help to authenticate users and prevent fraudulent use of user accounts. Without these Cookies, the services that You have asked for cannot be provided, and We only use these Cookies to provide You with those services.

### **Cookies Policy / Notice Acceptance Cookies**

Type: Persistent Cookies

Administered by: Us

Purpose: These Cookies identify if users have accepted the use of cookies on the Website.

### **Functionality Cookies**

Type: Persistent Cookies

Administered by: Us

Purpose: These Cookies allow us to remember choices You make when You use the Website, such as remembering your login details or language preference. The purpose of these Cookies is to provide You with a more personal experience and to avoid You having to re-enter your preferences every time You use the Website.

### **Tracking and Performance Cookies**

Type: Persistent Cookies

Administered by: Third-Parties

Purpose: These Cookies are used to track information about traffic to the Website and how users use the Website. The information gathered via these Cookies may directly or indirectly identify you as an individual visitor. This is because the information collected is typically linked to a pseudonymous identifier associated with the device you use to access the Website. We may also use these Cookies to test new pages, features or new functionality of the Website to see how our users react to them.

### **Targeting and Advertising Cookies**

Type: Persistent Cookies

Administered by: Third-Parties

Purpose: These Cookies track your browsing habits to enable Us to show advertising which is more likely to be of interest to You. These Cookies use information about your browsing history to group You with other users who have similar interests. Based on that information, and with Our permission, third party advertisers can place Cookies to enable them to show adverts which We think will be relevant to your interests while You are on third party websites.

For more information about the cookies we use and your choices regarding cookies, please visit our Cookies Policy or the Cookies section of our Privacy Policy.

### **Use of Your Personal Data**

The Company may use Personal Data for the following purposes:

**To provide and maintain our Service**, including to monitor the usage of our Service.

**To manage Your Account:** to manage Your registration as a user of the Service. The Personal Data You provide can give You access to different functionalities of the Service that are available to You as a registered user.

**For the performance of a contract:** the development, compliance and undertaking of the purchase contract for the products, items or services You have purchased or of any other contract with Us through the Service.

**To contact You:** To contact You by email, telephone calls, SMS, or other equivalent forms of electronic communication, such as a mobile application's push notifications regarding updates or informative communications related to the functionalities, products or contracted services, including the security updates, when necessary or reasonable for their implementation.

**To provide You** with news, special offers and general information about other goods, services and events which we offer that are similar to those that you have already purchased or enquired about unless You have opted not to receive such information.

**To manage Your requests:** To attend and manage Your requests to Us.

**To deliver targeted advertising to You:** We may use Your information to develop and display content and advertising (and work with third-party vendors who do so) tailored to Your interests and/or location and to measure its effectiveness.

**For business transfers:** We may use Your information to evaluate or conduct a merger, divestiture, restructuring, reorganization, dissolution, or other sale or transfer of some or all of Our assets, whether as a going concern or as part of bankruptcy, liquidation, or similar proceeding, in which Personal Data held by Us about our Service users is among the assets transferred.

**For other purposes:** We may use Your information for other purposes, such as data analysis, identifying usage trends, determining the effectiveness of our promotional campaigns and to evaluate and improve our Service, products, services, marketing and your experience.

We may share Your personal information in the following situations:

**With Service Providers:** We may share Your personal information with Service Providers to monitor and analyze the use of our Service, to show advertisements to You to help support and maintain Our Service, to advertise on third party websites to You after You visited our Service, for payment processing, to contact You.

**For business transfers:** We may share or transfer Your personal information in connection with, or during negotiations of, any merger, sale of Company assets, financing, or acquisition of all or a portion of Our business to another company.

**With Affiliates:** We may share Your information with Our affiliates, in which case we will require those affiliates to honor this Privacy Policy. Affiliates include Our parent company and any other subsidiaries, joint venture partners or other companies that We control or that are under common control with Us.

**With business partners:** We may share Your information with Our business partners to offer You certain products, services or promotions.

**With other users:** when You share personal information or otherwise interact in the public areas with other users, such information may be viewed by all users and may be publicly distributed outside. If You interact with other users or register through a Third-Party Social Media Service, your contacts on the Third-Party Social Media Service may see Your name, profile, pictures and description of Your activity. Similarly, other users will be able to view descriptions of Your activity, communicate with You and view Your profile.

**With Your consent:** We may disclose Your personal information for any other purpose with Your consent.



### **Retention of Your Personal Data**

The Company will retain Your Personal Data only for as long as is necessary for the purposes set out in this Privacy Policy. We will retain and use Your Personal Data to the extent necessary to comply with our legal obligations (for example, if we are required to retain your data to comply with applicable laws), resolve disputes, and enforce our legal agreements and policies.

The Company will also retain Usage Data for internal analysis purposes. Usage Data is generally retained for a shorter period of time, except when this data is used to strengthen the security or to improve the functionality of Our Service, or We are legally obligated to retain this data for longer time periods.

### **Transfer of Your Personal Data**

Your information, including Personal Data, is processed at the Company's operating offices and in any other places where the parties involved in the processing are located. It means that this information may be transferred to — and maintained on — computers located outside of Your state, province, country or other governmental jurisdiction where the data protection laws may differ than those from Your jurisdiction.

Your consent to this Privacy Policy followed by Your submission of such information represents Your agreement to that transfer.

The Company will take all steps reasonably necessary to ensure that Your data is treated securely and in accordance with this Privacy Policy and no transfer of Your Personal Data will take place to an organization or a country unless there are adequate controls in place including the security of Your data and other personal information.

## **DISCLOSURE OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

### **Business Transactions**

If the Company is involved in a merger, acquisition or asset sale, Your Personal Data may be transferred. We will provide notice before Your Personal Data is transferred and becomes subject to a different Privacy Policy.

### **Law Enforcement**

Under certain circumstances, the Company may be required to disclose Your Personal Data if required to do so by law or in response to valid requests by public authorities (e.g. a court or a government agency).

### **Other Legal Requirements**

The Company may disclose Your Personal Data in the good faith belief that such action is necessary to:

- Comply with a legal obligation
- Protect and defend the rights or property of the Company
- Prevent or investigate possible wrongdoing in connection with the Service
- Protect the personal safety of Users of the Service or the public
- Protect against legal liability

**Security of Your Personal Data**

The security of Your Personal Data is important to Us, but remember that no method of transmission over the Internet, or method of electronic storage is 100% secure. While We strive to use commercially acceptable means to protect Your Personal Data, we cannot guarantee its absolute security.

**Detailed Information on the Processing of Your Personal Data**

The Service Providers We use may have access to Your Personal Data. These third-party vendors collect, store, use, process and transfer information about Your activity on Our Service in accordance with their Privacy Policies.

**Analytics**

We may use third-party Service providers to monitor and analyze the use of our Service.

**Google Analytics**

Google Analytics is a web analytics service offered by Google that tracks and reports website traffic. Google uses the data collected to track and monitor the use of our Service. This data is shared with other Google services. Google may use the collected data to contextualize and personalize the ads of its own advertising network.

You can opt-out of having made your activity on the Service available to Google Analytics by installing the Google Analytics opt-out browser add-on. The add-on prevents the Google Analytics JavaScript (ga.js, analytics.js and dc.js) from sharing information with Google Analytics about visits activity.

For more information on the privacy practices of Google, please visit the Google Privacy & Terms web page: <https://policies.google.com/privacy>

**Email Marketing**

We may use Your Personal Data to contact You with newsletters, marketing or promotional materials and other information that may be of interest to You. You may opt-out of receiving any, or all, of these communications from Us by following the unsubscribe link or instructions provided in any email We send or by contacting Us.

We may use Email Marketing Service Providers to manage and send emails to You.

**Constant Contact**

Their Privacy Policy can be viewed at <https://www.constantcontact.com/legal/privacy-notice>

**Payments**

We may provide paid products and/or services within the Service. In that case, we may use third-party services for payment processing (e.g. payment processors).

We will not store or collect Your payment card details. That information is provided directly to Our third-party payment processors whose use of Your personal information is governed by their Privacy Policy. These payment processors adhere to the standards set by PCI-DSS as managed by the PCI Security Standards Council, which is a joint effort of brands like Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover. PCI-DSS requirements help ensure the secure handling of payment information.

## Financial Policies

### **PayPal**

Their Privacy Policy can be viewed at <https://www.paypal.com/myaccount/privacy/privacyhub>

### **Touchnet**

Their Privacy Policy can be viewed at <https://www.touchnet.com/privacy-policy>

### **Merchant Services/Blackbaud**

Their Privacy Policy can be viewed at <https://www.blackbaud.com/company/privacy-policy/north-america>

### **Authorize.net**

Their Privacy Policy can be viewed at [https://usa.visa.com/legal/privacy-policy.html?\\_ga=2.11522865.463698473.1685977346-83386821.1685977318](https://usa.visa.com/legal/privacy-policy.html?_ga=2.11522865.463698473.1685977346-83386821.1685977318)

## **Behavioral Remarketing**

The Company uses remarketing services to advertise to You after You accessed or visited our Service. We and Our third-party vendors use cookies and non-cookie technologies to help Us recognize Your Device and understand how You use our Service so that We can improve our Service to reflect Your interests and serve You advertisements that are likely to be of more interest to You.

These third-party vendors collect, store, use, process and transfer information about Your activity on Our Service in accordance with their Privacy Policies and to enable Us to:

- Measure and analyze traffic and browsing activity on Our Service
- Show advertisements for our products and/or services to You on third-party websites or apps
- Measure and analyze the performance of Our advertising campaigns

Some of these third-party vendors may use non-cookie technologies that may not be impacted by browser settings that block cookies. Your browser may not permit You to block such technologies. You can use the following third-party tools to decline the collection and use of information for the purpose of serving You interest-based advertising:

- The NAI's opt-out platform: <http://www.networkadvertising.org/choices/>
- The EDAA's opt-out platform <http://www.youronlinechoices.com/>
- The DAA's opt-out platform: <http://optout.aboutads.info/?c=2&lang=EN>

You may opt-out of all personalized advertising by enabling privacy features on Your mobile device such as Limit Ad Tracking (iOS) and Opt Out of Ads Personalization (Android). See Your mobile device Help system for more information.

We may share information, such as hashed email addresses (if available) or other online identifiers collected on Our Service with these third-party vendors. This allows Our third-party vendors to recognize and deliver You ads across devices and browsers. To read more about the technologies used by these third-party vendors and their cross-device capabilities please refer to the Privacy Policy of each vendor listed below.

The third-party vendors We use are:

### **Google Ads (AdWords)**

Google Ads (AdWords) remarketing service is provided by Google Inc.

You can opt-out of Google Analytics for Display Advertising and customize the Google Display Network ads by visiting the Google Ads Settings page: <http://www.google.com/settings/ads>

Google also recommends installing the Google Analytics Opt-out Browser Add-on - <https://tools.google.com/dlpage/gaoptout> - for your web browser. Google Analytics Opt-out Browser Add-on provides visitors with the ability to prevent their data from being collected and used by Google Analytics.

For more information on the privacy practices of Google, please visit the Google Privacy & Terms web page: <https://policies.google.com/privacy>

### **Facebook**

Facebook remarketing service is provided by Facebook Inc.

You can learn more about interest-based advertising from Facebook by visiting this page: <https://www.facebook.com/help/516147308587266>

To opt-out from Facebook's interest-based ads, follow these instructions from Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/help/568137493302217>

Facebook adheres to the Self-Regulatory Principles for Online Behavioral Advertising established by the Digital Advertising Alliance. You can also opt-out from Facebook and other participating companies through the Digital Advertising Alliance in the USA

<http://www.aboutads.info/choices/>, the Digital Advertising Alliance of Canada in Canada

<http://youradchoices.ca/> or the European Interactive Digital Advertising Alliance in Europe

<http://www.youronlinechoices.eu/>, or opt-out using your mobile device settings.

For more information on the privacy practices of Facebook, please visit Facebook's Data Policy: <https://www.facebook.com/privacy/explanation>

## **GDPR PRIVACY**

### **Legal Basis for Processing Personal Data under GDPR**

We may process Personal Data under the following conditions:

**Consent:** You have given Your consent for processing Personal Data for one or more specific purposes.

**Performance of a contract:** Provision of Personal Data is necessary for the performance of an agreement with You and/or for any pre-contractual obligations thereof.

**Legal obligations:** Processing Personal Data is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the Company is subject.

**Vital interests:** Processing Personal Data is necessary in order to protect Your vital interests or of another natural person.

**Public interests:** Processing Personal Data is related to a task that is carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Company.

**Legitimate interests:** Processing Personal Data is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the Company.

In any case, the Company will gladly help to clarify the specific legal basis that applies to the processing, and in particular whether the provision of Personal Data is a statutory or contractual requirement, or a requirement necessary to enter into a contract.

### Your Rights under the GDPR

The Company undertakes to respect the confidentiality of Your Personal Data and to guarantee You can exercise Your rights.

You have the right under this Privacy Policy, and by law if You are within the EU, to:

**Request access to Your Personal Data.** The right to access, update or delete the information We have on You. Whenever made possible, you can access, update or request deletion of Your Personal Data directly within Your account settings section. If you are unable to perform these actions yourself, please contact Us to assist You. This also enables You to receive a copy of the Personal Data We hold about You.

**Request correction of the Personal Data that We hold about You.** You have the right to have any incomplete or inaccurate information We hold about You corrected.

**Object to processing of Your Personal Data.** This right exists where We are relying on a legitimate interest as the legal basis for Our processing and there is something about Your particular situation, which makes You want to object to our processing of Your Personal Data on this ground. You also have the right to object where We are processing Your Personal Data for direct marketing purposes.

**Request erasure of Your Personal Data.** You have the right to ask Us to delete or remove Personal Data when there is no good reason for Us to continue processing it.

**Request the transfer of Your Personal Data.** We will provide to You, or to a third-party You have chosen, Your Personal Data in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable format. Please note that this right only applies to automated information which You initially provided consent for Us to use or where We used the information to perform a contract with You.

**Withdraw Your consent.** You have the right to withdraw Your consent on using your Personal Data. If You withdraw Your consent, we may not be able to provide You with access to certain specific functionalities of the Service.

### Exercising of Your GDPR Data Protection Rights

You may exercise Your rights of access, rectification, cancellation and opposition by contacting Us. Please note that we may ask You to verify Your identity before responding to such requests. If You make a request, We will try our best to respond to You as soon as possible.

## Financial Policies

You have the right to complain to a Data Protection Authority about Our collection and use of Your Personal Data. For more information, if You are in the European Economic Area (EEA), please contact Your local data protection authority in the EEA.

### **FACEBOOK FAN PAGE**

#### **Data Controller for the Facebook Fan Page**

The Company is the Data Controller of Your Personal Data collected while using the Service. As operator of the Facebook Fan Page <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectWCCC/>, the Company and the operator of the social network Facebook are Joint Controllers.

The Company has entered into agreements with Facebook that define the terms for use of the Facebook Fan Page, among other things. These terms are mostly based on the Facebook Terms of Service: <https://www.facebook.com/terms.php>

Visit the Facebook Privacy Policy <https://www.facebook.com/policy.php> for more information about how Facebook manages Personal data or contact Facebook online, or by mail: Facebook, Inc. ATTN, Privacy Operations, 1601 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, United States.

#### **Facebook Insights**

We use the Facebook Insights function in connection with the operation of the Facebook Fan Page and on the basis of the GDPR, in order to obtain anonymized statistical data about Our users.

For this purpose, Facebook places a Cookie on the device of the user visiting Our Facebook Fan Page. Each Cookie contains a unique identifier code and remains active for a period of two years, except when it is deleted before the end of this period.

Facebook receives, records and processes the information stored in the Cookie, especially when the user visits the Facebook services, services that are provided by other members of the Facebook Fan Page and services by other companies that use Facebook services.

For more information on the privacy practices of Facebook, please visit Facebook Privacy Policy here: <https://www.facebook.com/privacy/explanation>

### **CCPA Privacy**

This privacy notice section for California residents supplements the information contained in Our Privacy Policy and it applies solely to all visitors, users, and others who reside in the State of California.

#### **Categories of Personal Information Collected**

We collect information that identifies, relates to, describes, references, is capable of being associated with, or could reasonably be linked, directly or indirectly, with a particular Consumer or Device. The following is a list of categories of personal information which we may collect or may have been collected from California residents within the last twelve (12) months.

## Financial Policies

Please note that the categories and examples provided in the list below are those defined in the CCPA. This does not mean that all examples of that category of personal information were in fact collected by Us, but reflects our good faith belief to the best of our knowledge that some of that information from the applicable category may be and may have been collected. For example, certain categories of personal information would only be collected if You provided such personal information directly to Us.

### **Category A: Identifiers.**

Examples: A real name, alias, postal address, unique personal identifier, online identifier, Internet Protocol address, email address, account name, driver's license number, passport number, or other similar identifiers.

Collected: Yes.

### **Category B: Personal information categories listed in the California Customer Records statute (Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.80(e)).**

Examples: A name, signature, Social Security number, physical characteristics or description, address, telephone number, passport number, driver's license or state identification card number, insurance policy number, education, employment, employment history, bank account number, credit card number, debit card number, or any other financial information, medical information, or health insurance information. Some personal information included in this category may overlap with other categories.

Collected: Yes.

### **Category C: Protected classification characteristics under California or federal law.**

Examples: Age (40 years or older), race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship, religion or creed, marital status, medical condition, physical or mental disability, sex (including gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy or childbirth and related medical conditions), sexual orientation, veteran or military status, genetic information (including familial genetic information).

Collected: No.

### **Category D: Commercial information.**

Examples: Records and history of products or services purchased or considered.

Collected: Yes.

### **Category E: Biometric information.**

Examples: Genetic, physiological, behavioral, and biological characteristics, or activity patterns used to extract a template or other identifier or identifying information, such as, fingerprints, faceprints, and voiceprints, iris or retina scans, keystroke, gait, or other physical patterns, and sleep, health, or exercise data.

Collected: No.

### **Category F: Internet or other similar network activity.**

Examples: Interaction with our Service or advertisement.

Collected: Yes.



## Financial Policies

### **Category G: Geolocation data.**

Examples: Approximate physical location.

Collected: No.

### **Category H: Sensory data.**

Examples: Audio, electronic, visual, thermal, olfactory, or similar information.

Collected: No.

### **Category I: Professional or employment-related information.**

Examples: Current or past job history or performance evaluations.

Collected: No.

### **Category J: Non-public education information (per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g, 34 C.F.R. Part 99)).**

Examples: Education records directly related to a student maintained by an educational institution or party acting on its behalf, such as grades, transcripts, class lists, student schedules, student identification codes, student financial information, or student disciplinary records.

Collected: No.

### **Category K: Inferences drawn from other personal information.**

Examples: Profile reflecting a person's preferences, characteristics, psychological trends, predispositions, behavior, attitudes, intelligence, abilities, and aptitudes.

Collected: No.

Under CCPA, personal information does not include:

Publicly available information from government records

Deidentified or aggregated consumer information

Information excluded from the CCPA's scope, such as:

Health or medical information covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA) or clinical trial data

Personal Information covered by certain sector-specific privacy laws, including the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) or California Financial Information Privacy Act (FIPA), and the Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994

## **Sources of Personal Information**

We obtain the categories of personal information listed above from the following categories of sources:

**Directly from You.** For example, from the forms You complete on our Service, preferences You express or provide through our Service, or from Your purchases on our Service.



**Indirectly from You.** For example, from observing Your activity on our Service.

**Automatically from You.** For example, through cookies We or our Service Providers set on Your Device as You navigate through our Service.

**From Service Providers.** For example, third-party vendors to monitor and analyze the use of our Service, third-party vendors to provide advertising on our Service, third-party vendors to deliver targeted advertising to You, third-party vendors for payment processing, or other third-party vendors that We use to provide the Service to You.

### **Use of Personal Information for Business Purposes or Commercial Purposes**

We may use or disclose personal information We collect for "business purposes" or "commercial purposes" (as defined under the CCPA), which may include the following examples:

- To operate our Service and provide You with our Service.
- To provide You with support and to respond to Your inquiries, including to investigate and address Your concerns and monitor and improve our Service.
- To fulfill or meet the reason You provided the information. For example, if You share Your contact information to ask a question about our Service, we will use that personal information to respond to Your inquiry. If You provide Your personal information to purchase a product or service, we will use that information to process Your payment and facilitate delivery.
- To respond to law enforcement requests and as required by applicable law, court order, or governmental regulations.
- As described to You when collecting Your personal information or as otherwise set forth in the CCPA.
- For internal administrative and auditing purposes.
- To detect security incidents and protect against malicious, deceptive, fraudulent or illegal activity, including, when necessary, to prosecute those responsible for such activities.

Please note that the examples provided above are illustrative and not intended to be exhaustive. For more details on how we use this information, please refer to the "Use of Your Personal Data" section.

If We decide to collect additional categories of personal information or use the personal information We collected for materially different, unrelated, or incompatible purposes We will update this Privacy Policy.

### **Disclosure of Personal Information for Business Purposes or Commercial Purposes**

We may use or disclose and may have used or disclosed in the last twelve (12) months the following categories of personal information for business or commercial purposes:

- Category A: Identifiers
- Category B: Personal information categories listed in the California Customer Records statute (Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.80(e))
- Category D: Commercial information
- Category F: Internet or other similar network activity

## Financial Policies

Please note that the categories listed above are those defined in the CCPA. This does not mean that all examples of that category of personal information were in fact disclosed, but reflects our good faith belief to the best of our knowledge that some of that information from the applicable category may be and may have been disclosed.

When We disclose personal information for a business purpose or a commercial purpose, We enter a contract that describes the purpose and requires the recipient to both keep that personal information confidential and not use it for any purpose except performing the contract.

### **Sale of Personal Information**

As defined in the CCPA, "sell" and "sale" mean selling, renting, releasing, disclosing, disseminating, making available, transferring, or otherwise communicating orally, in writing, or by electronic or other means, a consumer's personal information by the business to a third party for valuable consideration. This means that We may have received some kind of benefit in return for sharing personal information, but not necessarily a monetary benefit.

Please note that the categories listed below are those defined in the CCPA. This does not mean that all examples of that category of personal information were in fact sold, but reflects our good faith belief to the best of our knowledge that some of that information from the applicable category may be and may have been shared for value in return.

We may sell and may have sold in the last twelve (12) months the following categories of personal information:

- Category A: Identifiers
- Category B: Personal information categories listed in the California Customer Records statute (Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.80(e))
- Category D: Commercial information
- Category F: Internet or other similar network activity

### **Share of Personal Information**

We may share Your personal information identified in the above categories with the following categories of third parties:

- Service Providers
- Payment processors
- Our affiliates
- Our business partners
- Third party vendors to whom You or Your agents authorize Us to disclose Your personal information in connection with products or services We provide to You

### **Sale of Personal Information of Minors Under 16 Years of Age**

We do not sell the personal information of Consumers We actually know are less than 16 years of age, unless We receive affirmative authorization (the "right to opt-in") from either the Consumer who is between 13 and 16 years of age, or the parent or guardian of a Consumer less than 13 years of age.

## Financial Policies

Consumers who opt-in to the sale of personal information may opt-out of future sales at any time. To exercise the right to opt-out, you (or Your authorized representative) may submit a request to Us by contacting Us.

If You have reason to believe that a child under the age of 13 (or 16) has provided Us with personal information, please contact Us with sufficient detail to enable Us to delete that information.

### Your Rights under the CCPA

The CCPA provides California residents with specific rights regarding their personal information. If You are a resident of California, you have the following rights:

**The right to notice.** You have the right to be notified which categories of Personal Data are being collected and the purposes for which the Personal Data is being used.

**The right to request.** Under CCPA, you have the right to request that We disclose information to You about Our collection, use, sale, disclosure for business purposes and share of personal information. Once We receive and confirm Your request, we will disclose to You:

The categories of personal information We collected about You

The categories of sources for the personal information We collected about You  
Our business or commercial purpose for collecting or selling that personal information

The categories of third parties with whom We share that personal information

The specific pieces of personal information We collected about You

If we sold Your personal information or disclosed Your personal information for a business purpose, We will disclose to You:

The categories of personal information categories sold

The categories of personal information categories disclosed

**The right to say no to the sale of Personal Data (opt-out).** You have the right to direct Us to not sell Your personal information. To submit an opt-out request please contact Us.

**The right to delete Personal Data.** You have the right to request the deletion of Your Personal Data, subject to certain exceptions. Once We receive and confirm Your request, we will delete (and direct Our Service Providers to delete) Your personal information from our records, unless an exception applies. We may deny Your deletion request if retaining the information is necessary for Us or Our Service Providers to:

Complete the transaction for which We collected the personal information, provide a good or service that You requested, take actions reasonably anticipated within the context of our ongoing business relationship with You, or otherwise perform our contract with You.

Detect security incidents, protect against malicious, deceptive, fraudulent, or illegal activity, or prosecute those responsible for such activities.

Debug products to identify and repair errors that impair existing intended functionality.

Exercise free speech, ensure the right of another consumer to exercise their free speech rights, or exercise another right provided for by law.

Comply with the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act (Cal. Penal Code § 1546 et. seq.).

Engage in public or peer-reviewed scientific, historical, or statistical research in the public interest that adheres to all other applicable ethics and privacy laws, when the information's deletion may likely render impossible or seriously impair the research's achievement, if You previously provided informed consent.

Enable solely internal uses that are reasonably aligned with consumer expectations based on Your relationship with Us.

Comply with a legal obligation.

Make other internal and lawful uses of that information that are compatible with the context in which You provided it.

**The right not to be discriminated against.** You have the right not to be discriminated against for exercising any of Your consumer's rights, including by:

Denying goods or services to You

Charging different prices or rates for goods or services, including the use of discounts or other benefits or imposing penalties

Providing a different level or quality of goods or services to You

Suggesting that You will receive a different price or rate for goods or services or a different level or quality of goods or services

### Exercising Your CCPA Data Protection Rights

In order to exercise any of Your rights under the CCPA, and if You are a California resident, You can contact Us:

By email: [infocenter@westmoreland.edu](mailto:infocenter@westmoreland.edu)

By visiting this page on our website: <https://westmoreland.edu>

By phone number: 724-925-4000

By mail: 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697

Only You, or a person registered with the California Secretary of State that You authorize to act on Your behalf, may make a verifiable request related to Your personal information.

## Financial Policies

Your request to Us must:

- Provide sufficient information that allows Us to reasonably verify You are the person about whom We collected personal information or an authorized representative

- Describe Your request with sufficient detail that allows Us to properly understand, evaluate, and respond to it

We cannot respond to Your request or provide You with the required information if we cannot:

- Verify Your identity or authority to make the request

- And confirm that the personal information relates to You

We will disclose and deliver the required information free of charge within 45 days of receiving Your verifiable request. The time period to provide the required information may be extended once by an additional 45 days when reasonably necessary and with prior notice.

Any disclosures We provide will only cover the 12-month period preceding the verifiable request's receipt.

For data portability requests, we will select a format to provide Your personal information that is readily useable and should allow You to transmit the information from one entity to another entity without hindrance.

### **Do Not Sell My Personal Information**

You have the right to opt-out of the sale of Your personal information. Once We receive and confirm a verifiable consumer request from You, we will stop selling Your personal information. To exercise Your right to opt-out, please contact Us.

The Service Providers we partner with (for example, our analytics or advertising partners) may use technology on the Service that sells personal information as defined by the CCPA law. If you wish to opt out of the use of Your personal information for interest-based advertising purposes and these potential sales as defined under CCPA law, you may do so by following the instructions below.

Please note that any opt out is specific to the browser You use. You may need to opt out on every browser that You use.

### **Website**

You can opt out of receiving ads that are personalized as served by our Service Providers by following our instructions presented on the Service:

- The NAI's opt-out platform: <http://www.networkadvertising.org/choices/>

- The EDAA's opt-out platform <http://www.youronlinechoices.com/>

- The DAA's opt-out platform: <http://optout.aboutads.info/?c=2&lang=EN>

The opt out will place a cookie on Your computer that is unique to the browser You use to opt out. If you change browsers or delete the cookies saved by your browser, You will need to opt out again.

## Financial Policies

### Mobile Devices

Your mobile device may give You the ability to opt out of the use of information about the apps You use in order to serve You ads that are targeted to Your interests:

"Opt out of Interest-Based Ads" or "Opt out of Ads Personalization" on Android devices  
"Limit Ad Tracking" on iOS devices

You can also stop the collection of location information from Your mobile device by changing the preferences on Your mobile device.

### "Do Not Track" Policy as Required by California Online Privacy Protection Act (CalOPPA)

Our Service does not respond to Do Not Track signals.

However, some third-party websites do keep track of Your browsing activities. If You are visiting such websites, you can set Your preferences in Your web browser to inform websites that You do not want to be tracked. You can enable or disable DNT by visiting the preferences or settings page of Your web browser.

### Children's Privacy

The Service may contain content appropriate for children under the age of 13. As a parent, you should know that through the Service children under the age of 13 may participate in activities that involve the collection or use of personal information. We use reasonable efforts to ensure that before we collect any personal information from a child, the child's parent receives notice of and consents to our personal information practices.

We also may limit how We collect, use, and store some of the information of Users between 13 and 18 years old. In some cases, this means We will be unable to provide certain functionality of the Service to these Users. If We need to rely on consent as a legal basis for processing Your information and Your country requires consent from a parent, We may require Your parent's consent before We collect and use that information.

We may ask a User to verify its date of birth before collecting any personal information from them. If the User is under the age of 13, the Service will be either blocked or redirected to a parental consent process.

### Parental Access

A parent who has already given the Company permission to collect and use his child personal information can, at any time:

Review, correct or delete the child's personal information  
Discontinue further collection or use of the child's personal information

To make such a request, you can write to Us using the contact information provided in this Privacy Policy.

## Financial Policies

### **Your California Privacy Rights (California's Shine the Light law)**

Under California Civil Code Section 1798 (California's Shine the Light law), California residents with an established business relationship with us can request information once a year about sharing their Personal Data with third parties for the third parties' direct marketing purposes.

If you'd like to request more information under the California Shine the Light law, and if You are a California resident, you can contact Us using the contact information provided below.

### **California Privacy Rights for Minor Users (California Business and Professions Code Section 22581)**

California Business and Professions Code section 22581 allow California residents under the age of 18 who are registered users of online sites, services or applications to request and obtain removal of content or information they have publicly posted.

To request removal of such data, and if You are a California resident, you can contact Us using the contact information provided below, and include the email address associated with Your account.

Be aware that Your request does not guarantee complete or comprehensive removal of content or information posted online and that the law may not permit or require removal in certain circumstances.

### **Links to Other Websites**

Our Service may contain links to other websites that are not operated by Us. If You click on a third-party link, you will be directed to that third party's site. We strongly advise You to review the Privacy Policy of every site You visit.

We have no control over and assume no responsibility for the content, privacy policies or practices of any third-party sites or services.

### **Changes to this Privacy Policy**

We may update Our Privacy Policy from time to time. We will notify You of any changes by posting the new Privacy Policy on this page.

We will let You know via email and/or a prominent notice on Our Service, prior to the change becoming effective and update the "Last updated" date at the top of this Privacy Policy.

You are advised to review this Privacy Policy periodically for any changes. Changes to this Privacy Policy are effective when they are posted on this page.

### **About this Privacy Policy**

This Privacy Policy was generated using the USAttorneys.com's Free Privacy Policy Generator. You can generate your own Privacy Policy at <https://usattorneys.com/free-privacy-policy-generator/>.

## Financial Policies

### Contact Us

If you have any questions about this Privacy Policy, you can contact us:

By email: [infocenter@westmoreland.edu](mailto:infocenter@westmoreland.edu)

By visiting this page on our website: <https://westmoreland.edu>

By phone number: 724-925-4000

By mail: 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697



## 5 Facilities Policies

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## Facilities Policies

### 5.1 Ownership / Use of College Facilities / Equipment

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

College facilities and equipment are the property of the college.

Unless specifically authorized by the college in accordance with its facilities policies, use of college facilities and equipment therein for personal or gainful business purposes by either employees or third parties is prohibited.

## 5.2 Facilities Regulations

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The president of the college, or his or her designee, may approve the use of college facilities by outside groups and determine the charge for such usage, if any.

Use of college facilities will not be permitted for any partisan political meeting or function or any religious service or meeting, unless such meeting is sponsored by a campus organization, is educational and open to the public on a uniform basis or is scheduled in accordance with the Colleges Political Campaign Activities Policy.

Outside groups shall provide proof of insurance(s) as determined by the college naming the college as an additional insured and make such an agreement as may be required by the college to indemnify the college for loss or injury occasioned by the group's use of college facilities.

The college reserves the right to cancel a facility use agreement for a violation of any rule or regulation of the college, or if the sponsor provides false information to the college in order to secure use of the facility.

### 5.3 Traffic and Parking

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The president, or his or her designee, shall establish rules and regulations governing traffic and parking on college property. Such rules and regulations shall conform to any applicable state or local ordinances.

## 5.4 Solicitation

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The college's buildings and facilities are provided for the primary use of students, faculty, and staff.

Soliciting, selling, or distributing literature or materials by college students is regulated by the Office of Student Development and may only take place following guidelines established by that office.

Soliciting, selling, or distributing literature or materials by college employees is regulated by the office of Human Resources and may only take place following guidelines established by that office.

Soliciting, selling, or distributing literature or materials by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with the college is regulated by the office of the vice president/Administrative Services and may only take place following guidelines established by that office.

These guidelines are intended to protect the rights of the students, to maintain the aesthetic quality of the college, and to make it possible for divergent views to be expressed in an orderly manner.

## 5.5 Hours of Operation

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – March 26, 2003*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

The college will have a security/operations presence 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The president shall establish the college's hours of operation and the procedures for regulating the hours of operation. Access outside of normal business hours is limited to administrators and faculty. Signing in and out with security is required.

## 5.6 Naming of Facilities

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 8, 2005*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Westmoreland County Community College has developed this policy to provide an opportunity to recognize those individuals, corporations and foundations that have had a significant impact on the college through distinguished service/and or contributions by the naming of facilities in their honor.

Facilities that may be named include present or future buildings, areas within buildings and all areas on the college grounds. These may include but are not limited to: buildings, classrooms, galleries, auditoriums, wings, benches, athletic fields, trees, fountains, gardens, and roads.

Westmoreland County Community College will consider the naming of facilities for individuals, corporations and foundations that have demonstrated exceptional service and/or generosity, and that have made significant contributions for the advancement of the college and its students. The naming of a facility does not imply any surrendering of administrative or academic power, and the name must comply with the current or intended use of the facility. Gifts may be made with the express purpose of naming a facility.

The general guidelines to be used when considering contributions for the naming of facilities will be:

- For all new buildings, the contribution should be a minimum of 50 percent of the construction costs.
- For existing structures, the contribution should be a minimum of 50 percent of the original costs or an estimate for construction plus any major renovation costs.
- For areas within new or existing buildings, the costs for construction of that building will be divided into square feet and will be calculated to equal 50 percent of the costs for the square feet covered in the space to be named. Additional consideration should be made for special features in the room, such as electronic classrooms or auditorium seating, etc.
- For landscaping features, the donation should be 100 percent of the cost

The executive director of the Education Foundation will work closely with the president of the college to identify appropriate individuals, corporations and foundations and will work with these individuals and groups toward the goal of finding appropriate facilities for naming purposes that are mutually beneficial. All proposals will be considered by the Education Foundation for a recommendation to the college board of trustees for their approval. Upon approval by the board of trustees, appropriate signage will be ordered and placed. While size may vary, the design of signage will be kept consistent throughout the college. The naming of facilities will be considered permanent.

## 5.7 Public Safety Training Center Usage

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*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – January 25, 2006*

*Policy approved by the Board of Trustees – December 14, 2022*

Westmoreland County Community College shall make many of the facilities of the Public Safety Training Center available, on a pre-scheduled and space-available basis, to any Westmoreland County public safety agency. The agency shall provide a certificate of liability insurance indicating general liability, automobile liability and workers' compensation insurance in amounts as determined by the college after consultation with the college insurance consultants and the college solicitor. When applicable, the college is to be named as an additional insured on such policies.

All agencies and facility users shall abide by the use of the Facilities rules and regulations as published and updated by the Public Safety Training Center. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations may cause the agency to relinquish its training privileges.



## 6 Governance – Pennsylvania Community Colleges

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See Appendix 6-A – Act 46 Legislation.

Appendices

Appendix 1-A – Board of Trustees Travel and Procedures Policy

## 1.1.6 Travel and Procedures Policy



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### TRAVEL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Board Motion 34.04

July 24, 2002

Revised January 23, 2008

Revised June 24, 2020

Revised June 28, 2023

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### TRAVEL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- I. Travel Policy
- II. Travel Reimbursement
  - A. Transportation
    - 1. Personal Vehicle Use and Mileage Reimbursement
    - 2. Ground Transportation and Automobile Rental
    - 3. Air Travel
    - 4. Other Modes of Transportation
    - 5. Vehicular Violations
    - 6. Other Transportation Expense
  - B. Lodging
  - C. Meals
  - D. Communication
  - E. Timely Travel Arrangements
  - F. Supplemental Tours
  - G. Reimbursement Process

#### Appendices

Appendix I – Travel Expense Voucher

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### I. Travel Policy

It is the policy of Westmoreland County Community College to reimburse Board members for all reasonable and necessary expenses related to and incurred during authorized travel for College business unless special authorization is given by the Board Chairperson in advance of travel. Reasonable expenses may include the cost of meals for the trustee's spouse or any other person approved by the Board Chairperson while conducting college business.

Board Travel must be approved by the Board Chairperson prior to booking travel. The Board member must submit written justification for the travel that includes how the travel directly impacts their role as a board member and/or benefits the college. The board member is expected to provide a report of how the travel benefited the college and their board responsibilities.

Westmoreland County Community College is a publicly funded institution; and as such, Board members are expected to exercise prudence, discretion, and economy in their choice of travel purpose, mode of travel, accommodations, meals, and miscellaneous expenses.

### II. Travel Reimbursement

#### A. Transportation

##### 1. Personal Vehicle Use and Mileage Reimbursement

Board members who use their personal vehicles for College related travel will be reimbursed for mileage at the existing IRS rate. The mileage reimbursement is intended to cover all of the operating and capital depreciation costs of the vehicle. Additional claims for gasoline, towing, tires, repairs, or other vehicle operating costs will not be reimbursed.

Commuting travel will be non-reimbursable. Commuting travel shall be defined as travel generated from within such as travel to Board meetings.

committee meetings [and college functions](#).

Board members are expected to maintain adequate insurance on their personal vehicles. The College will not be liable for damage to a Board member's vehicle, which may occur while a Board member is traveling on college related business.

## 2. Ground Transportation and Automobile Rental

The availability and cost of ground transportation should be considered when selecting lodging on business trips.

The College will reimburse Board members for car rental, which is necessary for college business. Rental days in excess of the College business shall be the responsibility of the Board member.

Reimbursable expenses include the charges for the rental car itself, gasoline purchased for the rental car, turnpike tolls, and parking fees.

Rental car companies will typically offer a daily insurance package and an additional charge for the option of signing a collision damage waiver (CDW). These options should not be purchased as the college's Travel Liability Insurance Policy provides this coverage.

## 3. Air Travel

The Board Recording Secretary shall review possible airline schedules and cost for the time frame necessary to attend a conference. Fares will be based on advanced notice and coach travel to obtain the lowest fares. Board members choosing to extend their stay or itineraries will be responsible for the additional costs. Normally the College will make reservations and purchase airline tickets.

## 4. Other Modes of Transportation (Train or Bus)

There may be occasions when Board members traveling a long distance from the college may find travel by car, train or bus to be economical and

advantageous. Board members will be permitted and encouraged to use such alternative modes of transportation if significant savings over air fares results after considering the added costs of hotels and meals. In any case, the College's reimbursement will be limited to the least expensive travel mode available.

## 5. Vehicular Violations

Board members are expected to obey all traffic laws when driving college owned vehicles, their personal vehicles, or rental vehicles on College related business. Citations issued to a Board member will be the responsibility of the Board member.

## 6. Other Transportation Expenses

The actual amount of turnpike tolls, parking expenses, [taxis and shared rides](#) or other related transportation expenses incurred during College related travel is reimbursable to the Board member. Receipts should be submitted with the Board member's request for reimbursement.

### B. Lodging

Board members should utilize standard rooms. Additional costs associated with upgrading room accommodations will be the responsibility of the Board member.

The Board member shall be personally responsible for charges for in-room movies and other incidental expenses or services. Any non-reimbursable expenses incurred by the Board member during their hotel stay should be clearly itemized and deducted from the total amount of the hotel bill to determine the net amount of reimbursement. If a guaranteed hotel reservation must be canceled, it is the responsibility of the Board member to advise the hotel or the Board Recording Secretary to 6:00 p.m. (local time of the hotel) on the scheduled day of arrival or as indicated on the hotel confirmation as to hotel's cancellation policy to avoid non-cancellation penalty.

### C. Meals

The College will reimburse Board members for all meals, including gratuities, associated with travel to and from an [approved overnight](#) conference or meeting. Receipts should be submitted with the Travel Expense Voucher for reimbursement. [Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursed.](#)

#### D. Timely Travel Arrangements

Board members attending a conference should make arrangements in a timely manner as to take advantage of the conference's most inexpensive registration fee.

#### E. Supplemental Tours

Arrangements and costs for supplemental tours shall be the responsibility of the Board member and kept separate from the conference expenses.

#### F. Reimbursement Process

A Travel Expense Voucher (Appendix I) showing all expenses for the conference must be completed. Prepaid expenses shall be included on the reimbursement form provided to the Board member prior to travel.

All reimbursable expenses shall be supported by an appropriate receipt.





# Travel Expense Voucher

Department	Account Type	Department No.	Detail No.
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0919/FF/007

Name and Address
PID

I certify that the expenses listed below were actually incurred in the fulfillment of my duties and that they do not include personal expenses.

Signature	Date
Approval	Date
Approval	Date

Total Expenses	_____
Less: Prepaid Expenses	_____
Advance	_____
Subtotal	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount Owed College	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount Owed Individual	_____

DATE	OBJECT OF TRIP	TRANSPORTATION				SUBSISTENCE				Misc. Expenses	TOTALS
		No. of Miles	Mileage Expense	Turnpike Tolls/ Parking	Plane Taxi Other	Room	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner		
	From										
	To										
	From										
	To										
	From										
	To										
	From										
	To										
	From										
	To										
TOTALS											

Detail of Miscellaneous Expenses	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Detail of Prepaid Expenses	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Grant Stamp

## Appendix 2-A – Internet / E-mail Usage Agreement

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## 1.2.4 Internet / E-mail Usage Policy

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### Internet / E-mail Usage Agreement

I have received a copy of Westmoreland County Community College's [known as the college] Internet/ e-mail Usage Policy. I recognize and understand that the college's Internet/e-mail systems are intended to be used for conducting college business. I understand that use of the college's equipment for private purposes is prohibited.

As part of the college organization and use of the college's gateway to the Internet and e-mail system, I understand that this Internet/E-mail Usage Policy applies to me. I have read the aforementioned document and agree to follow all policies and procedures that are set forth therein. I further agree to abide by the standards set in the document for the duration of my employment with the college. I understand that Internet/E-mail usage and content will be monitored by the college to ensure compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy and I have no expectation of privacy in its use.

I am aware that violations of this Internet/E-mail Usage Policy may subject me to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge from employment. I further understand that my communications on the Internet/E-mail reflect the college worldwide to our customers. Furthermore, I understand that this document can be amended at any time.

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Employee's Signature

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Date

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Employee's Printed Name

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Manager's Signature

## Appendix 2-B – Acknowledgement and Release Form

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## 1.2.11 Substance Abuse

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### Acknowledgment and Release Form

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Westmoreland County Community College Substance Abuse Policy (the "Policy"). I have read the Policy and taken the opportunity to ask any questions. I understand that my compliances with the Policy is a condition of my employment and continued employment.

I hereby give consent to administer and to perform on me appropriate tests and analyses in accordance with the Policy to detect the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol in my system. Further, pursuant to Westmoreland County Community College's continuing efforts to keep the work place free of illegal drugs, I consent to and will cooperate with the questioning or searches of my person, desk, work area, locker, vehicle, bag or personal belongings while at work in accordance with the Policy.

I agree to hold Westmoreland County Community College and its agents harmless and to hereby release any and all claims in connection with, or arising out of the administration of the Policy including any testing pursuant to the Policy.

Finally, I understand that the refusal to consent to testing or searches, refusal to cooperate in an investigation or any other violation of this policy, is grounds for discipline, up to and including discharge.

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Date

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Employee

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Witness

## Appendix 2-C – Records Retention Policy Schedule

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# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### General

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>1. General</b>			
1.1. Correspondence – Administrative ( <i>i.e.</i> containing significant information about the College)	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Ten years
1.2. Correspondence – Executive ( <i>i.e.</i> regarding significant events or the development of the College’s administrative structure, policies and procedures)	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
1.3. Correspondence – General ( <i>i.e.</i> containing no significant information relating to the College)	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	One year
1.4. Event Files	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
1.5. Outside Board, Commission, Association and Membership Organization Information	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Five years from the expiration of the commitment for those documents reflecting a defined commitment to the organization; Three years for all others
1.6. Personal Files ( <i>e.g.</i> hot topics, special projects, tasks)	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
1.7. Speeches	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Review annually

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
1.8. Governance Committee Files	Committee Chair	Paper/Electronic	Permanent for minutes; Five years for other file materials



# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office of the President

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>2. President</b>			
2.1. Board of Trustees Documents	President	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
2.2. Cabinet Meeting Minutes	President	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
2.3. Calendars	President	Paper/Electronic	Ten Years
2.4. Committee Recommendation Approvals	President	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
2.5. Presentations and Speeches	President	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
2.6. Strategic Plans	President	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office of Human Resources

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>3. Human Resources</b>			
3.1. Act 153 clearances (PA Child Abuse History, PA Criminal Record Check and FBI Federal Criminal History)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Five years and must be renewed every five years based upon the date of the oldest clearance
3.2. ADA Accommodation Files	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from last date of employment
3.3. Benefit Plan Documents	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
3.4. Collective Bargaining Agreements	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
3.5. Collective Bargaining Materials – Drafts	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Until conclusion of next CBA negotiating cycle
3.6. Collective Bargaining Materials – Historical Documents	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
3.7. Discrimination Complaint Files (External)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic (files); Electronic (logs)	Three years from resolution; Permanent
3.8. Discrimination Complaint Files (Internal)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic (files); Electronic (logs)	Three years from resolution; Permanent
3.9. Employee Benefit Files	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from termination of employee's (former employee's) benefits
3.10. Employee Discipline Files	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from last date of employment
3.11. Employee Handbooks	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
3.12. Employee Relations Complaint Files (not resulting in litigation; excluding discrimination and harassment)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Three years from notification of resolution of complaint
3.13. Faculty Extended/Released Time Project Record	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from last date of employment
3.14. FMLA Records	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years
3.15. Higher Education Staff Information Report (EEO-6)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Three years from filing date
3.16. Investigations Resulting in No Discipline	Human Resources	Electronic	One year from closure of investigation
3.17. Investigations Resulting in Discipline	Human Resources	Electronic	Five years from last date of last employment (employees) or date of last attendance (students)
3.18. Leadership Development Records	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
3.19. Litigation Files (includes subpoenas)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Ten years from termination of litigation or service of subpoena
3.20. Mandatory Sexual Harassment Training (In-Person)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic (sign-in sheets and evaluation materials); Electronic (attendance list and training materials)	Sign-in Sheets – Until electronic attendance list created Evaluation Materials – One year Attendance List – Four years Training Materials – Review annually
3.21. Materials for Future Employee Handbooks	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
3.22. Non-Mandatory Training (e.g. Diversity, Civility)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
3.23. Organizational Development	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
3.24. Pennsylvania New Hire Report	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Three years from filing date
3.25. Personnel Files (including application, resume, appointment/salary forms, contracts, performance evaluations, etc.)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from last date of employment
3.26. Pre-Employment Records for Applicants Who Are Not Hired ( <i>e.g.</i> applications, resumes, interview notes, etc.)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Three years from date of rejection notification or creation of record, whichever is later
3.27. Unsolicited Pre-Employment Records for Applicants Who Are Not Hired ( <i>e.g.</i> applications, resumes, etc.)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six months
3.28. President's Personnel File	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from last date of President's employment
3.29. Right to Know Law Documents	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Three years from date of response; If appeal is pending, records must be maintained through disposition of appeal
3.30. Sabbatical Files	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from last date of employment
3.31. Spreadsheets for Paying for Advising	Human Resources	Electronic	Seven years
3.32. Statistical Data Reports re: Employees	Human Resources	Electronic	Ten years
3.33. Teaching Evaluations (by Students)	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Five years for permanent full-time and adjunct instructors; If promotion review pending or not yet commenced, maintain until promotion review process is complete

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
3.34. Temporary Employee Files	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Six years from last date of employment
3.35. Training	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
3.36. Unemployment Compensation Records	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Five years from date last contribution relating to the record has been paid
3.37. Union Arbitration Decisions	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
3.38. Union Grievance Files	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
3.39. Union Information Requests	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Three years from date of request
3.40. Union Settlement Agreements	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
3.41. Work Study Student Employee Files	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	If Federal work study, three years from submission of the Fiscal Operations Report for the award year If not Federal work study, three years from graduation or the last date of attendance
3.42. I-9 Forms	Human Resources	Paper/Electronic	Three years from date of hire or one year from last date of employment, whichever is later

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office of Information Technology

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>4. Information Technology</b>			
4.1. Acceptable Use Forms (Employees)	Information Technology	Paper/Electronic	Three years from last date of employment
4.2. ERP Implementation Information	Information Technology	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
4.3. ERP Security Forms (Employees)	Information Technology	Paper/Electronic	Three years from last date of employment
4.4. Department Procedures	Information Technology	Electronic	Permanent
4.5. Laptop Pool Sign-Out Form	Information Technology	Paper/Electronic	One year
4.6. Master Schedule	Information Technology	Electronic	Permanent
4.7. Remote Site Information (e.g. Wiring, Leases, Classroom Software)	Information Technology	Electronic	Permanent
4.8. Snapshots of Databases	Information Technology	Electronic	Permanent
4.9. Training Materials	Information Technology	Electronic	Review annually

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office of Academic Affairs

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>5. Academic Affairs</b>			
5.1. Academic Program Audit Materials	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Eleven years
5.2. Accreditation Documentation, Including Self-Study	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Permanent NOTE: Background information necessary for self-study should be kept the longer of the retention period identified elsewhere in this retention schedule or eleven years
5.3. Accreditation Documents (Institutional Level)	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
5.4. Accreditation Documents (Program Level)	Dean's Office	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
5.5. Allied Health (Student) Records	Dean, School of Health Professions and School of Culinary Arts & Hospitality	Paper/Electronic	Seven years from graduation or last date of attendance
5.6. Articulation Agreements	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
5.7. Attendance Books (Students)	Originating Faculty Office	Paper/Electronic	One year from conclusion of course
5.8. Chapter 335 Documentation	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Six years
5.9. Course/Curricula Documents	Deans' Offices	Paper/Electronic	Six years
5.10. Dental Clinic Records	Dental Clinic	Paper/Electronic	Seven years from date of last visit or three years from date patient turns 18 years old, whichever is later
5.11. Department and Division Manuals	Department/Deans' Offices	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
5.12. Department Evaluation Plan	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Ten years from date of revision
5.13. Enrollment Statistics (Course Level)	Deans	Electronic	Permanent
5.14. Enrollment Statistics (Program Level)	Institutional Research	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
5.15. Pedagogical Information ( <i>e.g.</i> from Conferences)	Originating Offices	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
5.16. Research (IRB) Institutional Review Board	IRB Chair	Paper/Electronic	Seven years
5.17. Research Requests (External)	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Five years
5.18. Strategic Planning Documents	VP/Academic Affairs	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
5.19. Student Complaint Files	Dean over Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
5.20. Syllabi	Division Offices	Paper/Electronic	Six years
5.21. Grade Books (Students)	Originating Faculty Office	Paper/Electronic	One year from conclusion of course
5.22. College Catalogs	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Review annually



# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office of Enrollment Management

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>6. Enrollment Management</b>			
6.1. Academic Actions, Sanctions and Appeals	VP/Enrollment Management	Paper/Electronic	Permanent for student dismissals; Five years from graduation or last date of attendance for all others
6.2. Act 48 Credit/Hour Certificates	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Six years from conclusion of course
6.3. ACT/SAT/TOEFL/ALEKs Exam and Score Reports	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance; Three years from receipt for individuals who do not enroll
6.4. Admissions Documents (enrolled students)	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.5. Admissions Documents (individuals who do not enroll)	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Three years
6.6. Affirmative Action Plan for Covered Veterans	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years
6.7. Application/Registration for Non-Credit Enrollment	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from last date of attendance
6.8. Change of Curriculum Forms and Authorizations	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.9. Change of Final Grade Forms	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
6.10. Change of Information Forms	Director/Admissions & Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years after graduation or last date of attendance

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
6.11. Clubs/Organizations – Faculty Advisor Agreements	Director/Athletics & Recreation	Paper/Electronic	Three years
6.12. Clubs/Organizations - Registrations	Director/Athletics & Recreation	Paper/Electronic	Three years
6.13. Consent Agreements with USDE	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
6.14. Coaching Agreements	Director/Athletics & Recreation	Paper/Electronic	Seven years from expiration of contract
6.15. Counseling Files and Records	Director/Student Success	Paper/Electronic	Seven years from date of last visit
6.16. Credit by Examination Forms	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.17. Credit for Prior Learning Assessment Forms	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.18. Degree Audit Records	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.19. Drop/Add/Withdrawal Forms	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.20. Federal Family Education Loan Program and Direct Loan Program Records	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic	Records relating to a student or parent borrower's eligibility and participation must be retained for three years after the award year during which the student last attended the College Other records relating to the College's participation in the FFEL or Direct Loan Program, including records of any other reports or forms, must be retained for three years after the award year in which the records are submitted
6.21. Federal Student Aid Audits, Program Reviews and Investigations	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic	If any Title IV loan, claim or expenditure is questioned by a Title IV

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
			program audit, program review, investigation or other review, the records must be maintained for the longer of the applicable Required Retention period or until the expenditure issue is resolved with the U.S. Department of Education
6.22. Federal Work Study	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic	Records relating to administration of the program must be retained for three years after submission of the Fiscal Operations Report for the award year
6.23. FERPA – Disclosure Requests	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	To be kept for the life of the student record file
6.24. FERPA – Disclosures	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	To be kept for the life of the student record file
6.25. FERPA – Student’s Consent for Records Disclosure	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from date of consent termination
6.26. FERPA – Student Requests for Nondisclosure of Directory Information	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Until request withdrawn by student; if request is not withdrawn, then permanent
6.27. Final Grade Reports	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
6.28. Fitness Center Permit Forms	Director/Athletics & Recreation	Paper/Electronic	Three years
6.29. Foreign Student Records (F-1 visas)	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	One year following notification to INS that student is not pursuing full course of study or three years after student’s last date of attendance, whichever is later
6.30. G.P.A. Maintenance Documents	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
6.31. Graduation Lists	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
6.32. Graduation Records (Individual Student)	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.33. Identification Cards	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.34. Incomplete Grade Change Forms	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
6.35. Incident Reports – Students	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.36. Lost and Found	Director/Student Success	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
6.37. Pell Grant	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic	Records relating to administration of program must be retained for three years after the award year
6.38. Perkins Loan Program	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic	<p>Records relating to administration of program must be retained for three years after the award year</p> <p>Disbursement and electronic authentication and signature records for each loan made using a Master Promissory Note must be retained for three years from the date the loan is canceled, repaid or otherwise satisfied</p> <p>Repayment records, including cancellation and deferment requests must be retained, for three years from the date on which a loan is assigned to the Secretary of Education, canceled or repaid</p>
6.39. Registration Reinstatement Requests	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
6.40. Requests for Tuition Refund/Letter of Credit	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.41. Scholarship Files (Recipient)	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic/Banner	Five years from last disbursement
6.42. Student Complaint Files	VP/Enrollment Management	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.43. Student Death Certificates	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Ten years
6.44. Student Discipline	VP/Enrollment Management	Paper/Electronic	Ten years from date of incident; Permanent if student expelled
6.45. Student Life – Programming and Evaluations	Director/Student Success	Paper/Electronic	Three years
6.46. Student Long-Term Historical Records (includes permanent resident card, birth certificate, marriage certificate, ward of the court/orphan confirmation, citizenship verification)	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic	Three years
6.47. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program	Director/Financial Aid	Paper/Electronic	Records relating to administration of program must be retained for three years from the submission of the Fiscal Operations Report for the award year
6.48. Transcript Request Forms	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	One year
6.49. Transcripts	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
6.50. Transcripts from Other Postsecondary Institutions	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last date of attendance for enrolled students; Three years from notification of rejection for others

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
6.51. Veterans Records	Director/Registrar	Paper/Electronic	Three years from graduation or last date of attendance
6.52. Advising Files	Director/Student Success	Paper/Electronic	Current year plus one year

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office of Communications

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>7. Communications</b>			
7.1. Advertisements and Commercials	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.2. College Catalogs	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.3. Commencement Programs	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.4. E-Alerts	Communications	Electronic	Permanent
7.5. College-Newsletters	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.6. Drafts of Marketing Materials	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
7.7. Institution Publications	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.8. Logo	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.9. Marketing Plans	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.10. Marketing Publications	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.11. Marketing Research	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
7.12. Materials to Respond to Crisis Inquiries	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Until updated or superseded
7.13. Photos and Video Footage	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.14. Photo Release Forms	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.15. Press Clippings (of interest to WCCC)	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
7.16. Press Clippings (regarding WCCC)	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
7.17. Press Releases	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
7.18. Talking Points, Statements, Prepared Remarks, Notes, etc. (non-published)	Communications	Paper/Electronic	Review annually



# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office of Administrative Services

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>8. Administrative Services</b>			
8.1. Access Control System	Director/Facilities	Electronic	Three years
8.2. Accounts Payable Records	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.3. Accounts Receivable Records	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.4. After-Hours Record of Badge Access	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Three years
8.5. Annual Budget	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.6. Annual Financial Statements	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.7. Audit Reports	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.8. Bank Statements	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.9. Bills and Payment Records	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.10. Blueprints	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.11. Bond Records	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.12. Books of Account	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.13. College Store Commission Reports	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.14. College Store Credit Card Receipts	Director/Accounting	Paper	Current plus seven years
8.15. Budget (Approved)	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.16. Budget Documents – City	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Ten years
8.17. Budget Documents – State	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Ten years
8.18. Building Specifications for	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
Contracts (e.g. weight control)			
8.19. CAD Drawings	Director/Facilities	Electronic	Five years after disposition of property
8.20. Certificates of Insurance (College)	VP/Administrative Services	Paper/Electronic	Five years from expiration
8.21. Certificates of Insurance (Vendor)	VP/Administrative Services	Paper/Electronic	Five years from expiration
8.22. Construction – Building Plans, Blueprints and Design Plans	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.23. Construction – Engineering Studies and Reports	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.24. Construction – General File Materials	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Five years from project completion
8.25. Construction – Licenses and Permits	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.26. Contracts and Related Correspondence	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Five years after expiration of contract
8.27. Copier Billing Statements	Copy Center	Paper/Electronic	Current plus three years
8.28. Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting Program worksheets and printouts Crime Reporting – Documents Underlying and Required to Substantiate Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reports	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Two years
8.29. Crime Reporting – Documents Underlying and Required to Substantiate Federal	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Seven years

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
Campus Crime Reports (Clery Act)			
8.30. Daily Sales Tally Report	Bookstore	Paper/Electronic	Current plus five years
8.31. Deeds	Director/Accounting /lock box	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.32. Deposit Slips	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.33. Digital Cameras	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Overwritten every five days
8.34. Documents Underlying and Required to Substantiate Fire Safety Report	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Five years
8.35. Emergency Response Information	Director/Facilities	Electronic	Permanent
8.36. Emergency Response Team	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Seven years
8.37. Employee Disciplinary Records Relevant to Campus Security (e.g. employee removed from campus)	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Seven years from incident or six years from last date of employment, whichever is longer
8.38. Equipment Maintenance	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Three years after disposition of equipment
8.39. External Committee Records (e.g. Neighborhood Association, Spring Garden Safety Committee, Police Department)	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Permanent for minutes; All other documents review annually
8.40. Facilities Contracts for Outsiders to Use WCCC	Events	Paper/Electronic	Five years from expiration of contract
8.41. Facilities Master Plan	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.42. Financial Statements	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.43. Fixed Asset Records	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
8.44. Form 990	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Three years from last date for filing
8.45. Incoming Shipment Report	Fulfillment Center	Paper/Electronic	Current plus six years
8.46. Institutional Survey and Reporting Records – Finance (HEGIS/IPEDS)	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent for final reports, surveys and forms
8.47. Insurance – Closed Claims (no litigation)	VP/Administrative Services	Paper/Electronic	Three years or until claimant turns 21 years of age, whichever is later
8.48. Insurance Policies	VP/Administrative Services	Paper/Electronic	Ten years after expiration
8.49. Inventory Documents and Monthly Report	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Current plus three years
8.50. Invoices	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.51. Leases	Purchasing or VP Administrative Services	Paper/Electronic	Five years from expiration of lease
8.52. Safety Data Sheets Forms	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Thirty years
8.53. Operations Manuals	Originating Office	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.54. Pandemic Planning	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Until updated or superseded
8.55. Parking Permits	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Five years from expiration of permit
8.56. Parking Records (e.g. receipts, permit applications, monthly vendor reports)	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.57. Payroll Documents	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.58. Payroll – Individual Time Reports	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.59. Payroll – Records	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.60. Planning and Finance Goals	VP/Administrative Services	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.61. Property Appraisals	VP/Administrative Services	Paper/Electronic	Permanent

<b>NATURE OF RECORD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>REQUIRED RETENTION</b>
8.62. Purchase Orders	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Current plus three years
8.63. Purchasing – Advertising	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Six years
8.64. Purchasing – Bid Documents (Accepted)	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Seven years after completion
8.65. Purchasing – Bid Documents (Rejected)	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Three years from rejection
8.66. Records Supporting Items of Income, Deductions and Credits	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.67. Requisition Files	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.68. Sale of Surplus and Salvage Equipment	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.69. Shipping Records (e.g. Federal Express, UPS)	Fulfillment Center	Paper/Electronic	Three years
8.70. Space Inventory and Utilization Records	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.71. State Audit	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.72. State Audit Appeals	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
8.73. Travel Reimbursements	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.74. Tuition Remission	Human Resources (submissions) and Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Five years from graduation or last day of attendance
8.75. Vehicle Leases	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Five years after expiration
8.76. Vehicle Maintenance Records	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	Five years after disposition of vehicle
8.77. Vendor Files	Purchasing	Paper/Electronic	Review annually
8.78. Wire Transfer Files	Director/Accounting	Paper/Electronic	Current plus seven years
8.79. Work Orders	Director/Facilities	Paper/Electronic	One year



# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office for Educational Foundation and Grants

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>9. Educational Foundation &amp; Grants</b>			
9.1. Alumni Membership Records	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	As updated/Permanent
9.2. Alumni Gift Entry Validation Reports	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.3. Alumni Council Records	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.4. Annual Donor Reports	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.5. Annual Finance Reports	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.6. Annual Giving Reports	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.7. Donor Gift files	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.8. Foundation Board Documents	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.9. Foundation Donor Endowment Agreements	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
9.10. Foundation Donor Checks	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Seven years from year in which donation made
9.11. Grant Administration Documents	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	<p>Seven years from the date the grantee submits its final expenditure report; if renewed quarterly or annually, then three years from submission of report</p> <p>If the grant is the subject of any litigation, claim or audit started before the expiration of the Seven year period, then records must be maintained the longer of the retention period or until the issue is</p>

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
			resolved and final action is taken  Records for real property and equipment acquired with Federal funds shall be retained for Seven years after final disposition of property
9.12. Scholarship Files (Recipient)	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Seven years from last disbursement
9.13. Trusts and Bequests (Wills)	Educational Foundation	Paper/Electronic	Permanent



# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Office for Continuing Education

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>10. Continuing Education</b>			
10.1. Act 180 (mandatory in-service classes for certified police officers) test results	PSTC	Paper/Electronic	Ten years (subject to change when MPOETC decides protocol)
10.2. Act 235 documentation	PSTC	Paper/Electronic	Three years (renewal period)
10.3. American Heart Association	Continuing Education Office	Paper/Electronic	Must be retained for two years beyond the instructor's renewal date
10.4. Class Rosters (audit and attendance)	Continuing Education Office, PSTC or Workforce	Paper/Electronic	Seven years
10.5. Emergency Medical Services (Department of Health)	PSTC	Paper/Electronic	Must be kept on paper file for three years from end date of class. Electronically for 10-years.
10.6. ESL Records (Non-Credit)	Continuing Education Office	Paper/Electronic	See program-specific requirements; In the absence of a program-specific requirement, six years from the submission of the Final Expenditure Report or until all audits are complete and findings resolved, whichever is later
10.7. Federal and State Grants	Continuing Education Office	Paper/Electronic	Seven years
10.8. Grant Administration Documents	Grants Office	Paper/Electronic	Five years from the date the grantee submits its final expenditure report; if renewed quarterly or annually, then three years from submission of report

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
			<p>If the grant is the subject of any litigation, claim or audit started before the expiration of the five year period, then records must be maintained the longer of the retention period or until the issue is resolved and final action is taken</p> <p>Records for real property and equipment acquired with Federal funds shall be retained for five years after final disposition of property</p>
10.9. Hold Harmless Agreements for shooting range at PSTC (Public Safety Training Center)	PSTC	Paper/Electronic	Three years
10.10. Nurse Aide Program	Continuing Education Office	Paper/Electronic	Permanent
10.11. Nursing Refresher and or Reactivation	Continuing Education Office	Paper/Electronic	Must be kept on file for five years from end date of class
10.12. Police Academy documentation	PSTC	Paper/Electronic	<p>Graduating cadet files – permanent</p> <p>Cadets who failed entry tests – two years</p> <p>MPOETC directives – permanent or until modified or changed</p>
10.13. Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) records	PSTC	Paper/Electronic	Electronically for 30-years.
10.14. Rental agreements for shooting range at PSTC	PSTC	Paper/Electronic	Three years
10.15. WEDnet records	Workforce/ATC	Paper/Electronic	Seven years

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Records Retention Policy Schedule

### Videos

NATURE OF RECORD	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	FORMAT	REQUIRED RETENTION
<b>11. Videos</b>			
11.1. Board Meeting Recordings	Board	Electronic	30 days after the meeting
11.2. Classroom Instruction	Originating Instructor	Electronic	120 days
11.3. Non-instructional meetings	Originating Office	Electronic	30 days
11.4. Trainings	Originating Office	Electronic	Until updating is required

## Appendix 2-D – WCCCPA Bargaining Unit Agreement

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Agreement between  
**Westmoreland County Community College**  
and the  
**Westmoreland County Community College Professional Association**  
for the period  
**July 1, 2022–June 30, 2027**

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## Definitions

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For the purposes of this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

1. **Agreement** – The collective bargaining Agreement negotiated between the College and the Association.
2. **Alternative Methods of Instructional Delivery** – Methods of instruction utilizing various technologies and instructional techniques to teach a course where the instructor and students are separated by space, time, and/or place. They shall include self-paced, online, and interactive video courses. They may also include a type of alternative instructional delivery that has not yet been developed.
3. **Area** – Major administrative unit of the College supervised by a dean, director, or vice-president.
4. **Association Members** – Employees covered under this Agreement who are members of the Westmoreland County Community College Professional Association (Association).
5. **Association** – The Westmoreland County Community College Professional Association, an affiliate of PAHE/NFA, PSEA/NEA.
6. **Bargaining Unit Member** – Employees covered under this Agreement who are represented by the Westmoreland County Community College Professional Association (Association).
7. **Board** – The Board of Trustees of Westmoreland County Community College.
8. **College** – The Westmoreland County Community College, its officers, its administrative staff, and its Board of Trustees.
9. **Counselors** – Non-teaching faculty whose primary responsibility is to help students more effectively deal with issues related to their educational, vocational, social, and personal development. This is primarily done through confidential interviews with individuals or small groups, and secondarily through activities and programs.
10. **Course Development** – Creation of an entirely new course to be utilized for all modes of instruction.
11. **Curriculum Coordinator** – The curriculum coordinator is the lead faculty for a designated discipline and has primary responsibility to coordinate the curriculum, instruction, and assessment of the discipline courses. This position also provides support for instructors so that they understand discipline objectives and standards set by the disciplines for courses.
12. **Discipline** – A group of courses organized within a branch of knowledge.
13. **Division** – An administrative sub-unit of an area that contains a group of programs and classes or support functions.
14. **Equivalent Credit Hour (ECH)** – A common base to which lecture, laboratory, clinical, practicums, and other related activity hours are related by a numerical factor.
15. **Five Year Program and Discipline Review** – A faculty member who assumes this responsibility is to establish and maintain a comprehensive, systematic, ongoing process for the collection, analysis, and assessment of academic program and discipline outcomes in order to: improve student learning, improve the quality of instruction, meet accountability mandates, and demonstrate institutional effectiveness consistent with the mission and goals of the college.
16. **Function** – A specific activity or service unit.



17. **Functional Analyst** – The Functional Analyst is responsible for providing support in advancing innovative, efficient and effective technology solutions to assist the College in meeting its current and future state goals by working as a liaison to analyze and ensure that all necessary technology requirements are addressed and processed objectives are met.
18. **Grant Employees** – Employees hired to fill positions that are grant funded, who have no expectation of continued employment, and are employed only as long as grant funds are available. Grant-funded employees shall be entitled to all rights as stated in this Agreement.
19. **Intellectual Property** – Any material created by a faculty member for a particular course. This material includes lectures, lecture notes, recordings of lectures, and all other instructional material prepared by the faculty member.
20. **Interactive Video Courses** – Courses that utilize a method of real-time instruction and use interactive video transmission between two or more College locations.
21. **Librarian** – A non-teaching faculty member with professional training and experience in the area of Library Science who works in the library.
22. **Level Coordinator** – A faculty member who assumes an administrative role coordinating courses in Level I or II of a program.
23. **Meet and Discuss** – The use of the term in this Agreement shall be defined herein as it is defined and applied in Act 195.
24. **Online Course** – Courses that use the Internet as the primary classroom environment and method of instruction. They shall include, but are not limited to instruction, discussion, the transfer of course work, and evaluation.
25. **PLRB** – Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board.
26. **PSEA** – Pennsylvania State Education Association.
27. **PACE** – Political Action Committee for Education.
28. **Part-Time Employees** – Non-teaching employees who work nineteen (19.0) hours or less per week, and not to exceed 950 hours per fiscal year.
29. **Part-Time Faculty** – Employees who instruct a maximum of nine (9) credit hours per semester.
30. **Pathway Advisor** – The Pathway Advisor is responsible for providing comprehensive advising services to a diverse student population with the end goal of facilitating the adoption of effective academic planning and decision-making skills.
31. **President** – The President of Westmoreland County Community College.
32. **Professional** – An employee who is responsible for providing effective educational service/support within a defined area, program, or function.
33. **Program** – A structured sequence of courses leading to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree.
34. **Program Director** – A full-time faculty member who assumes administrative responsibilities including the achievement of program goals and coordination of activities within internal and external sources, including recruitment, retention, curriculum coordination, program outcome assessment, coordination of advisory committees and resource procurement.
35. **Self-Paced Courses** – Courses that utilize a method of instruction in which students work independently, at their own pace to complete course requirements.



- 36. **Spouse** – As evidenced by a certificate of marriage under applicable state law at the time and location that the marriage was entered into.
- 37. **Summer** – The summer term shall encompass the period between the end of the spring semester and the start of the fall semester, as indicated in the College calendar.
- 38. **Teaching Faculty** – Employees whose responsibilities include delivery of instruction and involvement in committee assignments.
- 39. **Temporary Employees** – Temporary employees include teaching faculty hired to fill a unit vacancy for a time period not to exceed six (6) semesters and non-teaching employees hired to fill a unit vacancy for a time period not to exceed twelve (12) months. All temporary employees shall be entitled to all benefits as stated in this Agreement. Temporary employees shall be employed with no expectation of reappointment after the specified time limits. If a position continues to be filled beyond the time specified, the position shall become a unit position and shall be filled by a regular full-time employee.

## Witnesseth

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Whereas, the "College" and the "Association" recognize that providing quality education and maintaining a high standard of academic excellence for the students in all facets of the College program are mutual goals.

It is the intent and purpose of the parties hereto to promote harmonious and cooperative relationships subject, however, to the paramount right of the public to keep inviolate the guarantees for their health, safety, and welfare. Unresolved disputes between the College and Association are injurious to the public, and both parties are therefore aware that adequate means must be established for minimizing them and providing for their resolution. The College and Association agree that this overall policy may be best accomplished by negotiating in good faith and entering into a written agreement. Thus, evidencing the result of such negotiations; and establishing procedures to provide for the protection of the rights of the College and its employees and to ensure to the public orderly and uninterrupted services.

Now therefore, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

## Article I - Recognition

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- A. The College, in accordance with certification by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board Case Number PERA-U-6784-W, hereby recognizes the "Association" as the exclusive representative for purposes of collective bargaining with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.
- B. The unit deemed appropriate in the aforementioned certification is a subdivision of the employer unit comprised of all full-time employees whose primary responsibility is instruction or resources not of an administrative nature including: professionals, counselors, librarians, and faculty members.

## Article II – Rights of the College

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- A. The College, at its discretion, possesses the right to manage all operations including the direction of employees covered herein and the right to plan, direct, and control the operations of all facilities and property except as expressly modified by this Agreement.
- B. As provided by Pennsylvania's Public Employee Relations Act No. 195, Section 702, matters of inherent managerial policy are reserved exclusively to the College, except as expressly modified by this Agreement.
- C. Nothing herein shall be construed as a delegation or waiver of any obligations of the College or any administrator by virtue of any provision of applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## Article III – Rights of the Association

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### A. Official Business

- 1. Duly authorized representatives of the Association shall be permitted to transact official Association business on College property provided that at no such time shall business interfere with the normal operations of the College or responsibilities of the bargaining unit member. Upon 24-hour notice, requests for use of rooms shall be made with the President or his designee and will be made available to the Association within the limitations of normal College operations. At least one and three quarters (1-3/4) consecutive hours per month between 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. shall be reserved for authorized Association meetings. A bargaining unit member will not be required to accept an assignment by the College during these hours.
- 2. The Association may post notices, pamphlets, and memoranda concerning Association business on bulletin boards in areas so designated by the College in each college building, provided that such material is signed by the Association president or his designee, dated and clearly identified as to source. No such material shall be posted which is profane, obscene, or defamatory of the College or its representatives or to any individual nor constitute election campaign material.
- 3. The Association shall also have the right to use the College's official interoffice mail, phone mail, and electronic mail services for distribution of its official communications.
- 4. The Association shall have access to College equipment provided such equipment is not otherwise in use and provided further that such use is restricted solely to the College campus. The Association agrees to fully reimburse the College for expendable materials used at cost.
- 5. The President of the College or their designated representative shall be available to meet with designated representatives of the Association at mutually convenient times.
- 6. Bargaining unit members scheduled by the College to attend College meetings during their working hours shall suffer no loss of pay, nor be expected to compensate in any way for time spent in any such activity.

7. Upon request, a duly authorized representative of the Association shall be given a place on the agenda at formal college wide meetings for employees.
8. The College will provide an office for the Association president, which shall be private and include an "inside" telephone extension. The Association may have its own "outside" telephone line which shall be installed, maintained, and used at the expense of the Association. The College will also provide a location for archival storage and make every attempt to locate this room near an existing conference room.
9. Upon written request, the Association president or their designee shall be afforded the opportunity to have a place on the agenda of any public Board meetings. The request shall be submitted to the office of the President at least ten (10) days before the meeting of the Board, and shall indicate the subject(s) to be presented.
10. The Association president or the officially designated Association delegate shall, upon a minimum of five (5) days' advance written notice (*except in case of emergency*) be granted up to six (6) days per calendar year to attend special meetings and/or conventions. Requests for such leave must be submitted to the office of the College President who shall authorize same. It shall be the responsibility of the individual granted such leave to arrange with the respective administrator for coverage of necessary work during their absence. The bargaining unit members covering such work shall be compensated by the College according to the substitute rate as defined in Article XIII, section D.1. If no person(s) can be found to cover the necessary work, the individual shall still be granted such leave.
11. Whenever a bargaining unit member is scheduled to meet with the College on a matter which, in their opinion, could adversely affect their employment, said employee may, at their discretion, have an Association representative present at such meeting. The scheduling of such meetings shall be at a mutually agreeable time and shall not interfere with the normal teaching and/or other responsibilities of the said person or the Association representative.
12. The College shall grant the Association President a three (3) credit overload per semester to handle necessary Association business. Also, the College shall not assign advisees to the President of the Association and shall relieve them from committee and registration assignments.

**B. Staffing and Employment Outside of the College**

1. Search Committee - Whenever an administrative vacancy or new administrative position occurs which has supervisory and/or evaluative responsibilities of bargaining unit members, the College shall establish a search committee to select qualified candidates for interview. The search committee shall be comprised of representatives from the Association appointed by the Association president. Administrative representatives shall be appointed by the College, with the committee chairperson appointed by the President of the College after consultation with the president of the Association. After interviewing the selected candidates, the committee shall forward the names of acceptable candidates to the appropriate administrator. If any candidates are deemed unacceptable, the reasons will be given in writing. The Board reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be appointed to any such position.
2. Upon request of the Association, the College shall supply public information on professional staffing and financial reports.

3. The College shall supply the Association with a list of all part-time instructors and what they teach by the third week of each semester, with the annual faculty survey of Pennsylvania community colleges, and with Board minutes.
4. A bargaining unit member shall be able to undertake part-time outside employment provided such employment and its attendant responsibilities does not interfere with the member's performance of their duties at the College.

C. Professional Rights

1. Counselors will not be required to impose disciplinary action on any student.
2. Counselors and librarians shall have full faculty status with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities pertaining thereto.
3. Notwithstanding the fact that professionals do not have faculty status, they shall enjoy all other applicable benefits and entitlements under this agreement.
4. Bargaining unit members shall not be required to perform custodial work.

D. Ratification of agreements shall be between the Board of Trustees and Association members only.

E. Just Cause

A non-probationary bargaining unit member shall not be denied renewal, shall not be discharged, dismissed, disciplined, suspended, reduced in rank or compensation, transferred, reassigned, or deprived of any provision of this contract without just cause which shall be stated in writing. If the just cause is questioned by the Association member, the matter will be processed through the grievance procedure (*Article XXVI*), up to and including binding arbitration. All information forming the basis for any of the actions listed above shall be made available to the member and the Association

F. Past Practice

Written rules, regulations, and/or policies or practices of the College in force upon the execution of this Agreement that are not in conflict with the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall continue to be effective for the life of this Agreement.

G. Statutory Saving Clause

1. This Collective Bargaining Agreement incorporates by reference such rights as may exist under Public School code of 1949, as amended, and Act 195 of 1970, as amended, and all other state and federal laws and regulations.
2. Any negotiable matter, as defined by Act 195, arising subsequent hereto and not covered by this Agreement shall be subject to negotiation according to law.

H. Safety and Security

1. The College will make every attempt to provide a safe and secure work environment for all bargaining unit members.
2. The College will make every effort to notify the Association of anticipated activities of the facilities department which may affect bargaining unit member's work environment.

## Article IV – Academic Freedom

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- A. A bargaining unit member is entitled to full freedom in research and in publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other duties; research or employment for pecuniary return, requiring the use of College facilities or resources, shall be based upon a written understanding with the President of the College.
- B. A bargaining unit member is entitled to freedom in choosing their methodology, discussing their subject, presenting their subject, and evaluating their students.
- C. A bargaining unit member is an individual, a member of a learned profession, and a representative of an educational institution. When they speak or write as individuals, they shall be free from College censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As individuals of learning and as educational representatives, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their college by their utterances. Hence, they should, at all times, be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not spokespersons of the College.
- D. Individual faculty members shall have the freedom to select textbooks and other teaching materials for their classes. In multiple section courses, all full-time faculty members who normally teach such courses shall agree to the primary textbook(s) to be used by all faculty teaching the course.
- E. There shall be no censorship of Learning Resource material.
- F. Bargaining unit members shall have access to student records necessary for legitimate educational purposes.
- G. Since certain aspects of the information obtained by bargaining unit members in the course of their work can be considered privileged; no employee shall be required to disclose such information unless they deem it to be in the best interest of their student or their profession. The College will immediately advise the bargaining unit member of any effort, by action of law or otherwise, to secure records or other information obtained by the bargaining unit member. In no event shall the College exercise any disciplinary action against a bargaining unit member because of their assertion of privilege with regard to information under their control.
- H. Only teaching faculty members can assign grades. No student's grade may be altered without the approval of the faculty member giving the grade.
- I. No course or any part of a course shall be replicated without the faculty member's approval.

## Article V – Intellectual Property Rights

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- A. Course outlines developed by a faculty member, but paid for by the College, shall be the sole and exclusive property of the College.
- B. Intellectual property created by a faculty member under the specific direction of the College shall have a written agreement prior to the creation of the property, which would state property ownership.
- C. Intellectual property created in the fulfillment of the faculty member's normal duties and responsibilities under this Agreement will belong to the faculty member for proprietary marketing purposes outside of the College, but is available to the College for internal review and for review by external regulatory agencies.
- D. A faculty member can request in writing that the College backup all properties stored in a digital format. These intellectual properties stored in digital format are for the purposes of data backup and recovery, only. However, in no case will such intellectual properties be shared with anyone, without the express permission of the faculty member who created it.
- E. A faculty member can request in writing that a course be purged from College backup.

## Article VI – Association Security – Dues Check-Off

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- A. Each bargaining unit member who, on the effective date of this Agreement, is an Association member, and each employee who becomes an Association member after that date shall, as a condition of continued employment, maintain their membership in the Association, provided that such employee may resign from the Association during a period of fifteen (15) days prior to the expiration of this agreement or any renewal or extension thereof, by notifying both the College and the Association by certified mail of their desire to terminate their membership. The payment of dues while a member shall be a requisite employment condition under this article.
- B. The College shall deduct Association PSEA/NEA dues and PACE (*Political Action Committee for Education*) contributions from the pay of Association members covered by this contract upon receipt from the Association of individual written authorization cards executed by an employee for that purpose and bearing their signature, provided that...
  - 1. An Association member shall have the right to revoke such authorization by giving written notice to the College fifteen (15) days prior to the expiration date of this agreement and the authorization card shall state clearly on its face the right of the employee to revoke during this period.
  - 2. The College's obligation to make deductions shall terminate automatically upon timely receipt of revocation by the Association member of authorization or upon termination of employment or promotion or transfer to a position outside the bargaining unit.

- C. Deductions shall be made during the appropriate pay periods of each month. However, Association members may pay all membership dues of the Association and of PACE in two (2) equal payments on October 15 and January 15 of each year that the Agreement is in effect. If this method of payment is elected, the College shall be advised by September 15 of each academic year and the records shall so indicate the method elected. The written authorization form to be used by the employee is attached as Exhibit "E".
- D. All deductions shall be transmitted to the Association no later than the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day following the end of the pay period in which the deduction is made, and, upon receipt, the Association shall assume full responsibility for the disposition of all funds deducted.
- E. The Association shall indemnify and hold the College harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders, or judgments, which may arise out of the implementation of the dues deduction obligation under this article.
- F. The College shall notify the Association, as soon as practical but no later than thirty (30) calendar days, of any change in employment status of Association members from paid to unpaid status.

## Article VII – Employment Contracts

---

- A. Before an appointment by the College becomes effective, a bargaining unit member's contract must be signed by the appointee and the President or their designee. The terms and conditions of every full-time appointment will be consistent with this agreement.
- B. Bargaining unit members must sign and return to the College within the time frame designated on the contract all overload/extra pay supplement (*except for substitute pay*) contract(s).

## Article VIII – Appointments and Renewals

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- A. Except for the initial contract, all subsequent notices of renewal shall be signed by the President or their designee and issued to the bargaining unit member no later than March 15 to be returned to the Director of Human Resources no later than April 15.
- B. In the event the President approves the filling of an opening that is declared a bargaining unit position, all qualified candidates shall be subject first to the consideration of a search committee comprised of the appropriate dean/administrator and bargaining unit members approved by the Association president. The Committee shall elect a chairperson, and having interviewed the selected applicants, shall forward the names of acceptable applicants to the appropriate administrator. If any applicants are deemed unacceptable, the reasons will be given in writing.
- C. There shall be a probationary period of three (3) full academic years at the College for each full-time faculty member hired. If a probationary employee is not to be reappointed, they shall be advised as early as possible, however, in no event later than March 15. While in probationary status, a bargaining unit member shall not be denied renewal without just cause stated in writing. If the non-renewal is questioned, the matter shall be processed through the grievance procedure (*Article XXVI*) provided, however, the final step of this type of grievance shall be the last step of the grievance procedure before arbitration. Full-time bargaining unit members classified as functional analysts, pathway advisors and



professionals shall be regarded as probationary employees for the first sixty (60) working days of their employment.

- D. Upon appointment every full-time faculty member holding rank shall receive an employment contract setting forth their academic rank, salary, term of employment, and discipline. All functional analysts and pathway advisors shall receive, upon appointment, an employment contract setting forth their salary, term of employment, and job title and all professionals shall receive upon appointment an employment contract setting forth rate of pay, term of employment, and job title.
- E. A bargaining unit member shall be assigned faculty rank in accordance with the provisions and standards set forth in Exhibit "B" -- Faculty Rank, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

## Article IX – Evaluation/Promotion Procedure

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- A. The document entitled *Faculty Evaluation* "Exhibit C" will remain in effect throughout the duration of this Agreement. Any changes or amendments will be made upon mutual consent of the College and the Association.
- B. The current *Promotion Procedures* "Exhibit D" will remain in effect throughout the duration of this Agreement. Any changes or amendments will be made upon mutual agreement of the College and the Association.

## Article X – Workload

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- A. A faculty member's teaching assignment shall be determined by the President or their designee. The faculty load shall not exceed a maximum of thirty (30) ECH for the academic year, and shall consist of a maximum of seventeen (17) ECH in any semester. The College may assign in excess of thirty (30) ECH per academic year with the consent of the faculty member, provided all other provisions of the Agreement are met. An overload may be assigned provided one-half or more is necessary to meet the normal load of fifteen (15) ECH.

Overload assignments in excess of fifteen (15) ECH assigned for the fall semester will be paid in the fall unless:

1. The faculty member's assigned workload will not exceed the thirty (30) ECH for the academic year.
2. There is reasonable doubt there will be fifteen (15) ECH available to be assigned in the spring semester of a given academic year.

If a faculty member's assigned load does not equal fifteen (15) ECH for a semester or thirty (30) ECH for an academic year and that faculty member takes an overload, the balance of the ECH required to equal an assigned load of thirty (30) will be subtracted from the overload. The remainder of the overload will be paid to the faculty member at the overload rate.



## Activity Conversion Factors

- A. This table includes those laboratories, clinicals, activities, etc. for which the instructor is scheduled with the students the total activity time. New courses shall be covered by this Agreement. After meeting with the affected faculty member and the Association president, a determination by the College will be made as to the numerical factor assigned each activity.

All hours designated in the catalog as lecture shall be assigned a conversion factor of 1.0 ECH for each hour of lecture.

Conversion Factors for All Laboratories/Clinicals						
Course/Program	2022-23 .80 ECH/Hour	2023-24 .80 ECH/Hour	2024-25 .80 ECH/Hour	2025-26 .80 ECH/Hour	2026-27 .80 ECH/Hour	Comments
ARC			Lab			
ART			Lab			
BIO			Lab			
BKP			Lab			
CHM			Lab			
CNC			Lab			
CUL			Lab			
CUL 121, 122, 123 and 224			Lab			2 ECH/Course
DAE			Lab			
DAH/DAS			Clinical and Lab			
DFT			Lab			
DMS			Clinical and Lab			
EGR			Lab			
ELC			Lab			
EPS			Lab			
FSM			Lab			
GEO			Lab			
HAC			Lab			
HPE			Lab			
MAS			Clinical and Lab			
MED			Lab			
MET			Lab			
MTT			Lab			
NSG			Clinical and Lab			Planning/ Assignments Master Evaluation 2 ECH/Semester
PHB			Clinical and Lab			
PHY			Lab			
RAD			Clinical and Lab			
WEL			Lab			

- B. A faculty load may consist of up to three preparations. Any faculty member's assigned workload which exceeds the maximum of three preparations shall be reimbursed at one (1) ECH provided that the

number of students enrolled in these classes is at least 50% of the maximum class size. If it is necessary to assign a faculty member to teach a laboratory part of a course which is distinct from the rest of the course and they are not assigned the total course, then this laboratory assignment shall be counted as preparation for load purposes. If a faculty member is teaching two or more classes simultaneously, the combination shall be counted as one preparation.

- C. The College reserves the exclusive right to determine maximum class size for each credit course offered by the College. Prior to finalizing maximum class size in any academic year, the College shall "meet and discuss" with the affected faculty member(s) first, then with the representative of the Association upon request. Faculty members may accept or reject in writing, at their discretion, any number of students assigned in excess of the maximum class size as determined by the College. The term "meet and discuss" as used in this sub-section shall be deemed to have the same meaning and effect as it is defined and applied under Act 195. If a new course is instituted by the College, the College shall "meet and discuss" class size with the affected faculty member and the Association prior to determining the maximum class size for such course(s).

D. Office Hours

Faculty members shall maintain a minimum of five (5) hours per week on no fewer than three (3) different days and will attempt to schedule office hours at such time and locations as will accommodate the needs of their students. The schedule of office hours for each faculty member shall be posted in such a manner so as to be easily observed by students. Any faculty member who is required to attend a scheduled college meeting or attend to Association business during scheduled, posted office hours shall not receive a negative evaluation, a loss of pay, an unfavorable personnel action, or any disciplinary action as a result of said attendance.

E. Student Advising

Student advising shall be a part of the normal workload of the faculty. Faculty members shall be available to advise students during their posted office hours.

F. Alternative Modes of Delivery

1. The College and the Association acknowledge the importance of providing adequate technical support and training for courses offered by alternative modes of delivery, thus maintaining the highest possible quality of instruction.
2. The opportunity to teach a course offered by alternative modes of delivery shall be voluntary, unless necessary to fill a faculty member's base load.
3. Opportunities to teach using alternative modes of instruction shall be offered to full-time faculty members first then to part-time faculty.

## Article XI – College Calendars

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- A. The College agrees to consult with the Association prior to the establishment of the academic year which shall conform to the formula set forth in Section B of this article, and prior to establishment of the summer semester calendars.

- B. The academic year for teaching faculty shall start with convocation and end with commencement and shall consist of no more than 280 calendar days which shall include no more than 168 working days, plus graduation, per academic year during the life of this Agreement. The 168 working days shall include one (1) 8-hour day prior to and one (1) 8-hour day at the end of each semester at the College for the preparation of labs, organizing materials, grading papers, etc. Also, one (1) 8-hour working day will be divided into four (4) two (2) hour faculty development sessions for which a faculty committee shall plan discipline, division or college-wide development programs upon the approval of the Vice- President, Academic Affairs/Student Services and the President. The College will not schedule any functions at these times. The calendar shall also include a fall and spring break.
- C. No bargaining unit member shall be required to work more than five (5) calendar days in any one (1) week *(with the exception of graduation week)*.
- D. All non-teaching bargaining unit members follow the non-academic 12-month College calendar.

## Article XII – Scheduling

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### A. Hours of Work – (Teaching)

- 1. The academic work week shall consist of no more than five (5) days in a pre-established teaching and committee/meeting schedule to complete teaching load requirements set forth in Article X- Workload. The individual daily credit and contact hour schedules shall be comprised of no more than ten (10) consecutive hours, exclusive of overload. All meeting responsibilities over and above this ten (10) hour limit shall be on a voluntary basis. The academic workday is defined herein as from 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 p.m., inclusive. The academic work week shall be defined herein as Monday through Saturday, inclusive.
- 2. During the regular academic terms, unless faculty members are scheduled for classes, office hours, staff development, or meetings as specified in Article XII A5 - Scheduling of this Agreement, they shall not be required to be present on the campus or work station. Should necessary College meetings or other responsibilities, as specified in this Agreement, require a faculty member's presence on campus, two (2) College days advance notice of such required presence must be given by the College President or their designee.
- 3. Exclusive of overload, there shall be at least eleven and one-half (11-1/2) hours between the end of the last class or lab and/or scheduled meeting of the day and the beginning of the first class or lab and/or scheduled meeting of the next day. Any teaching schedule which exceeds the limits of a ten (10) hour day or eleven and one-half (11-1/2) hours between days shall be reimbursed at one (1) ECH for each teaching schedule extended beyond fifteen (15) minutes.
- 4. Scheduling of course offerings and hours shall be prepared by the appropriate dean/administrator in cooperation with division faculty prior to schedules being sent to the Vice President/Academic Affairs and Student Services for final approval.
- 5. The appropriate dean/administrator shall meet with faculty to review requests for selection and assignment of courses. Teaching faculty shall know their tentative teaching schedules, including number of overloads, four (4) weeks prior to the opening of any semester or session. Any changes to

the tentative teaching schedule will be discussed with faculty.

6. Opportunities to revise and/or develop a course(s) and/or program(s) will first be offered to full-time faculty who have that course or program responsibility or expertise.
7. The College will attempt to schedule meetings at convenient times for the majority of teaching faculty. Such meetings shall adjourn by 5:00 p.m. on any given day. This stipulation does not apply to emergency meetings called by the President.
8. If a faculty member is unable to meet with their regularly scheduled class, the office of the appropriate instructional division shall be notified at the earliest possible time.
9. Faculty members have a right to refuse a substitute teaching assignment unless they are not carrying a full load or its equivalent; and in that case, they may only be assigned to a course for which they are qualified.
10. For administrative purposes, all full-time teaching faculty shall be assigned to one (1) instructional division. Teaching faculty, however, may teach in any academic area of the College with the expressed approval of the College and the individual faculty member.
11. Whenever a course is cancelled, full-time faculty shall have first preference of filling their schedules, including overloads, up to the end of the first week of classes.

**B. Campus Assignments**

1. No faculty member shall be assigned to more than two (2) locations as part of their regular load in any one (1) semester, one of which shall include the Youngwood location. Two (2) hours of travel time between such locations within the work day as defined in sub-section A hereof shall be allowed for any such assignments, except for nursing personnel traveling to and from their hospital assignment to the main campus. They shall receive one (1) hour travel time.
2. Any travel authorization between locations on the same day shall be reimbursed in accordance with Article XV -- Travel Allowance.
3. Assignments to any location shall be governed by seniority of bargaining unit members within the discipline required at any such location.

**C. Attendance at College Functions**

1. Bargaining unit members' attendance at all official College functions shall be voluntary. However, attendance at graduation is required for faculty members.
2. A bargaining unit member attending authorized functions for which academic attire is required shall have said attire furnished and paid for by the College.
3. Travel allowances for authorized off campus functions shall be reimbursed in accordance with Article XV – Travel Allowance.

4. Professionals who are required to attend graduation shall receive compensation as agreed upon mutually with their respective supervisors.

D. Scheduling – (Non-Teaching)

1. Counselors, librarians, pathway advisors and professionals shall be required to work thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours per week (*excluding lunch*) at their respective work stations. Functional analysts shall be required to work forty (40.0) hours per week (*excluding lunch*) at their respective work stations. The work week shall consist of five (5) consecutive workdays. Work schedules will be subject to the needs of the College, and work assignments shall be determined by the respective supervisor in consultation with said counselors, librarians and professionals. When possible, the College shall make an effort to relieve members of duties to attend College meetings.
2. Non-teaching bargaining unit members shall receive two (2) weeks' advance notice of any schedule change prior to its implementation.
3. Counselor work in excess of regular working hours, either required or voluntary, shall first be offered to members of the full-time counseling staff, in accordance with seniority on a rotation basis.
4. Pursuant to Article XIV, Section A.2. of this Agreement; counselors, librarians, and professionals may be offered overload teaching assignments up to nine (9) ECH, by divisions or areas in disciplines for which they are qualified after all full-time instructional faculty have completed their full-time, overload, and summer schedules. No bargaining unit member shall be arbitrarily denied the opportunity to overload teaching assignments.
5. Counselors shall be assigned to the Student Support Services Department.

## Article XIII – Salaries/Overload/Extra Pay Supplements

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A. Salaries for Bargaining Unit Members

The salaries payable to Association members during the term of this agreement are fully set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof. Salaries payable to counselors and librarians on twelve-month contracts shall be 1.25 of the faculty pay schedule.

B. Pay Periods

Bargaining unit members shall be paid biweekly and in equal payments. The annual salary shall be paid over a 9-month or 12-month period. All payroll deductions shall be distributed equally over all pay periods.

C. Overload/Pay Rates/Summer Assignments

1. All overload teaching shall be paid at the following rates:

Overload Rate/ Per ECH	Fiscal Year
\$900 per ECH	2022-23
\$900 per ECH	2023-24
\$900 per ECH	2024-25
\$900 per ECH	2025-26
\$900 per ECH	2026-27

2. Counselors, librarians, and advisors who work in excess of thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours in a work week and functional analysts who work in excess of forty (40.0) hours in a work week shall be compensated at the following hourly rate for each hour worked in excess of the thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours or forty (40.0) hours as outlined above:

Rate	Fiscal Year
\$38.00 per Hour	2022-23
\$38.00 per Hour	2023-24
\$38.00 per Hour	2024-25
\$38.00 per Hour	2025-26
\$38.00 per Hour	2026-27

3. Counselors and librarians not on a twelve-month contract shall be paid their respective daily rate for non-teaching summer work. The daily rate shall be calculated as follows:  $\frac{9 - \text{month salary} \times .25}{65}$
4. Professionals not on a twelve-month contract shall be paid their respective hourly rate for non-teaching summer work.
5. When possible, overload payments shall be paid in equal payments during each academic semester.

D. Extra Pay Supplements:

1. Authorized work other than a teaching assignment .....\$29.00/hour for 2022-23  
\$29.00/hour for 2023-24  
\$29.00/hour for 2024-25  
\$29.00/hour for 2025-26  
\$29.00/hour for 2026-27
2. Course Development..... 1.0 ECH/3 Credit Course
3. Program Development.....3.0 ECH/Program
4. Co-op, Directed Practice, Practicum, Internship.....0.2 ECH/Student
5. Independent Study, Honors Mentor, Portfolio Development .....0.2 ECH/Student
6. Directed Study ..... 1.0 ECH + 0.2 ECH/Student
7. Portfolio Evaluation ..... 0.1 ECH/Course
8. Honors Seminar Coordinator ..... 0.5 ECH
9. Substitute Pay Rate .....\$38.00/hour for 2022-23  
\$38.00/hour for 2023-24  
\$38.00/hour for 2024-25  
\$38.00/hour for 2025-26  
\$38.00/hour for 2026-27
10. Proficiency Exam ..... \$25.00
11. Level Coordinator ..... 1.0 ECH
12. Nursing Level I Coordinator (Youngwood Campus Only) ..... 2.0 ECH

- 13. Program Director..... 1.0-7.5 ECH\* release time
- 14. Five Year Program and Discipline Review..... 3.0 ECH Fall and 3.0 ECH \*\*Spring
- 15. Curriculum Coordinator ..... 1.0 ECH Fall and 1.0 ECH Spring

\*Determination of ECH is based upon program complexity as determined following “meet and discuss” meetings with appropriate faculty member and Association representative.

\*\*The three ECH for the spring semester will be paid once the program review is completed and approved.

## Article XIV – Summer, Overload and Extra Pay Assignments

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### A. Teaching

1. Overload teaching assignments will be made on the basis of the following criteria:
  - a. The faculty member's academic qualifications to teach the specific course;
  - b. Of those qualified in (a) above, according to seniority (*length of teaching service at Westmoreland County Community College*);
  - c. Of those qualified in (a) above, a rotation system will be established according to the criteria in (b) above, whereby no faculty member will receive a second overload assignment until all qualified members have been contacted. In addition, no faculty members shall be given an overload assignment until all qualified full-time faculty members have a full-time teaching load.
2. After all full-time faculty have been assigned regular loads in any semester of the academic year, all remaining credit courses must first be offered to qualified full-time teaching faculty as an overload. A full-time teaching faculty member may not accept an overload in excess of nine (9) ECH. This is exclusive of all extra pay supplements and extra assignments. Qualified full-time bargaining unit members will be offered the opportunity to teach an overload of up to nine (9) ECH before the assignment is offered to part-time faculty.

### B. Summer Employment

Summer term teaching assignments shall be made on a rotation basis among the qualified full-time faculty at the divisional, discipline, or program level.

1. The criteria for determining individual summer term assignments will be the same as those referred to in the above A-Teaching.
2. Summer term teaching assignments shall not exceed twelve (12) ECH per six-week session; or twenty-four (24) ECH per twelve-week session or six-week/twelve-week combination.
3. Summer term shall encompass the period between the end of the spring semester and the start of the fall semester as indicated in the College calendar.

C. Non-Teaching

1. Counselors, librarians, and professionals shall be offered any available non-teaching summer term assignments on a rotation basis if not on a 12-month contract.
2. Professionals who are authorized to work in excess of seven and one-half (7-1/2) hours in any one (1) day or thirty-seven and one-half (37-1/2) hours in any one (1) week shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half (1-1/2) their regular hourly rate for all such hours worked. Overtime hours shall not be pyramided.
3. Professionals on 9-month contract, who are scheduled to work in the summer, shall be notified of their tentative schedule prior to the end of the spring semester.

## Article XV – Travel Allowance – Field Trips and Conferences

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- A. Bargaining unit members who use their personal vehicles for authorized College business shall be granted a mileage allowance in accordance with the IRS maximum. If this is discontinued by the IRS, the parties shall renegotiate another standard.
- B. In the event the President or their designee authorizes an off-campus meeting between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., a bargaining unit member shall be reimbursed for meals in accordance with College policy.
- C. In the event authorized College business necessitates overnight travel, bargaining unit members shall be reimbursed for normal travel, lodging, meals, and other approved expenses upon submission of receipts.
- D. Any requests for travel, and expenses incurred in such travel shall be in accordance with College policy.
- E. The College shall reimburse faculty members for all normal expenses incurred on any authorized field trip or relocation of classes. Said expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with this article.

## Article XVI – Retirement

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- A. The College shall continue to pay the retirement contribution and provide the employee with the retirement options contained in State law.
- B. The TIAA contribution rates for each bargaining unit member participating in the TIAA retirement program will be as follows:

Percentage of Total Salary	Fiscal Year
Ten Percent (10%) of Total Salary	2022-23
Ten Percent (10%) of Total Salary	2023-24
Ten Percent (10%) of Total Salary	2024-25
Ten Percent (10%) of Total Salary	2025-26
Ten Percent (10%) of Total Salary	2026-27



## Article XVII – Leaves of Absence

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### A. Family and Medical Leave

1. Family and Medical Leave shall be administered in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and its accompanying regulations.
2. A bargaining unit member shall be granted an unpaid family and medical leave for the birth of the bargaining unit member's child; the adoption of a child by the bargaining unit member; or the serious health condition of the bargaining unit member, or the bargaining unit member's spouse, son, daughter, or parent, or any other qualifying reasons under FMLA up to twelve (12) weeks within a 12-month period of time with benefits upon written request, certification by attending physician, and appropriate approvals.
3. Upon returning from Family and Medical Leave, bargaining unit member has the right to return to the same or equivalent position. If the position has been abolished, the bargaining unit member will have the right to return to an equivalent position in accordance with FMLA.
4. Upon return from Family and Medical Leave the bargaining unit member shall retain all seniority and pension rights.
5. The College will use the rolling 12-month period looking backward to determine eligibility for Family and Medical Leave.
6. The College will consider any qualifying leave as Family and Medical Leave. Such qualifying leave may be in the form of workers' compensation leave, non-work-related disability leave or simple sick leave. The college will notify bargaining unit members within five (5) work days of commencement of the qualifying leave if such leave is designated as Family and Medical Leave. Paid sick leave will be used during any period of FMLA leave resulting from the serious health condition of an employee.

### B. Extended Child-Rearing Leave

1. Extension of said leave beyond twelve (12) weeks for the purpose of child-rearing shall be granted, to a maximum of nine (9) additional months; and shall be without pay or benefit.
2. Unused sick leave may not be used, but shall be carried over until the bargaining unit member returns.
3. Upon return from child-rearing leave, a bargaining unit member shall retain all seniority and pension rights that accrued up to the time of the leave, but these rights shall not accrue during the period of the leave.
4. Bargaining unit members shall have the right to continue applicable fringe benefits in accordance with COBRA during child-rearing leave by remitting premiums to the College.
5. Every bargaining unit member shall have the right to return to the same position they held before going on child-rearing leave. If the position has been abolished, the bargaining unit member shall have the right to return to an equivalent position.

C. Personal

Each bargaining unit member shall be entitled to two (2) personal days per year for personal reasons, which may accumulate without limitation. Requests for such leave must be submitted twenty-four (24) hours in advance, except in the case of an emergency. Such leave may be taken one (1) day at a time if desired.

D. Sick Leave

1. Bargaining unit members covered herein shall be credited with twenty (20) days of sick leave each year. Unused sick leave shall accumulate to a maximum of two hundred (200) days.
2. Charges against sick leave credits shall be made only when absence for illness occurs on a scheduled academic work day. Sick leave credits shall not accrue during periods of leave without pay.
3. Proof of illness in the form of a medical certificate may be required if a bargaining unit member is absent from assignments or duties for three (3) or more consecutive days.
4. Charges against sick leave will not be made for work-related disabilities.
5. Bargaining unit members who are employed during the summer session may use accumulated sick leave credits.
6. Overload shall be included in the calculation of sick leave and/or personal leave.
7. Bargaining unit members shall be notified of sick leave accumulation through the College payroll system.
8. Up to three (3) sick days per year may be used for the care of immediate family members. Immediate family is limited to spouse, children and parents of the bargaining unit member.

E. Work-Related Disability

A bargaining unit member who sustains a work-related injury must follow the college's procedure for dealing with injury or illness which includes being treated by a physician that is on the college's Worker's Compensation Physicians' Panel.

A bargaining unit member who sustains a work-related injury, as a result of which they are disabled, shall receive a disability payment which shall be the difference between the monies to which they may be entitled under Workers' Compensation, Social Security, or other applicable disability benefits and

their full salary, for a period of one (1) year or for the duration of their disability, whichever period is the shorter, unrelated payments to the bargaining unit member in the calculation are excluded herefrom. This payment shall be made only for periods during which the bargaining unit member would have been paid under their normal contract. Sick leave, however, shall not accrue during the period of the disability payment. No credit for continuous service or for sabbatical leaves shall be given for an academic term during which absences due to the disability constitute more than fifty percent (50%) thereof.

F. Sabbatical Leave

1. A bargaining unit member who has completed seven (7) years of continuous service shall be eligible for a leave of absence with pay and benefits. One (1) sabbatical leave of absence shall be allowed for each additional seven (7) years of completed continuous service. The College shall grant at least four (4) semester long sabbatical leaves in any academic year (two [2] in the fall and two [2] in the spring semester; full academic year sabbaticals shall be counted as one [1] in the fall and one [1] in the spring) as long as those requests meet the requirements for the type of sabbatical requested, as detailed in item 6 (a-d) herein. Applications for sabbatical that do not meet these requirements may be reviewed by the College on a case-by-case basis.
2. Applications for such sabbatical leave are to be made in writing for the fall semester by January 31 and for the spring semester by August 31 of the preceding academic year. The applications shall be submitted to a committee of the bargaining unit, who shall recommend to the President those eligible for sabbatical leave. The College shall determine selection for sabbatical leave from among those applicants recommended from the committee. Such determination shall be final and shall be made based upon the immediate impact and benefit to the College, the ties to the College's strategic plan, seniority and the date upon which the request was received. The College shall post the names of those granted the sabbaticals by March 1 for the fall sabbaticals and by November 1 of the preceding semester for the spring sabbaticals. While on sabbatical leave, bargaining unit members will not be awarded any other paying assignment with the College.
3. An affirmation in good faith of an intention to return to the College for at least one (1) year following such leave shall be included with the application for the leave; and before any leave is granted under this section, the bargaining unit member shall agree in writing that, in the event they fail to return to service at the expiration of such leave and to serve the College for a 1-year period, they shall refund all salary paid to them during such sabbatical leave, unless the bargaining unit member is unable to return to employment at the College because of a physical or mental disability. Any such physical or mental disability shall require a written verification to the College by the employee's personal physician. In addition, the College will also designate a physician to ascertain if said bargaining unit member's physical or mental disability is, in fact, preventing their return to employment. Upon expiration of a sabbatical, by consent of the Board, the requirement that the bargaining unit member on leave of absence shall return to the service of the College may be waived.
4. During such leave, the bargaining unit member will receive their full salary if the leave is for one (1) semester, one-half (1/2) of their academic year salary if the leave is for two (2) semesters.
5. Upon return from sabbatical leave, the bargaining unit member shall be placed in their prior position with all accrued benefits and increments to which they would have been entitled had they been in the regular service of the College, and these rights shall accrue during the period of the leave.
6. A sabbatical leave may be taken for any or all of the following reasons:
  - a. Full-Time Advanced Study:

Bargaining unit members utilizing sabbatical leave for advanced study shall be required to submit a description of the courses to be taken, as well as the identity of the educational institution as part of their application. Upon request, the bargaining unit member shall provide evidence that the courses were completed. Advanced study is defined as post-baccalaureate; or post-associate degree for bargaining unit members holding an associate degree.

b. Educational Travel:

Bargaining unit members utilizing sabbatical leave for educational travel shall be required to submit a description of planned goals and objectives and how these goals and objectives enhance instruction within their discipline. Upon return, the bargaining unit member shall provide verification that the planned goals and objectives were completed.

c. Research and/or Publication:

Bargaining unit members utilizing sabbatical leave for research and/or publication shall be required to submit a description of the proposed research and/or publication as part of their application. Upon return, copies of the research or publication shall be provided to the College.

d. Retraining:

When the College issues a retrenchment notice, the College shall make available a sabbatical leave for retraining purposes. The sabbatical leaves, when granted, shall be granted within the agreed-upon sabbatical leave allocation for each year. The sabbatical leave, when granted, shall be designed to prepare the affected faculty member(s) for an existing or vacant bargaining unit or non-bargaining unit full-time position or to meet a program need.

1. The affected faculty member(s) shall notify the College in writing of their desire to apply for a sabbatical and participate in the retraining program under the sabbatical leave provisions. It is understood, however, that a retraining sabbatical may be offered to a bargaining unit member with less than the 7-year eligibility requirement. The retrenched bargaining unit member shall meet with the appropriate College designee to discuss the prescribed retraining sabbatical plan. When approved by the College, the prescribed course(s) of study determined necessary to qualify for a vacant bargaining unit or non-bargaining unit full-time position or to meet a program need will be defined.
  - a. The College may grant up to twelve (12) months to the affected faculty member(s) to complete a retraining program.
  - b. Any faculty member failing to complete the retraining requirements as agreed upon in the individual retraining prescription(s) written by the College shall be terminated before the start of the next academic year. However, in the event of illness or other good reason, the above retraining sabbatical may be extended for a reasonable period of time at the discretion of the Board.
  - c. The College shall maintain the right to specify conditions for the retraining sabbatical, including where the retraining will occur.
2. Upon an offer by the College to implement retraining, the following condition must be met: the full-time faculty member(s) affected by the retrenchment notice must accept, in writing, the prescription set forth by the College.
3. In the event the College limits the number of retraining openings available, retraining shall be offered on the basis of seniority among those being retrenched.

4. Implementation procedure for retraining:

- a. Applications for retraining by the interested faculty member(s) should be made to the Vice-President/Academic Affairs or their designee within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving a retrenchment notice.
  - b. Upon the receipt of the application, the Vice-President/Academic Affairs will consult with the appropriate dean to evaluate the applicant's qualifications and suggest a course of study.
  - c. The position for which the faculty member has retrained may involve a reduction in salary.
5. It is understood and agreed that a faculty member shall only be eligible to apply for one (1) retraining sabbatical.

G. Professional Leave

Bargaining unit members shall, subject to the approval of the President or his designee, be granted professional leave with pay to attend professional conferences, participate in training courses and sessions that are related to their work, and engage in other similar job-related activities. If said leave is denied, the reasons for said denial shall be set forth in writing to the affected bargaining unit member within twenty (20) calendar days of the submission of the request. Upon return, the bargaining unit member will be placed in their prior position, with all accrued benefits and increments to which they would have been entitled had they been in the regular service of the College.

H. Miscellaneous Leave Without Pay

Bargaining unit members may be granted leave without pay or benefit at the sole discretion of the Board for any reason and period of time that may be authorized by the Board. The Board shall act on requests for leave within twenty (20) calendar days of submission and if denied, shall state the reasons in writing. During said unpaid leave, the bargaining unit member, at their sole expense, may maintain their applicable fringe benefits in accordance with COBRA regulations. Upon return, the bargaining unit member will be placed in their prior position, with all accrued benefits and increments to which they would have been entitled had they been in the regular service of the College.

I. Bereavement Leave

1. When a bargaining unit member is absent from duty because of a death in their family, there shall be no deduction in salary or benefits for any absence not in excess of the following:

5 Days	4 Days	2 Days	1 Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse</li> <li>• Child</li> <li>• Parent</li> <li>• Brother</li> <li>• Sister</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Son-in-law</li> <li>• Daughter-in-law</li> <li>• Parent-in-law</li> <li>• Grandchild</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grandparent</li> <li>• Brother-in-law</li> <li>• Sister-in-law</li> <li>• Uncle</li> <li>• Aunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niece</li> <li>• Nephew</li> </ul>

2. The College may grant an exception of bereavement leave, as defined in section I.1. above.

J. Jury Duty

Bargaining unit members called for jury duty will be paid the difference between their daily rates and monies received from the courts, except mileage reimbursement paid by the court. Evidence in the form of a written notification shall be presented to the appropriate administrator as far in advance as practical. The bargaining unit member is expected to report for regular college duties when their attendance at court is not required. The bargaining unit member has the option, based on the calculation, to sign over their check from the courts to the College.

K. Military Leave

The College will provide all rights as designated by the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 to all bargaining unit members.

1. Whenever a bargaining unit member enlists or is drafted at any time into active military service of the United States of America (*which includes alternate serviced approved by the Selective Service Commission*) they shall be granted a military leave without pay, in accordance with law. A bargaining unit member on such authorized military leave will be required, within ninety (90) days of their discharge, to notify the College of their availability for employment. The bargaining unit member shall have the right to return to the same position they held before going on military leave or to an equivalent position for which they are qualified with such benefits as required by law, provided said position or its equivalent has not been retrenched. In this case, the member shall be entitled to the rights listed in Article XX – Retrenchment. During the period of such military leave, the bargaining unit member shall receive no credit for tenure and/or sabbatical leave, unless required by law.
2. Bargaining unit members who are members of reserve components of the Armed Forces shall be paid the difference between their daily pay rate and their daily military pay rate for all working days not exceeding fifteen (15) days in any calendar year during which they are engaged in field training authorized by the Federal forces.
3. Bargaining unit members who are members of the Pennsylvania National Guard shall be paid the difference between their daily pay rate and their daily Pennsylvania National Guard pay rate for all days during which they shall, as members of the National Guard, be engaged in the active service of the Commonwealth or in authorized field training consistent with the Military Code of 1949.

## Article XVIII – Personnel Files

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- A. The College shall maintain one (1) official personnel file in the office of the Director of Human Resources for each bargaining unit member. There shall also be a separate pre-employment file, which shall be confidential and shall only contain letters of reference, recommendations, or any materials secured in the hiring process. After employment, no personnel action shall be invoked on the basis of said pre-employment information. The bargaining unit member shall have no right of access to the official confidential pre-employment information.
- B. Individual personnel files shall be confidential. However, a bargaining unit member shall have the right to make such additions or responses to the material contained in their official personnel file as they shall

deem necessary, but they shall have no right to remove material from the file. It is further understood that the Director of Human Resources shall have access to this file. Prior to placement of evaluation or non-routine material in the personnel file, the employee shall be given an opportunity to initial said material.

- C. A bargaining unit member shall have access to their official personnel file during regular working hours provided there shall be no interference with the normal routine of the office. Under no circumstances shall the official personnel file be removed from the Human Resources Office.
- D. The Association shall have access to the official personnel file of a bargaining unit member at reasonable times during regular office hours, after having given the Director of Human Resources reasonable notice and provided they first shall have obtained express written approval of that bargaining unit member.
- E. If the official personnel file or any of its contents is duly subpoenaed in accordance with law, the bargaining unit member shall be notified at the earliest possible time.
- F. Upon written request to the Director of Human Resources, a bargaining unit member shall be permitted to copy any and all materials at no cost to the Association or bargaining unit member, except pre-employment information, included within their personnel file.
- G. College personnel shall not remove from the personnel file contents thereof or any copies therein without the express written approval of the bargaining unit member.

## **Article XIX – Non-Discrimination**

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- A. Neither the College nor the Association will discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, gender identity or expression, veteran status, union membership, any other classification protected by state or federal law or the proper exercise by an Association member of his rights guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Public Employer Relations Act Number 195.
- B. There shall be no discrimination by either of the parties hereto or any bargaining unit member against members of the same family regarding concurrent employment in the College.

## **Article XX – Retrenchment**

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- A. Retrenchment because of financial considerations, program curtailment or elimination of courses, shall be applied as hereinafter set forth.
- B. When, in the opinion of the College, retrenchment appears necessary, the College agrees to "meet and discuss" same with the Association and the affected faculty member on or before January 1.
- C. Faculty members to be retrenched shall be given notice on January 15 of the then current academic year to be effective with the beginning of the following academic year. A bargaining unit member may



request and apply for a retraining sabbatical by January 31.

- D. The affected faculty members and the Association shall be notified, and retrenchment shall be made, as circumstances require, provided the following order shall be utilized:
  - 1. Part-time employees
  - 2. Temporary employees
  - 3. Probationary employees
  - 4. Non-probationary employees
- E. Retrenchment shall be made in the inverse order of seniority (*Article XXIX*) provided the remaining faculty members have the necessary qualifications to teach the remaining course(s) or perform the remaining duties.
- F. Before retrenching any faculty member, the College shall attempt to find other professional employment at the College for said faculty member.
- G. A faculty member who is retrenched from the College shall be placed on recall for a period of two (2) years. The last senior faculty member retrenched shall be the first name placed on such list. Anything herein to the contrary, an employee on the recall list shall not be entitled to any of the benefits, rights, or entitlements provided by this Agreement while on such list. No new faculty member will be hired to fill a vacancy at the College for which retrenched faculty members on the recall list are qualified. The vacancy will be offered in writing to the most senior faculty members on the recall list. In the event the faculty member fails to respond or rejects the offer in writing within a twenty (20) calendar-day period, the faculty member shall be passed over, and the opening offered to the next qualified faculty member on the recall list.
- H. The College shall fulfill its notification requirements as set forth herein by tendering the offer via certified mail sent to the faculty member's last known address.
- I. In the event a retrenched faculty member is recalled within the aforesaid two-year period, they shall retain all seniority rights and benefits earned prior to the retrenchment.

## **Article XXI – Severance Pay/Job Elimination**

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- A. Bargaining unit members holding non-teaching faculty or professional positions which are abolished during the term of this Agreement due to job restructuring or elimination shall, prior to layoff, be offered any existing bargaining unit vacancy for which the bargaining unit member is qualified. If such bargaining unit member is laid off due to the job elimination, the bargaining unit employee shall be paid severance pay along with payment for any accrued, unused vacation no later than thirty (30) days following the

layoff. Severance pay shall be equal to one week of base pay for each year of service with the College. Severance pay for a partial year service shall be pro-rated accordingly. For a period of two (2) years following layoff, the College agrees to mail bargaining unit vacancy announcements to the affected employee for jobs for which the bargaining unit member is qualified.



## **Article XXII – No Strike or Lockout**

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- A. It is understood and agreed that there shall be no strike as that term is defined in Act 195 during the life of this Agreement.
- B. The College will not engage in any lockout during the term of this Agreement.

## **Article XXIII – Sponsorship of Student Activities**

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- A. Sponsorship of all student clubs and organizations shall be on a voluntary basis.
- B. Voluntary duties with student non-classroom activities which are sponsored by the College shall be mutually agreed upon by the bargaining unit member with the Association's approval and the College when the situation arises.
- C. Travel allowance for all College-authorized off-campus student functions shall be reimbursed using the reimbursement schedule as provided in Article XV – Travel Allowance.

## **Article XXIV – Notification of WCCCPA Vacancies**

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- A. When a regular or temporary full-time vacancy occurs within the bargaining unit, or when the College reclassifies a bargaining unit position, the College shall post a notification of such vacancy on the Human Resources website and in addition give one (1) copy to the Association president. The vacancy notice shall describe the position(s), position requirements, salary/hourly pay rates, and the application process. A vacant position shall not be permanently filled for at least ten (10) working days from the date of the posting notification. Bargaining unit members, who wish to apply for the vacant position, shall submit their application/resume to the Director of Human Resources within the prescribed time limit. Qualified bargaining unit members shall be given first consideration for a vacant Association position prior to non-bargaining unit members.
- B. The College agrees to notify any of its current bargaining unit members who may have applied for the opening of the disposition of their application prior to the publication of the successful applicant.
- C. The College reserves the exclusive right to fill or not fill any vacancy. If the College decides to abolish such a position, it shall notify the president of the Association in writing. If the position is not abolished, it shall be posted.
- D. The College President or their designee may recommend a bargaining unit candidate to the Board of Trustees.

## Article XXV – Return to Unit Position

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Any member of the bargaining unit who is selected for an administrative position and accepts it shall not be permitted to return to a unit position unless a vacancy exists and provided they have applied for the unit position and been recommended by the President. They shall retain all seniority and other rights and entitlements earned through continuous service up to the time they assumed the administrative position but shall not accrue any seniority or other rights and entitlements under this Agreement while they served in said administrative position.

## Article XXVI – General Provisions

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- A. The College and Association agree to equally share the costs for the duplication of a reasonable number of copies of this Agreement.
- B. The President of the college shall submit to the Association president the names of bargaining unit members appointed to serve on standing committees and participate in institutional governance.
- C. Administrators shall be considered part-time instructors. They may instruct any course for which they are qualified and will be evaluated in accordance with prescribed procedures.
- D. The College will limit the practice of assigning more than one (1) instructor to a section or class to the following circumstances:
  - 1. Team teaching, where all instructors assigned to the course are responsible for the material being taught. Course outlines shall reflect the mode of instruction being utilized.
  - 2. Modularized courses, wherein the modules of instruction are described and the instructor for each module is identified in the course outline provided to the student.
  - 3. It is also agreed that, should any circumstances other than those described above arise in which assignment of more than one (1) instructor to a course is deemed necessary or desirable, the College will meet and discuss the circumstances with representatives of the Association prior to taking such action.
- E. The College shall attempt, within the available resources, to have at least one (1) full-time faculty member in any program that leads to a certificate, diploma, or degree.
- F. Items contained in the Faculty Handbook cannot contravene any of the items and provisions of this Agreement. The College shall "meet and discuss" any additions to the Faculty Handbook.
- G. Items contained in the Student Handbook cannot contravene any of the items and provisions of this Agreement. The College shall "meet and discuss" any additions to the Student Handbook.

## Article XXVII – Grievance Procedure

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**Policy:** It is the policy of the College to encourage a harmonious and cooperative relationship with its bargaining unit members and to resolve bargaining unit member's/Association's grievances in accordance with fair and orderly procedures.

**Definition:** A grievance is a dispute concerning the interpretation, application or alleged violation of a specific term or provision of this Agreement or a claim that the College has acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner contrary to an established College policy affecting bargaining unit members.

### I. Informal Level – (Pre-Grievance Discussion)

- A. All attempts will be made to resolve an alleged Agreement violation with the bargaining unit member(s) or the Association. Within fifteen (15) working days of the apparent known violation of the contract, the bargaining unit member(s) will meet with either their immediate supervisor or College designee. The immediate supervisor or College designee will respond within three (3) working days following the discussion. If the issue is not resolved, a grievance may be filed in writing to step one (1) of the formal level of the grievance procedure, within ten (10) working days of the immediate supervisor or College designee response.

### II. Formal Level

#### A. Step-One – Vice-President, Dean, or Director

Within five (5) working days after receiving the grievance, the vice-president/dean/ director shall meet with the grievant and/or the Association in an attempt to resolve the grievance. The time for said meeting shall be mutually agreed upon. The vice-president/dean/director shall give the grievant a written decision within five (5) working days following the meeting.

#### B. Step Two – President

If a grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance at the first step, they may submit the written grievance to the President within five working days after receiving a decision at the first step. Within ten (10) working days after receiving the grievance, the President shall hold a hearing at which time the grievant or the Association may present the grievance. The President shall give the grievant a written decision within five (5) working days following the hearing.

#### C. Step Three – Board of Trustees

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance at the second step, they may submit the written grievance to the Board of Trustees within ten (10) working days after receiving a decision at the second step. Within twenty (20) working days after receiving the grievance, the Board shall hold a hearing at which the grievant or the Association may present the grievance. The Board shall give the grievant a written decision within ten (10) working days following the hearing.

#### D. Step Four – Arbitration

If not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at the third step, the Association may submit the

grievance to arbitration within ten (10) working days after receiving a decision at the third step. The Association will notify the College of its intent to proceed to arbitration. Upon receipt of a notice requesting arbitration, the parties shall meet to select an arbitrator within ten (10) working days. If the parties cannot voluntarily agree upon the selection of an arbitrator, they shall notify the State Bureau of Mediation and request a list of arbitrators. The State Bureau of Mediation shall then submit to the parties the names of seven (7) arbitrators. Each party shall alternately strike a name until one (1) name remains. The person remaining shall be the arbitrator. The College shall strike the first name.

1. The arbitrator shall have no power or authority to add to, subtract from, or modify the provisions of this Agreement in arriving at a decision of the issue or issues presented and shall confine their decision solely to the application and interpretation of this Agreement or the issue presented.
2. The costs of arbitration shall be shared equally by the parties. Each party shall bear the cost of preparing and presenting its own case.
3. The parties shall not be permitted to insert in the arbitration proceedings any evidence not previously disclosed to the other party.

E. Time Off

The grievant and the Association representative, if a College employee, shall be allowed such reasonable time off, without loss of pay, from their regular duties as may be necessary, to attend meetings for the purpose of resolving a grievance. Faculty members who cover classes/assignments for the grievant and/or Association representative shall be paid by the College according to the substitution rate detailed in Article XIII, section D.9.

- F. No reprisals shall be taken against any bargaining unit member(s) for participating in any grievance.
- G. A grievant may be accompanied by a representative of the Association at any step of the grievance procedure, subject to the conditions set forth in Article VI, Section 06 of Act 195. No meetings or hearings with any grievant may be conducted by the College without notification to the Association and without the presence of an Association representative. The Association, at all such meetings, shall be able to put forth its position. The Association shall receive copies of all relevant communication forwarded to the grievant concerning the grievance.
- H. The College shall share information with the Association for the purpose of assisting in the process of any grievance or complaint.
- I. All such meetings and hearings under this procedure shall be conducted in private and include only such persons directly involved with the grievance and their designated or selected representative(s).
- J. All documents, communications, and records dealing with a grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the participants.
- K. The time limits set forth in all steps of this procedure may be extended upon the mutual agreement of both parties. If either the Association or the College fails to adhere to the time limits as set forth in the grievance procedure, that party may forfeit the grievance without precedent.

- L. In the event a grievance is filed at such time that it cannot be processed by the end of the academic year, the time limits set forth herein shall be reduced so that the grievance procedure may be terminated prior to the end of the academic year, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

## **Article XXVIII - Separability**

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In the event that any provision of this Agreement is found to be inconsistent with existing statutes or ordinances, the provisions of such statutes or ordinances shall prevail, and if any provision herein is determined to be invalid and unenforceable by a court or other authority having jurisdiction, such provision shall be considered void, but all other valid provisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect.

## **Article XXIX - Headings**

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Any headings preceding the text of the several articles hereof are solely for convenience of reference and shall not constitute a part of this agreement, nor shall they affect its meaning, construction or effect.

## **Article XXX - Seniority**

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- A. Seniority shall be defined as the length of an employee's service since the employee's first day of work in a bargaining unit position. Seniority shall continue to accrue during all leaves of absences, unless stated otherwise.
- B. Seniority shall be broken only for the following reasons:
  - 1. Resignation
  - 2. Retirement
  - 3. Discharge
- C. Ties in first day worked shall be broken by a lottery.
- D. Upon request, the College agrees to provide the Association, on or before September 15 of each academic year, a seniority list reflecting the years of seniority of each member of the bargaining unit.
- E. Any bargaining unit member who feels that their seniority is not accurately set forth shall, within sixty (60) calendar days of the commencement of the academic year, notify the College either personally or through the Association of their exception or objection. If no exception/objection is made, said listing shall be considered final for the current year.

## Article XXXI – Fringe Benefits

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### A. Vacation – (Non-Teaching Faculty)

1. Counselors, librarians, advisors and functional analysts who accept a 12-month contract will receive twenty (20) days of vacation with pay, which will be credited at the rate of 12.5 hours per month.
2. Counselors and librarians on academic-year contracts will receive fifteen (15) days of vacation with pay, which will be credited at the rate of 12.5 hours per month.
3. Professionals who accept 12-month contracts will receive vacation with pay in accordance with the following schedule:

Years of Service	Vacation Days	Credited Hours/Month
1-5 Years	11.00	6.87
6	16.00	10.00
7	17.00	10.62
8	18.00	11.25
9	19.00	11.87
10	20.00	12.50

4. Vacation may be taken at any time after credited; however, it must be approved by the bargaining unit member's immediate supervisor at least three (3) days prior to the vacation.
  5. Counselors, librarians, advisors, functional analysts and professionals shall be permitted to carry over up to ten (10) unused vacation days from one fiscal year to the next.
- B. During the life of this Agreement, the College will continue to pay any and all insurance premiums currently being paid by the College on the effective date of this Agreement.
- C. Faculty members in the Health Professions required to carry professional liability insurance shall be reimbursed for the total premium each academic year. These Health Professions faculty members shall submit appropriate receipts to the Controller's office for the reimbursement.
- D. The Board reserves the exclusive right to determine what carrier shall be contracted under this Agreement.
- E. Fringe benefits provided during the life of this Agreement are listed below:
1. Insurance/Group Health Coverage
    - a. The College shall maintain for all bargaining unit members life insurance - Three (3) times annual contracted salary rounded to the next highest thousand.

- b. The College shall maintain for all bargaining unit members long-term disability insurance – bargaining unit members are eligible after twelve (12) months of continuous employment. Benefits will be paid monthly in arrears after 180 days of disability.
- c. The College shall offer for all bargaining unit members and their eligible dependents an equivalent or better healthcare plan than what was provided in the 2011-12 fiscal year. Should such plan become unavailable, the College and the Association shall collaboratively select a substantially similar plan.
- d. The College shall offer for all bargaining unit members and their eligible dependents covered under this Agreement, a prescription drug benefit.
- e. The College shall maintain for all bargaining unit members and their eligible dependents covered under this Agreement, a vision care benefit.
- f. The College shall maintain for all bargaining unit members and their eligible dependents covered under this Agreement, basic individual dental insurance coverage.
- g. Bargaining unit members shall pay a portion of their health insurance cost by contributing a co-premium amount as determined by a percentage of their total wages and their selected type of coverage. Total payments made by members is calculated by multiplying the member's total wages by the percentage rates below. These rates are established for the duration of this agreement.

Coverage Type	Contribution Rates
Single	2.50%
Employee/Spouse or Member and Children	3.48%
Family (Employee, Spouse, Children)	4.72%

- h. The Association will participate as a member of the College's Healthcare Monitoring Committee.
  - i. Employees will contribute to their group health insurance while they are off on any unpaid leave at the same bi-weekly cost as before they went on unpaid leave. If there is a qualified event that takes place while the employee is out on unpaid leave, the payment would be adjusted to match the new coverage type and percentage amount as detailed in the chart above.
2. Retirement benefits are provided through one (1) of the following three (3) programs:
- a. TIAA
  - b. SERS – As of July 1, 2015 SERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the College.
  - c. PSERS – As of July 1, 2015 PSERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the College.

#### F. Organizational Membership

The College agrees to provide in its budget the amounts noted below to be used as an allocation for organizational membership for bargaining unit members for their annual dues in organizations which will benefit their professional expertise or provide contacts, information, or publications in their field. The Association and the College shall mutually agree upon the procedure for administering these funds.

Organizational Dues Allocation Amount	Fiscal Year
\$6,000	2022-23
\$6,000	2023-24
\$6,000	2024-25
\$6,000	2025-26
\$6,000	2026-27

#### G. Tuition Reimbursement

1. The College agrees to provide in its budget the amounts noted below to be used as an allocation for tuition reimbursement for bargaining unit members. The Association and the College shall mutually agree upon the procedure for administering these funds. The Association will advise the College of programs/courses undertaken by bargaining unit members.

Total Tuition Reimbursement	Fiscal Year
\$42,000	2022-23
\$42,000	2023-24
\$42,000	2024-25
\$42,000	2025-26
\$42,000	2026-27

2. An amount of up to \$1,600 in unused tuition reimbursement funds will be transferred to organizational memberships each fiscal year.

#### H. Tuition Waiver

All full-time bargaining unit members, their spouses, and dependents as defined by the Internal Revenue Service shall be permitted to take courses at the college without tuition charge. In the event the bargaining unit member dies, retires, or is disabled, this privilege is continued for a period not to exceed five (5) years. In addition, the College will waive the general fee. This tuition waiver policy does not apply to full-time employees who have either been terminated or not had their contracts renewed.

#### I. Sick Leave Bank

Bargaining unit members covered under this agreement shall have the right to join and participate in the Sick Leave Bank, subject to the following provisions:

1. Initially, each bargaining unit member shall transfer two (2) of their earned sick days to the Sick Leave Bank. The College agrees to match two (2) days for every two (2) days placed in the bank by the employees covered under this Agreement.



2. Only bargaining unit members who contribute to the Sick Leave Bank shall be permitted to participate in the program upon expiration of all paid leaves available to said bargaining unit members.
  3. All days released to the Sick Leave Bank shall be accumulative year to year and may not be withdrawn by the bargaining unit member except as noted in item "2" above.
  4. The Sick Leave Bank Committee shall prepare guidelines and be responsible for disbursement of said Sick Leave Bank days to eligible bargaining unit members.
  5. The Sick Leave Bank Committee shall take every precaution to ensure that sick leave and Sick Leave Bank guidelines are adhered to by the participants of the program.
  6. Bargaining unit member's sick leave records kept by the Sick Leave Bank Committee shall be open to inspection by the College, and records of the Sick Leave Bank kept by the College shall be open to inspection by the Sick Leave Bank Committee.
  7. A committee known as the Sick Leave Bank Committee, composed of three (3) members appointed by the Association and two (2) members appointed by the College, shall be the administrative body charged with the responsibility of approving all requests for use of the Sick Leave Bank (*subject to item 3 above*), maintaining appropriate records, providing for replenishment, and coordinating the overall program with the Director/Human Resources.
  8. The Sick Leave Bank Committee will grant Sick Leave Bank days within the parameters contained within the Sick Leave Bank guidelines. The Sick Leave Bank days are granted in accordance with state and federal disability laws and regulations regarding administration of paid disability leave.
  9. No application for Sick Leave Bank days shall be considered by the Sick Leave Bank Committee when the bargaining unit member has not used up all his accumulated paid leaves available.
  10. The Sick Leave Bank Committee requires bargaining unit members seeking the use of the Sick Leave Bank to submit a completed Request-For-Use form along with a completed Physician's Statement. These completed forms must be submitted to the Sick Leave Bank Committee through its chairperson. Forms will be provided and can be obtained from any member of the committee.
- J. The College shall attempt to make available for all bargaining unit members the option to enroll in a Medical Care Flexible Spending Account and a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.
- K. The following holidays will be observed as paid holidays for eligible bargaining unit members:
1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  2. Spring Break – Two (2) weekdays as scheduled annually on the academic calendar
  3. Memorial Day
  4. Independence Day
  5. Labor Day
  6. The day before Thanksgiving Day
  7. Thanksgiving Day
  8. The day after Thanksgiving Day
  9. Winter Break – Any regularly scheduled work days starting December 24 through and including January 1.

- L. An eligible bargaining unit member required to work any of the holidays specified in Section K will receive one and one-half (1-1/2) times his straight rate of pay plus holiday pay at straight time or two and one-half (2- 1/2) times his normal rate of pay for all such hours worked. The eligible bargaining unit member shall not receive holiday time-off at a later date.
- M. When one of the holidays specified in Section K is observed during an eligible unit member's vacation, they shall be entitled to one (1) additional day off, to be selected by agreement of the College and the eligible bargaining unit member.
- N. For eligible bargaining unit members, Monday shall be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Sunday, and Friday shall be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Saturday; except for those days which have been identified as Winter Break.

## Term of Agreement

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their successors and assigns, from July 1, 2022 to and including June 30, 2027, and thereafter from year to year except that either party may notify the other by certified mail on or before January 1, 2027, of its desire to modify or terminate this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be duly executed and sealed this 24th day of August, 2022.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATION PAHE/NFA, PSEA/NEA

By: William H. Kern, Ed. D. By: Michelle Phil  
Chairman President

Shirley Stanley  
President

[Signature]

Shirley Stanley  
Negotiator

Autumn G. Kelly  
[Signature]

[Signature]  
Amy Boyte

Laurie L. Connor  
Attest

April 12, 2023  
Date Signed

## 9-Month Faculty Salary Schedule - Exhibit A

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### A. Current Faculty

1. For all years of this agreement, all faculty members will move across and down to the next highest level on the salary schedule until reaching the maximum salary level. Faculty members at the maximum level will move across to the same level.
2. Additional Education
  - a) One (1) level on the salary schedule will be given for thirty (30) credit hours beyond the master's degree in a related field or for a second master's degree in a related field.
  - b) One (1) level on the salary schedule will be given for an earned doctorate in the field of expertise or a related field. Two (2) levels will be given provided no credit was given in item 2(a) above.

### B. New Faculty

#### 1. Minimum Requirements

All new faculty must meet minimum requirements to be placed on Level 1 of the salary schedule. The minimum qualifications to enter Westmoreland County Community College as an instructor may be satisfied by acquiring any of the following five (5) criteria:

- a) Master's degree in field, plus bachelor's degree; or
- b) Bachelor's degree, plus four (4) years of related experience; or
- c) Bachelor's degree, plus professional license or journeyman's card and two (2) years of related experience; or
- d) Associate degree, plus eight (8) years of related experience; or
- e) Associate degree, plus professional license or journeyman's card and six (6) years of related experience.

#### 2. Placement

- a) Two (2) years of full-time college teaching, counseling, or library experience at an institution having recognized approved status by a regional educational accrediting association equals one (1) level on the salary schedule. Up to a maximum of thirty (30) related years of experience shall be applied. One year of full-time teaching is equivalent to 45 ECH taught on a part-time basis.
- b) Three (3) years of related full-time work experience (*not including graduate teaching assistantships*) equals one (1) level on the salary schedule. Up to a maximum of thirty (30)

related years of experience shall be applied.

- c) Three (3) years of related full-time military experience equals one (1) level on the salary schedule. Up to a maximum of thirty (30) years of such experience shall be applied.
- d) Total combined credit for full-time related teaching, work experience and military experience may not exceed thirty (30) years.
- e) One (1) level on the salary schedule will be given for thirty (30) hours beyond a master's degree in a related field or for a second master's degree in a related field.
- f) The College has the exclusive right when placing a new faculty member on the faculty salary schedule to place that individual at a level on the faculty salary schedule that is higher than described in "Exhibit A", B. New Faculty, 1 & 2 as long as the College "meets and discusses" with the Association the rationale for the faculty member's initial placement.

FACULTY SALARY SCHEDULE					
Level	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
1	54,697	56,232	57,767	58,884	60,000
2	55,451	57,132	58,735	59,627	61,151
3	56,436	57,919	59,674	60,626	61,923
4	57,594	58,947	60,496	61,595	62,960
5	58,114	60,157	61,570	62,444	63,967
6	58,770	60,700	62,834	63,553	64,849
7	59,424	61,385	63,401	64,858	65,999
8	60,285	62,069	64,117	65,443	67,355
9	61,352	62,968	64,831	66,181	67,962
10	62,419	64,082	65,770	66,918	68,729
11	62,952	65,196	66,934	67,888	69,495
12	65,246	65,753	68,097	69,089	70,501
13	67,541	68,150	68,679	70,290	71,749
14	69,835	70,546	71,183	70,891	72,996
15	72,130	72,943	73,686	73,475	73,620
16	74,424	75,340	76,189	76,058	76,303
17	76,719	77,736	78,692	78,642	78,987
18	83,000	83,250	83,500	83,600	83,700

For level conversion from the Faculty Salary Schedule contained in the July 1, 2015 agreement to the above, see the chart below.

FACULTY SALARY CONVERSION				
Old Level (21-22)		→	New Level (21-22)	
1	52,760	→	1	53,023
2	53,023	→	1	53,023
3	53,964	→	2	53,964
4	55,072	→	3	55,072
5	55,511	→	4	55,569
6	55,569	→	4	55,569

7	55,882	→	5	56,196
8	56,196	→	5	56,196
9	56,509	→	6	56,822
10	56,822	→	6	56,822
11	57,135	→	7	57,645
12	57,645	→	7	57,645
13	58,155	→	8	58,665
14	58,665	→	8	58,665
15	59,175	→	9	59,685
16	59,685	→	9	59,685
17	60,195	→	10	60,195
18	62,389	→	11	62,389
19	64,583	→	12	64,583
20	66,777	→	13	66,777
21	68,971	→	14	68,971
22	71,165	→	15	71,165
23	73,359	→	16	73,359
24	75,553	→	17	75,553
25	82,767	→	18	82,767

## Advisor, Functional Analyst & Professional Pay Rates - Exhibit A-1

### A. Current Advisor, Functional Analyst & Professional

- Current Advisors, Functional Analysts & Professionals will receive the following increases for each year of this agreement:

Current Advisors, Functional Analysts & Professionals Increase Percentage				
2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
5.5%	3.5%	3%	3%	3%

- Additional Education

Professionals will receive ten cents (\$.10) per hour for the bachelor's degree in a related field.

### B. New Advisors and Functional Analysts

- Placement

- Starting Rates:

New Advisors and Functional Analysts Starting Rates					
Classification	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Advisor	42,550	44,040	45,361	46,722	48,123
Functional Analyst	48,003	49,683	51,173	52,708	54,290

C. New Professionals

1. The minimum qualification to enter the College as a professional is an associate degree in a related field.
2. Placement
  - a. One (1) year of related full-time work experience equals ten cents (\$.10) per hour. Up to a maximum of five (5) years of related work experience will be credited.
  - b. One (1) year of related full-time military experience equals ten cents (\$.10) per hour. Up to a maximum of five (5) years of related military experience will be credited.
  - c. Total combined credit for full-time related work experience and military experience may not exceed five (5) years.
  - d. An amount of ten cents (\$.10) per hour will be given for a bachelor's degree in a related field.
- d. Starting Rates

Professionals Starting Rates					
Classification	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Professionals	16.82/Hour	17.41/Hour	17.93/Hour	18.47/Hour	19.02/Hour

## Rank-Minimum Qualifications - Exhibit B

---

- A. The following ranks and minimum qualifications for attainment of same shall be recognized throughout the term of the Agreement.
- **INSTRUCTOR** - Minimum Requirements
  - **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR** – Must meet the qualifications of an instructor plus have three (3) years of related college teaching experience at an institution having recognized approved status by a regional educational accrediting association.
  - **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** – Must have at least three (3) years of teaching experience at Westmoreland County Community College and a total of seven (7) years of related college teaching experience at institutions having recognized status by a regional educational accrediting association.
  - **PROFESSOR** – Must have at least seven (7) years of teaching experience at Westmoreland County Community College and a total of eleven (11) years of related college teaching experience at institutions having recognized approved status by a regional educational accrediting association.

- B. It is understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto that promotions to an instructor or assistant professor shall be automatic once an individual attains the qualifications for said ranks as set

forth hereinabove. Promotions to associate and full professor ranks, however, shall not be automatic solely on the basis that an individual attains the qualifications for said ranks as set forth herein above.

## Faculty Evaluation - Exhibit C

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- A. **Purpose:** Faculty evaluation is designed to promote teaching effectiveness. It should assist the College's faculty in identifying their strengths and promote overall total quality by offering constructive methods for improvement where needed.

- B. **Procedure:** Formal evaluation procedures shall consist of a *Student Perception of Performance* and a completed *Faculty Evaluation Report* by the applicable dean/administrator. As part of the formal evaluation, faculty may request a peer observation and/or videotape of one or more classes. The peer evaluator would be selected by the Association, with consent of the administration.

### 1. Student Perception of Performance

- (a) A standard questionnaire shall be administered to students as follows:

- (1) A minimum of three (3) classes will be evaluated.
- (2) At the request of the dean or the faculty member, questionnaires may be administered to more than three (3) classes.

- (b) Completed questionnaires shall be returned to and retained by the appropriate dean until completion of the course, at which time they shall be forwarded to the faculty member, with a copy of the summary forwarded to the Director of Human Resources.

- (c) Faculty members may review completed questionnaires prior to any post-evaluation conference.

### 2. Administrative Evaluation of Performance (*Faculty Evaluation Report*)

- (a) Evaluations shall include at least one (1) class observation and an assessment of professional activities as set forth in the *Faculty Evaluation Report*. The *Faculty Evaluation Report* may be revised by mutual consent of both parties.

- (b) Class observations may take place at any time. Unless faculty and administration mutually agree otherwise, faculty will be given at least seven (7) calendar days notice prior to the week of any class observation.

- (c) The dean will provide a written report of the class observation to the faculty member as soon as possible, but not to exceed ten (10) calendar days of the observation.

### 3. Post-Evaluation Conference



- (a) Following completion of the evaluation process, a discussion will be held with the faculty member.
- (b) If the dean/administrator recommends improvement areas, the recommendations shall be discussed, and an action plan mutually developed and set forth in the *Faculty Evaluation*

*Report.* The dean/administrator shall give the faculty member in writing specific, measurable areas for improvement of teaching effectiveness.

- (c) The faculty member shall have the opportunity to comment and respond in writing as part of the evaluation process.
- (d) The Faculty Evaluation Report shall be made a part of the faculty member's personnel file, and a copy provided the faculty member.

#### 4. Frequency of Formal Evaluation

##### (a) Probationary Faculty

Faculty will be formally evaluated each semester during the first year of probationary status; and once per academic year for the final two (2) probationary years.

##### (b) Non-Probationary Faculty

Non-probationary faculty will be formally evaluated every three (3) years for years 4 through 9. Non-probationary faculty with ten (10) or more years of service will be formally evaluated every five (5) years.

- (c) In the event the dean/administrator notes significant change in performance, a formal evaluation, or any part thereof, may be conducted at any time, subject to appropriate notification to the respective faculty member.
- (d) A formal evaluation or any part thereof, may be requested at any time by the individual faculty member.

## Promotions Procedure - Exhibit D

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### Notification to Faculty of Candidacy

On or before September 15 of each academic year, the Director of Human Resources shall send to all full-time faculty holding rank a reminder that applicants for promotion must submit, by November 1, a statement of intent to apply for promotion. This statement must be returned to the College's Director of Human Resources. The candidate will be expected to use the following general format in preparing their materials packet.

## **Formation of Promotions Committee**

On or before October 15 of each academic year, members of the Association faculty are to be elected by the Association membership to serve on the College promotions committee. Faculty membership on this committee shall not exceed the number equal to one (1) member representing each division, one (1) member representing Student Services, and/or one (1) member representing Learning Resources. There may not be more than one (1) faculty member from any one division or department on the committee. In addition, the

administrative membership on this committee shall include the Vice-President/Academic Affairs and Student Services and two (2) deans appointed by the college President. A committee chairperson shall be elected by a vote of the members of the committee. Should an administrative position be vacant, the College President shall appoint a replacement.

## **Preparation of Candidate Promotion Materials**

### **Assistance:**

The candidate is encouraged to seek the assistance of their dean in the preparation of the materials packet.

### **Submission:**

Each candidate must submit their promotion materials packet to the committee chair on or before January 15. The material will remain the committee's possession until the official Board of Trustees action has taken place.

## **Committee Deliberation**

### **Review of Materials:**

All members of the committee must read all candidates' promotion packets and take appropriate notes. All candidates' promotion packets will be kept in the library in a confidential reserve status.

## **Meeting with Candidates**

All candidates will be invited to meet with the committee to discuss promotion qualifications for promotion and to respond to questions the committee may have. These meetings will occur before any promotion decisions are made by the committee.

## **Development of Recommendations**

The committee will review the completed evaluation form for each candidate and vote for recommendation or non-recommendation in each of the four (4) criteria categories: 1) effective teaching; 2) academic preparation and development; 3) professional growth; and 4) college/community service. Each area will be evaluated on a point system as follows:

- 1) **Effective Teaching** - maximum of 40 points; minimum average score of 20 points required for consideration.
- 2) **Academic Preparation** - maximum of 15 points; minimum average score of 8 points required for consideration.
- 3) **Professional Growth** - maximum of 15 points; minimum average score of 8 points required for

consideration.

- 4) **College/Community Service** - maximum of 30 points; minimum average score of 15 points required for consideration.

The highest possible overall average score is 100 points, and a minimum overall average score of 75 points is required for consideration by the committee. A candidate must be recommended in all four (4) categories in order to be recommended for promotion. The overall strength of the applicant as shown by the promotion

materials packet will ultimately determine the recommendation for promotion. The committee may recommend a maximum of five (5) candidates to the President.

#### **Notification of Candidates of Recommendation Status**

When the committee has completed all recommendation decisions, each candidate will be notified in writing by the committee as to whether he/she is being recommended to the President for promotion. The reason or reasons for non-promotion, as well as noted strengths, will be stated in the letter. At the same time, each candidate not recommended will be invited to meet with the committee to discuss the reasons for non-promotion.

#### **Recommendations to the President**

On or before March 1, the committee will forward to the President a list of candidates recommended for promotion. The committee may recommend a maximum of five (5) candidates each year. The President will review the committee recommendations and forward them to the Board of Trustees with his/her recommendations attached. The Board of Trustees shall then make its determination for promotion on or before May 15. The President will then notify each recommended candidate in writing as to whether or not promotion was approved by the Board of Trustees.

### **Authorization Form - Exhibit E**

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I hereby authorize Westmoreland County Community College to deduct Professional Association dues (*local, state, and national* and PACE contributions) from my periodic pay checks. Such deduction shall be made over either a 9-month or a 12-month pay schedule – whichever is elected by the employee.

This authorization shall remain in effect unless cancelled in writing fifteen (15) days prior to the expiration of the Agreement.

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## Appendix 2-E – ESP/PSEA/NEA Bargaining Unit Agreement



Agreement between  
**Westmoreland County Community College**  
and the  
**Educational Support Professionals/PSEA/NEA**  
for the period  
**July 1, 2022–June 30, 2027**



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# Section I

## Full-Time Employees

## Preamble

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It is the intent and purpose of the parties hereto to promote harmonious and cooperative relationships subject, however, to the paramount right of the public to keep inviolate the guarantees for their health, safety and welfare. Unresolved disputes between the College and the Association are injurious to the public, and both parties are therefore aware that adequate means must be established for minimizing them and providing for their resolution. The College and the Association agree that this overall policy may be best accomplished by negotiating in good faith and entering into written agreements evidencing the result of such negotiations and establishing procedures to provide for the protection of the rights of the College, and its employees, and to insure to the public orderly and uninterrupted services.

## Article I - Recognition

---

- A. Westmoreland County Community College situated in the County of Westmoreland and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, maintaining its principle office at 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, Pennsylvania, hereinafter referred to as the "College", pursuant to Section 606 of the Public Employee Relations Act Number 195, and in accordance with certification by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board, Case Number PERA-R-6713-W, as amended by PERA-R-93-565-W and PERA-U-97-131-W hereby recognizes the Westmoreland County Community College Educational Support Professionals/PSEA/NEA, 944 Old State Route 119, Hunker, PA 15639, hereinafter referred to as the "Association" as the exclusive representative for purposes of collective bargaining with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.
- B. This agreement covers only those employees encompassed within the certification referred to in Section A of this Article. The term employee, when used in this Agreement, refers only to those persons encompassed within the classifications of the certification referred to in Section A of this article. Excluded from the Association's bargaining unit are all supervisors, first-level supervisors, professional employees, confidential employees, management level employees and guards as defined in Act 195.
- C. The purpose of this article is to identify positions represented by the Association and those employees covered by the labor agreement.
- D. A **full-time employee** is defined herein as an employee who is regularly scheduled for a minimum of thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours each week; who has successfully completed their probationary period, as prescribed in this agreement; and who has also been assigned to a bargaining unit position.
- E. A **probationary employee** is defined herein as any employee who is hired by the College to fill a bargaining unit position on a full-time basis and who is in the process of completing the probationary period, as prescribed in this agreement.

- F. A **regular part-time employee** is defined herein as an employee who fills a position that is regularly scheduled a minimum of five hundred (500) but no more than one thousand (1,000) hours per year. Specifically excluded from coverage are employees who are "casual" employees as defined by Act 195. The only wages, hours, terms, and conditions of employment of this agreement that apply to regular part-time employees are those expressly stated in Section II of this agreement. No other terms or conditions of this agreement shall apply to regular part-time employees. The College reserves all rights not specifically surrendered in Section II of this agreement, whether or not such rights have been exercised in the past.
- G. Temporary employees are excluded from coverage under this agreement. A **temporary employee** is defined herein as any person hired as a replacement for a full-time employee on sick leave or other approved leave of absence and who is expected to return to employment, or someone hired for a specific non-recurring task for a fixed period of time. The College agrees to notify the Association when a temporary employee is hired, including the position and department in which the temporary employee will be working in.
- H. Employees who work less than 500 hours per fiscal year, are not a regular part-time employee, are not covered by this labor agreement, but may be utilized by the College.
- I. **Fiscal Year** is defined as the period from July 1st to June 30th.
- J. **Spouse** – As evidenced by a certificate of marriage under applicable state law at the time and location that the marriage was entered into.
- K. **Grant Employees** – Employees hired to fill positions that are grant funded, who have no expectation of continued employment, and are employed only as long as grant funds are available. Grant funded employees shall be entitled to all rights as stated in this Agreement, except for those grant employees who are hired from outside of the College as of July 1, 2015 and thereafter will not have the right to bump a less senior employee should grant funds no longer be available.

## Article II – Non-Discrimination

---

- A. Neither the College nor the Association will discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, gender identity or expression, veteran status, union membership, any other classification protected by state or federal law or the proper exercise by an Association member of their rights guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Public Employer Relations Act Number 195.

## Article III – No Strikes or Lockouts

---

- A. For the duration of this agreement or any extension thereof, the Association, its officers, representatives and members shall not authorize, ratify, or condone nor shall any employee take part in any strike (as that term is defined in Act 195). Failure or refusal on the part of any employee to comply with any

provision in this section shall be cause for disciplinary action including suspension and/or discharge.

- B. In consideration of this no-strike pledge by the Association and employees, the College shall not lockout employees for the duration of this agreement or any extension thereof.

## **Article IV – Management Rights**

---

Except as expressly limited by the Community College Act, other relevant statutes and codes, home rule charters or provisions of this agreement, the College shall have and retain, solely and exclusively, all other managerial responsibilities which shall include, but not be limited to, the right to determine the policies of the College; to establish, amend or modify an overall budget; to establish, change, combine or abolish job classifications; to reprimand, suspend, discharge for cause or otherwise relieve employees from duty; to hire, promote, demote, layoff and recall employees to work; to determine the number and types of employees required; and to assign work to such employees and direct the work force, except as expressly modified or restricted by a specific provision of this agreement.

## **Article V – Association Security and Dues Check Off**

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- A. Any employee who, on the effective date of this agreement, has joined the Association or who joins the Association in the future, must remain a member for the duration of this agreement with the provision that any such employee may resign from the Association during a period of fifteen (15) days prior to the expiration date of this agreement.
- B. The College agrees to deduct regular initiation fees and monthly dues from the pay of those employees who individually request in writing that such deduction be made. The amounts to be deducted shall be certified to the College by the Association and the aggregate deductions of all employees shall be remitted together with an itemized statement to the Association within fifteen (15) days after the last pay period of each month.
- C. The Association shall indemnify and hold the College harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders or judgments brought or issued against the College as a result of any action arising out of the College's obligation to deduct and transmit dues as defined in section B of this article.
- D. Fair Share – In light of the U.S. Supreme Court Janus decision (see *Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31*, 138 S.Ct. 2448, 2456, 201 L.Ed.2d 924 (2018)), fair share fees are not currently being collected. However, should Janus be overturned, the parties shall immediately comply with all provisions of said law.

## **Article VI – Association Visitation – Bulletin Boards**

---

- A. The representatives of the Association are permitted to enter the college premises during working hours, with the provision that at no such time shall such visitation rights interfere with the work requirements of

any employee or the operational requirements of his department or the College.

- B. The Association may post notices, pamphlets and memoranda on bulletin boards in areas so designated by the College, provided that such material is signed, dated and clearly identified as to source. No such material shall be posted which is profane, obscene, or defamatory of the College or its representatives or to any individual.

## Article VII – Hours of Work

---

- A. The College shall retain the sole and exclusive right to determine work schedules. Employees must be notified of any changes in said work schedule a minimum of ten (10) working days in advance, unless they agree to a lesser time. It is understood and agreed that work schedules shall not be altered to circumvent the payment of overtime.
- B. The work week shall consist of five (5) consecutive work days in a pre-established work schedule. The work day shall consist of any twenty-four (24) hour period in a pre-established work schedule. All employees covered herein shall be entitled to a fifteen (15) minute rest break during each half (1/2) of the work day. Any deviation in the schedule must be mutually agreed upon by the College and the employee.

The work week, work day, and non-paid meal break for employees covered herein is as follows:

Employee Classification	Work Hours Per Week	Work Hours Per Day	Unpaid Meal Break
Custodians	40.0	8.0	0.5 hour
Maintenance	40.0	8.0	0.5 hour
Technicians	40.0	8.0	1.0 hour
All other employees covered herein except custodial, maintenance and technicians	37.5	7.5	0.5 hour

A request for altering the meal break and work day by one-half (1/2) hour should be presented to the employee's supervisor for approval at least five (5) days in advance of the day in question, unless the supervisor and the employee agree to a lesser time.

The present hours of work for employees covered under this agreement shall be maintained throughout the life of this agreement.

- C. An employee will not be required to work on Sunday as part of their pre-established regular work schedule. However, the College may establish a regular work week schedule for custodians which includes a Sunday in order to cover work required at its various facilities. This position initially will be posted and filled in accordance with Article X and thereafter remain as a regular full-time position.
- D. As an employee of the College, who is in a position that is represented by the Association and does not work a standard Monday through Friday schedule; it is understood that any time the College has a paid day off holiday as identified in this collective bargaining agreement, that the work schedule will be

temporarily modified for that week(s) to a Monday through Friday schedule. After the holiday week(s), the employee will then return to their normal regular work schedule the week following the conclusion of the paid day off holiday.

## **Article VIII – Overtime**

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- A. All employees covered herein shall receive one and one-half (1-1/2) times their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any pre-established work week as defined in Article VII hereof. There shall be no duplication or pyramiding of overtime or any premium pay provided for under the provisions of this agreement for the same hours worked.
- B. The College retains the sole discretion to determine the need for overtime; and when the need for overtime arises, the immediate supervisor shall assign overtime to qualified full-time employees within the department on the basis of their status on the overtime seniority list. Assignments from said list shall be rotated in descending order of seniority on the list. Once an employee is offered overtime, they will not be offered another overtime assignment until all qualified employees on said list below them in seniority have been afforded the opportunity to work overtime. Any employee on said list who is not available at the time the overtime work arises, or who declines an offer of overtime work, shall be credited for the assignment solely for purposes of the rotation. The immediate supervisor shall be responsible for maintaining said overtime list and shall indicate the employees eligible for any overtime assignments.
- C. When a situation occurs within the college that imposes an emergency, it is agreed that any employee shall be assigned to the abatement of that emergency, regardless of whether the work is overtime or not, without violating this agreement.
- D. Overtime shall be voluntary except when overtime arises because the job must be completed that day, or because of an emergency situation that reasonably necessitates the working of such overtime. In the event no employee volunteers for overtime situations, the College shall have the right to assign such overtime to the least senior qualified employee within the classification needed.
- E. Sick leave, holiday, and vacation time shall be counted as time worked in the computation of overtime.

## **Article IX – Seniority**

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- A. For the purposes of this agreement, the term "seniority" shall mean a preferred position for specific purposes which one (1) employee within the bargaining unit may have over another employee because of a greater length of continuous service from his most recent date of placement on the payroll with the College.
- B. An employee's continuous service shall be broken so that no prior period or periods of employment shall be counted and rights to seniority shall cease upon the following:
  - 1. Voluntary termination of his employment.
  - 2. Discharge for just cause.

3. When recalled after layoff, upon the failure to return to work within a period of five (5) work days after employee has received notification by certified mail to so return, provided, however, if the employee notifies the College by certified mail within the said time that they are not immediately available for work but wishes to remain on the seniority list, they should be retained on such list for a period of one (1) week, subject to an extension provided valid reason is given to the College.
  4. Acceptance of other employment while on authorized leave.
  5. Layoff in excess of twenty-four (24) months.
  6. Failure to report to work in excess of three (3) days for any reason, excluding those designated in section E below.
- C. When an employee whose continuous service has been broken by any of the causes listed in section B above and is re-employed subsequent thereto, they shall begin as a new employee of the College.
- D. Newly hired full-time employees shall be regarded as probationary employees for the first sixty (60) working days of their employment and shall not be entitled to seniority during that period. Upon successful completion of this period of sixty (60) working days, the seniority of such employees shall be effective as of their most recent date of placement on the payroll.
- E. Absence due to sickness for which the employee receives sick pay, or workers' compensation, or other approved leave of absence shall not constitute an interruption of continuous service.
- F. The College shall furnish the Association with an updated seniority list of the employees, as defined in Article I hereof, on September 1 of each year; and shall update such list as necessary.
- G. The seniority of employees who are hired on the same day shall be determined by the drawing of lots.

## Article X – Vacancies

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- A. The promotion of an employee shall be recognition of the employee's competence to perform work with a higher skill level and shall be based upon the actual assignment to a position of increased difficulty and responsibility.

**B. Posting Vacancies**

A vacancy shall be defined as a position from which an incumbent has left. Within twenty (20) working days of the occurrence of a vacancy, the College will post or abolish the position. If the College decides to abolish the position, it shall notify the President of the Association in writing. If the position is not abolished, the College will post the notification of the vacancy. The College reserves the exclusive right to fill or not fill all vacancies. Employees who wish to apply for the vacancy shall so indicate in writing.

**C. Filling of Vacancies**

1. Any employee who is within the bargaining unit, as defined in Article I hereof, will be afforded an

opportunity to apply for the vacancy provided they possess the necessary qualifications, skills and ability. All applicants will be required to complete testing requirements for the position for which they are applying. Applicants shall not be required to complete testing requirements when he/she has applied for a lateral vacancy and completed the same testing for their previous position.

2. The College reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be awarded any vacancy. However, current employees who are relatively equal in qualifications will be given due consideration in filling a vacancy in order of greatest seniority. All current employees who apply for a vacancy and who meet the minimum qualifications of the opening will be granted an interview. In the event a vacancy is not filled from within the Association, as defined in Article I hereof, the College may fill the vacancy from outside the Association.
3. It is understood and agreed that all employees who fill a vacancy shall be subject to a twenty (20) work day trial period in which the employee must demonstrate that they possess the requisite skills and ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position. In the event the employee does not qualify within said twenty (20) work day period, they shall be permitted to return to their former job without loss of seniority. An employee may, within said twenty (20) work days, voluntarily return to their former job without a loss of seniority. Further, the College may discontinue the trial period within ten (10) work days for any employee it deems not qualified to fill said vacancy. The Association reserves the right to grieve the discontinuance of a trial period.
4. The College agrees to notify employees who have applied for an opening the disposition of their application immediately upon the appointment of the successful applicant.

## **Article XI – Temporary Transfers**

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- A. An employee may be required to perform any and all temporarily assigned duties, regardless of his usual or customary duties or job assignment.
- B. A temporary assignment shall not exceed twenty (20) working days except by mutual consent of the College and the employee.
- C. An employee may be temporarily transferred to another job classification for the following reasons:
  1. To fill a vacancy caused by an employee being on sick or other approved leave of absence;
  2. To provide vacation relief scheduling; or
  3. To fill an opening temporarily pending regular filling of such opening.
- D. An employee shall be paid as follows for the temporary transfer:
  1. If the rate of pay for such other classification is lower than their regular rate, they shall receive the higher rate of pay.
  2. If the rate of pay for such other classification is higher than their regular rate, they shall receive the higher rate of pay.



## **Article XII – Layoff**

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- A. Whenever it is necessary to reduce the working force of the College, employees shall be given a minimum of two (2) weeks' advanced written notification of layoff indicating the reasons for such action.
- B. If the experience, skill and ability of two (2) or more employees having the same classification are substantially equal, layoffs shall be in the inverse order of seniority. All temporary, casual and regular part-time employees in this respective order shall be separated first.
- C. Employees shall be recalled on the basis of seniority to positions for which they are qualified.
- D. In all cases of layoff or the abolition of a position, an affected employee has the right to exercise their seniority and bump a less senior employee who is the least senior employee within their own or lower-rated classification, provided they have the qualifications, skills, and ability to do the job.
- E. In the event an employee's position is abolished and the employee is laid off, said employee shall be retained on a recall list for a period of two (2) years. The College agrees to mail a vacancy announcement to any employee who is qualified to fill such vacancy in accordance with the requirements of Article X hereof. Laid off employees are required to notify the College no later than August 1 of their current address, telephone number and interest in working.
- F. In the event an employee is laid off, they may, upon request, receive payment for earned, but unused, vacation as quickly as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days after layoff.

## **Article XIII – Personnel Files**

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- A. The College shall maintain one (1) official personnel file for each employee. There shall also be a separate pre-employment file which shall be confidential and shall only contain letters of reference, recommendations, or any materials secured in the hiring process. Subsequent to hiring, no adverse personnel action shall be taken against any employee on the basis of said pre-employment data, unless the employee falsely represented information contained in said pre-employment data.
- B. Individual personnel files shall be confidential. However, an employee shall have the right to make such additions or responses to the material contained in their official personnel file as they shall deem necessary; but they shall have no right to remove material from the file.
- C. An employee shall have access to their official personnel file during regular working hours provided there shall be no interference with the normal routine of the office. Under no circumstances shall the official personnel file be removed from the office by the employee.
- D. The Association shall have access to the official personnel file of an employee at reasonable times during regular office hours, after having given reasonable notice and provided it first shall have obtained the express written approval of that employee.

- E. If the official personnel file or any of its contents is duly subpoenaed in accordance with law, the employee shall be notified immediately.
- F. Letters of warning shall not be in effect after six (6) months from the date of issuance for the purpose of progressive disciplinary procedure; however, this provision shall not apply in disciplinary suspensions.

## **Article XIV – Call-In Pay**

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An employee who is called in to work at a time when they are not regularly scheduled to report for work shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours of work at one and one half (1-1/2) times their regular rate of pay.

## **Article XV – Holidays**

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- A. The following holidays will be observed as paid holidays:
  - 1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  - 2. Spring Break – Two (2) weekdays as scheduled annually on the academic calendar
  - 3. Memorial Day
  - 4. Independence Day
  - 5. Labor Day
  - 6. The day before Thanksgiving Day
  - 7. Thanksgiving Day
  - 8. The day after Thanksgiving Day
  - 9. Winter Break – Any regularly scheduled work days starting December 24 through and including January 1.
- B. A full-time employee required to work on any of the holidays specified in Section A will receive one and one-half (1-1/2) times their straight rate of pay plus holiday pay at straight time or two and one-half (2-1/2) times the normal rate of pay for all such hours worked. The full-time employee shall not receive holiday time-off at a later date.
- C. When one of the holidays specified in Section A is observed during an employee's vacation, they shall be entitled to one (1) additional day off, to be selected by agreement of the College and the employee.
- D. Monday shall be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Sunday, and Friday shall be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Saturday; except for those days which have been identified as Winter Break. Employees who do not work a standard Monday through Friday work schedule will be temporarily modified to a Monday through Friday work schedule for such a holiday week(s). Employees will then return to their normal regular work schedule the week following the conclusion of the paid day off holiday.

## Article XVI – Vacations

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- A. Each fiscal year, full-time employees covered by this agreement shall be entitled to an annual vacation with pay according to the following schedule:

Years of Service	Days Earned Per Month	Days Per Fiscal Year
less than 2 years	0.83	10.00
2 years, but less than 3	0.92	11.00
3 years, but less than 4	1.00	12.00
4 years, but less than 5	1.08	13.00
5 years, but less than 6	1.16	14.00
6 years, but less than 7	1.25	15.00
7 years, but less than 8	1.33	16.00
8 years, but less than 9	1.42	17.00
9 years and over	1.50	18.00

- B. Vacation eligibility shall be based upon a fiscal-year basis.
- C. Vacation may be taken any time after credited; however, it must be approved by the employee's immediate supervisor prior to the vacation.
- D. Employees shall be permitted to carry over up to ten (10) unused vacation days from one fiscal year to the next.
- E. Vacations shall be granted at such times as are determined by the College to be consistent with the provision of full services to the public and in the best interests of the College. Employees shall select their vacation in order of their seniority. Any employee, who selects his vacation period and then seeks to change it, shall only be permitted to select those vacation dates which remain. If an employee is required to work during their scheduled vacation period and is unable to reschedule their vacation during the fiscal year due to the demands of the College, additional carryover may be granted at the discretion of the Director/Human Resources.
- F. Any employee called in to work during their vacation shall receive one and one-half (1-1/2) times their regular rate of pay and will be given the opportunity to reschedule said vacation day(s).
- G. Any employee who voluntarily terminates their employment shall receive their accrued vacation entitlement and pay pertaining thereto.

## Article XVII – Leaves of Absence

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### A. Family and Medical Leave

1. Family and Medical Leave shall be administered in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and its accompanying regulations.
2. Employees shall be granted an unpaid family leave for the birth of the employee's child; the adoption of a child by the employee; or the serious health condition of the employee, or the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent, or any other qualifying reasons under FMLA up to twelve (12) weeks within a 12-month period of time with benefits upon written request, certification by attending physician, and appropriate approvals.
3. Upon returning from Family and Medical Leave an employee has the right to return to the same or equivalent position. If the position has been abolished, the employee will have the right to return to an equivalent position in accordance with FMLA.
4. Upon return from Family and Medical Leave the employee shall retain all seniority and pension rights.
5. The College will use the rolling 12-month period looking backward to determine eligibility for Family and Medical Leave.
6. The College will consider any qualifying leave as Family and Medical Leave. Such qualifying leave may be in the form of workers' compensation leave, non-work-related disability leave or simple sick leave. The college will notify Association members within five (5) work days of commencement of the qualifying leave if such leave is designated as Family and Medical Leave. Paid sick leave will be used during any period of FMLA leave resulting from the serious health condition of an employee.

### B. Extended Child-Rearing Leave

1. Extension of said leave beyond twelve (12) weeks for the purpose of child-rearing shall be granted, to a maximum of nine (9) additional months; and shall be without pay or benefit.
2. Unused sick leave may not be used, but shall be carried over until the employee returns.
3. Upon return from child-rearing leave, an Association member shall retain all seniority and pension rights that accrued up to the time of the leave, but these rights shall not accrue during the period of the leave.
4. Employees shall have the right to continue applicable fringe benefits in accordance with COBRA during child-rearing leave by remitting premiums to the College.
5. Every employee shall have the right to return to the same position they held before going on child-rearing leave. If the position has been abolished, the employee shall have the right to return to an equivalent position consistent with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement considering the employee's seniority and qualifications.

### C. Sick Leave

1. Employees covered herein shall be credited each fiscal year with twenty (20) days of sick leave. New employees shall earn 1.66 days of sick leave per month up to a maximum of twenty (20) days during their first year of employment. However, during their second year of employment and for subsequent years, the employee shall be credited with twenty (20) days of sick leave per fiscal year in accordance with this article. Unused sick leave accumulation shall be capped at a total of two hundred (200) days.
2. Proof of illness in the form of a medical certificate may be required for any employee who is absent for three (3) or more consecutive work days. Any misrepresentation shall be cause for disciplinary action including suspension or discharge.
3. Any employee who, in the sole opinion of the College, is abusing their sick leave entitlement shall be required to submit to the College a medical certificate for any absence of one (1) day or more. The College agrees to notify the Association prior to invoking any action involving such employees.
4. Up to three (3) sick days per year may be used for the care of immediate family members. Immediate family is limited to spouses, children and parents of the employee.

### D. Work-Related Disability

1. An employee who sustains a work-related injury must follow the college's procedure for dealing with injury or illness which includes being treated by a physician that is on the college's Worker's Compensation Physicians' Panel.
2. Any employee who sustains a work-related injury, as a result of which they are disabled, shall receive a disability payment which shall be the difference between the moneys to which they may be entitled under workers' compensation, social security, or other applicable disability benefits and their full salary for a period of one (1) year or for the duration of the disability, whichever period is shorter. This payment shall be made only for periods during which the employee would have been working. Sick leave, vacation and holiday time, however, shall not accrue during the period of disability payment.

### E. Bereavement Leave

1. When an employee is absent from duty because of a death in their family, there shall be no deduction in wages or benefits for any absence not in excess of the following:

5 Days	4 Days	2 Days	1 Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse</li> <li>• Child</li> <li>• Parent</li> <li>• Brother</li> <li>• Sister</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Son-in-law</li> <li>• Daughter-in-law</li> <li>• Parent-in-law</li> <li>• Grandchild</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grandparent</li> <li>• Brother-in-law</li> <li>• Sister-in-law</li> <li>• Uncle</li> <li>• Aunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niece</li> <li>• Nephew</li> </ul>

2. The College may grant an exception of bereavement leave as defined in section E.1 above.

**F. Jury Duty**

An employee called for jury duty or subpoenaed to appear in court as a Commonwealth witness will be granted a leave of absence and paid the difference between their daily rate and monies received from the court except mileage reimbursement. Evidence in the form of a subpoena or official notification from court shall be presented to the Director/Human Resources or their designee as far in advance as possible. The employee is expected to report for regular duties when attendance at court is not required.

**G. Military Leave**

1. Employees who are members of Reserve components of the Armed Forces are entitled to leave with pay on all working days not exceeding fifteen (15) days in any calendar year during which they are engaged in field training authorized by the Federal Forces.
2. Employees who are members of the Pennsylvania National Guard are entitled to leave with pay on all days during which they shall, as members of the National Guard, be engaged in the active service of the Commonwealth or in authorized field training, consistent with the Military Code of 1949.

**H. Personal Days**

1. Each employee shall be entitled to two (2) personal days per year for personal reasons, which shall accumulate without expiration.

**I. Miscellaneous Leave Without Pay**

Employees may be granted leave without pay or benefit at the sole discretion of the administration for any reason and period of time in excess of five (5) days that may be authorized by the administration.

The administration shall act on requests for leave within twenty (20) days of submission and if denied, shall state the reasons in writing. During said unpaid leave, the employee, at their sole expense, may maintain their applicable fringe benefits.

**J. Bonus Day**

Employees attaining their tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) year of continuous service with the College shall be granted a bonus of one (1) day's paid leave. Bonus days shall be granted in 5-year increments beginning with College recognition of the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) year of continuous service and granted on the employee's anniversary date. Bonus days will be added to the employee's vacation accrual and treated in accordance with Sections C-E, Article XVI hereof.

## **Article XVIII – Association**

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Two (2) Association delegates shall be granted a leave without pay, not to exceed one (1) week, per annum, for purposes of attending the authorized union convention.

## Article XIX – Wages - Benefits

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- A. The wages applicable to employees covered herein are fully set forth in Appendix A and attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- B. The College will continue to pay any and all insurance premiums currently being paid by the College on the effective date of this agreement.
- C. The Board reserves the exclusive right to determine what carrier shall be contracted under this agreement.
- D. Fringe benefits provided during the life of this agreement are listed below.

### 1. Insurance/Group Health Coverage

- (a) The College shall maintain for all employees life insurance in the amount of three (3) times the individual's annualized hourly rate of pay, rounded to the nearest \$1,000.
- (b) The College shall maintain for all employees long-term disability insurance. Members are eligible after twelve (12) months of continuous employment, and benefits will be paid monthly in arrears after 180 days of disability.
- (c) The College shall offer for all employees and their eligible dependents an equivalent or better Healthcare plan that was provided in the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Should such plan become unavailable, the College and the Association shall collaboratively select a substantially similar plan.

Employees shall pay a portion of their health insurance cost by contributing a co-premium amount as determined by a percentage of their total wages and their selected type of coverage. Total payments made by members is calculated by multiplying the member's total wages by the percentage rates below. These rates are established by fiscal year for the duration of this five-year agreement as follows:

Coverage Type	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Escalator
Single	1.40%	1.68%	1.96%	2.24%	2.50%	(0.28%)
Employee/Spouse; Member and Children	2.09%	2.44%	2.79%	3.14%	3.48%	(0.35%)
Family (Employee, Spouse, Children)	2.83%	3.30%	3.77%	4.24%	4.72%	(0.47%)

- (d) The College shall offer for all employees and their eligible dependents covered under this agreement, a prescription drug benefit.
  - (e) The College shall maintain for all employees and their eligible dependents covered under this agreement, a vision care benefit.
  - (f) The College shall maintain for all employees and their eligible dependents covered under this agreement, basic dental insurance coverage.
  - (g) The Association will participate as a member of the College Healthcare Monitoring Committee.
  - (h) Spouse: as evidenced by a certificate of marriage under applicable state law at the time and location that the marriage was entered into.
  - (i) Employees will contribute to their group health insurance while they are off on any unpaid leave at the same bi-weekly cost as before they went on unpaid leave. If there is a qualified event that takes place while the employee is out on unpaid leave, the payment will be adjusted to match the new coverage type and percentage amount as detailed in the chart above.
2. Retirement benefits under one (1) of the following three (3) programs:
- (a) **SERS** – As of July 1, 2015 SERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the College.
  - (b) **PSERS** – As of July 1, 2015 PSERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the College.
  - (c) **TIAA** – The College shall provide a percentage contribution of the total salary of each employee participating in the TIAA retirement program according to the following:

Fiscal Year	% of Contribution
2022-23	10.00
2023-24	10.00
2024-25	10.00
2025-26	10.00
2026-27	10.00

### 3. Educational Benefits

- (a) **Tuition Reimbursement:** Any full-time employee covered under this agreement shall be reimbursed for tuition costs at a four (4) year college after successfully completing the course requirements subject to the following provisions:
  - (1) An employee must be employed for one (1) full year.



- (2) An employee must possess an associate degree or have completed sixty (60) college credits.
- (3) Individual reimbursement will be limited to one (1) course per semester.
- (4) An employee must earn a grade of "C" or better.
- (5) Course(s) must be work-related or course(s) must be part of a program major that relates to positions which may be available at the College.
- (6) There will be no reimbursement for courses taken at a four-year college which could have been taken at the College and transferred to the four-year college.
- (7) The Director/Human Resources will be advised as to the nature of the courses and the institutions. The Association and the College shall mutually agree upon procedure for administering these funds.
- (8) Total reimbursement for all employees is not to exceed the following per fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	Total Reimbursement
2022-23	\$28,000
2023-24	\$28,000
2024-25	\$28,000
2025-26	\$28,000
2026-27	\$28,000

**(b) Tuition Waiver:**

All full-time employees, their spouses, and dependents as defined by the Internal Revenue Service shall be permitted to take courses at the College without tuition charge. In the event an employee dies, retires, or is disabled, this privilege is continued for a period not to exceed five (5) years. In addition, the College will waive the general fee.

- (c) Full-time employees covered under this agreement and their immediate family shall be entitled to use any and all of the College's recreational facilities as per College policy, free of charge.
- (d) A full-time employee covered under this agreement shall be eligible to take classes during their normal work schedule provided the course is related to the requirements of their classification and provided it is approved by the President or their designee.

**4. Sick Leave Bank**

Full-time employees covered under this agreement shall have the right to join and participate in the Sick Leave Bank, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) Initially, each employee shall transfer two (2) of their earned sick days to the Sick Leave Bank. The College agrees to match two (2) days for every two (2) days placed in the bank by the employees covered under this agreement.

- (b) Only employees who contribute to the Sick Leave Bank shall be permitted to participate in the program upon expiration of all paid leaves available to said employees.
- (c) All days released to the Sick Leave Bank shall be accumulative year to year and may not be withdrawn by the employee except as noted in item b above.
- (d) The Sick Leave Bank Committee shall prepare guidelines and be responsible for disbursement of said Sick Leave Bank days to eligible employees.
- (e) The Sick Leave Bank Committee shall take every precaution to ensure that sick leave and Sick Leave Bank guidelines are adhered to by the participants of the program.
- (f) Employees' sick leave records kept by the Sick Leave Bank Committee shall be open to inspection by the College, and records of the Sick Leave Bank kept by the College shall be open to inspection by the Sick Leave Bank Committee.
- (g) A committee known as the Sick Leave Bank Committee, composed of three (3) members appointed by the Association and two (2) members appointed by the College shall be the administrative body charged with the responsibility of approving all requests for use of the Sick Leave Bank, maintaining appropriate records, providing for replenishment, and coordinating the overall program with the Director/Human Resources.
- (h) The Sick Leave Bank Committee will grant Sick Leave Bank days within the parameters contained within the Sick Leave Bank guidelines. The Sick Leave Bank days are granted in accordance with state and federal disability laws and regulations regarding administration of paid disability leave.
- (i) No application for Sick Leave Bank days shall be considered by the Sick Leave Bank Committee when the employee has not used up all of their accumulated paid leaves available.
- (j) The Sick Leave Bank Committee requires employees seeking use of the Sick Leave Bank to submit a completed Request-For-Use form along with a completed Physician's Statement. These completed forms must be submitted to the Sick Leave Bank Committee through its chairperson. Forms will be provided and can be obtained from any member of the committee.

## **Article XX – Just Cause**

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No employee shall be reprimanded, suspended, or discharged except for just cause.

## **Article XXI – New or Changed Job**

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- A. In the event the College establishes a new job classification or modifies an existing job classification which falls within the bargaining unit defined herein, the rate of pay for said new or modified job classification shall be reviewed by the Association's Classification Committee and the College and negotiated.

- B. If the College and the Association are unable to agree to the location of said job classification to an appropriate pay grade, the Association may within thirty (30) days of the proposed change, process said dispute commencing at step two (2) of the grievance procedure as described herein.

## **Article XXII – Shift Differential**

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- A. Employees scheduled to work between the hours of 6:00 p.m. through 10:30 p.m. shall receive a shift differential of twenty-five cents (\$.25) per hour for those hours worked.
- B. Employees scheduled to work between the hours of 10:30 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. shall receive a shift differential of thirty cents (\$.30) per hour for those hours worked.

## **Article XXIII – Meal Break**

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An employee who has worked eight (8) continuous hours and is required to work additional continuous hours within their work day shall be given a meal break of one (1) hour with pay for any three (3) hour period thereafter. The meal break must be taken between the end of the employee's regular work shift and commencement of additional work hours.

## **Article XXIV – Unearned Sick Leave**

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The College, upon request, may loan up to twenty (20) consecutive days of paid sick leave to any employee who is seriously ill during their first year of employment, notwithstanding said employee has not actually earned such entitlement. Proof of such serious illness in the form of a medical certificate shall accompany any such request. The College, after reviewing such medical certificate, shall not arbitrarily deny the employee's request.

## **Article XXV – Miscellaneous**

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- A. Practices consistent with this agreement shall remain in effect for the duration of this agreement.

- B. **College Closing**

The President of the College or their designee may at their discretion close the college due to a weather-related emergency. Employees not designated as working remotely who are relieved of the responsibility of reporting for or remaining at work shall be paid at their regular straight time hourly rate for all hours normally worked on such date. Employees not designated as working remotely and who are required to work during or after a closing determination has been made shall receive compensation of double time their regular hourly rate for work that is performed during the period of time that the college is closed.

### C. Contracting of Work

Circumstances may arise during the term of this collective bargaining agreement where not enough employees are available to perform work necessary in order for the College to operate efficiently. Examples of such circumstances are where numerous vacancies in one area are not filled in a timely manner despite the College's best efforts to do so or where grounds, custodial, maintenance or other bargaining unit work exceeds the capacity of the current work force. In such circumstance, the College will be permitted to contract out such work for a maximum period of six (6) months provided:

1. The contracting of work is not done to avoid offering overtime to employees;
2. The College provides the Association with written notice of its intent to contract employees and its reason(s) for doing so;
3. In the case where work is necessitated by failure to fill vacancies, the College shall continue to use its best efforts to fill vacancies; and,
4. In the case where the work exceeds the current workforce capacity and such work is not temporary in nature, the College will hire additional employee(s) to address the need.

The College and the Association may extend the duration of subcontracted work beyond six (6) months by mutual agreement.

## Article XXVI – Grievance Procedure

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**Policy:** It is the policy of the College and Association to encourage a harmonious and cooperative relationship between employees and to resolve employee grievances in accordance with fair and orderly procedures.

**Definition:** A grievance is a dispute concerning the interpretation, application or alleged violation of a specific term or provision of this agreement. The grievance procedure shall be as follows:

- A. A grievance must be filed within fifteen (15) working days of the date the aggrieved knew or was made aware of the alleged violation of the contract. A grievance may be filed by an employee(s) or the Association, hereinafter called "grievant." The College agrees to notify the Association of any formal grievance filed.

### B. First Step - Immediate Supervisor

An employee with a grievance shall discuss it with their immediate supervisor who shall attempt to resolve the grievance to the mutual satisfaction of the employee and management within five (5) work days of its presentation. The supervisor shall report their decision to the employee in writing. If the employee does not proceed with their grievance to the second step within the time limits prescribed in the following section and no extension of time is granted, the grievance shall be considered to be satisfactorily resolved.

**C. Second Step - Director/Human Resources**

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance after a decision from their immediate supervisor, they may submit a written appeal to the Director/Human Resources within five (5) work days after a decision at the first step is due. The Director/Human Resources, within five (5) work days after receiving the appeal, shall meet with the grievant in the attempt at resolving the grievance. The Director/Human Resources shall give the grievant a written decision within five (5) work days following the meeting. If the grievant does not proceed with their grievance to the third step within the time limits prescribed in the following section and no extension of time is granted, the grievance shall be considered to be satisfactorily resolved.

**D. Third Step – President**

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance after a decision from the Director/Human Resources, they may submit a written appeal to the President or their designee within five (5) work days after a decision at the second step is due. The President or their designee, within five (5) work days after receiving the appeal, shall meet with the grievant in the attempt at resolving the grievance. The President or their designee shall give the grievant a written decision within five (5) work days following the meeting. If the grievant does not proceed with their grievance to the fourth step within the time limits prescribed in the following section and no extension of time is granted, the grievance shall be considered to be satisfactorily resolved.

**E. Fourth Step - Board of Trustees**

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance at the third step, they may submit a written appeal to the Board of Trustees within five (5) work days after a decision at the third step is due. The Board of Trustees, within twenty (20) work days after receiving the appeal, shall hold a hearing at which the grievant may present their grievance. The Board, within ten (10) work days following the hearing, shall give the grievant a written decision. If the grievant does not proceed with their grievance to the fifth step within the time limits prescribed in the following section and no extension of time is granted, the grievance shall be considered to be satisfactorily resolved.

**F. Fifth Step - Arbitration**

If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at the fourth step, then the Association may appeal to arbitration within fifteen (15) work days after a decision at the fourth step is due. A request for arbitration may be initiated by the Association serving upon the College a notice in writing of an intent to proceed to arbitration. The notice shall identify the agreement provision in dispute, the issue(s) to be determined, and the grievant or grievants involved. Upon receipt of a notice requesting arbitration, the parties shall meet to select an arbitrator. If the parties cannot voluntarily agree upon the selection of an arbitrator, they shall notify the State Bureau of Mediation of their inability to do so. Pursuant to Section 903 of Act 195, the State Bureau of Mediation shall then submit to the parties the names of seven (7) arbitrators. Each party shall alternately strike a name until one (1) name remains. The Board shall strike the first name. The person remaining shall be the arbitrator.

1. The arbitrator shall have no power or authority to add to, subtract from, or modify the provisions of this agreement in arriving at a decision of the issue or issues presented and shall confine their decision solely to the application and interpretation of this agreement. The decision or award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.
2. The costs of arbitration shall be shared equally by the parties. Each party shall bear the cost of preparing and presenting its own cases.

**G. Time Off**

A grievant and their representative (*if a College employee*) shall be allowed such reasonable time off, without loss of pay, from their regular duties as may be necessary, consistent with their job responsibilities and the operational needs of their work unit, to attend meetings with management for the purpose of resolving a grievance.

- H. If, in the opinion of the Association, a grievance affects a number of employees the Association may submit a grievance.
- I. An employee may select an Association representative to represent them during all steps of the grievance procedure. When an employee chooses to pursue a grievance, the Association shall be entitled to be represented at all steps of the grievance procedure.
- J. A grievance may be withdrawn by the Association or aggrieved person at any time, and the withdrawal of said grievance shall not be prejudicial to the positions taken by the parties as they relate to that and to future grievances.
- K. If the facts of the grievance warrant, either the College or the Association may initiate a request to extend any of the time limits incorporated under this provision. If said extension is agreed upon, it shall be reduced to writing and signed by both parties.

## Article XXVII - Legality

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Both parties hereto specifically agree that it is their intent that this agreement, under all circumstances and in every respect, shall comply with all applicable statutes, governmental regulations, and judicial decisions; and if it shall be determined by proper authority that this agreement, or any part thereof, is in conflict with said statutes, governmental regulations, or judicial decisions, this agreement shall be automatically adjusted to comply with the referred to statutes, governmental regulations, or judicial decisions.

## **Article XXVIII - Severability**

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In the event any provision of this agreement is determined to be invalid and unenforceable by a court or other body having jurisdiction, the parties shall meet to attempt to negotiate a legally acceptable successor to such invalidity; however, it is clearly understood and agreed that the only subject for negotiation shall be said invalidity and the contract shall remain in full force and effect as agreed to under Article XXXI -- Term of Agreement.

## **Article XXIX - Headings**

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Any headings preceding the text of the several articles hereof are solely for convenience of reference and shall not constitute a part of this agreement, nor shall they affect its meaning, construction or effect.

## **Article XXX – Safety and Security**

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1. The College will make every attempt to provide a safe and secure work environment for all employees.
2. The College will make every effort to notify the Association of anticipated activities of the facilities department which may affect employees' work environment.

## Article XXXI – Term of Agreement

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their successors and assigns, from July 1, 2022 to and including June 30, 2027, and thereafter from year to year except that either party may notify the other by certified mail on or before January 1, 2027, of its desire to modify or terminate this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be duly executed and sealed this 24th day of August, 2022.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS/PSEA/NEA**

By: William H. Kern, Ed.D.  
Chairman

By: [Signature]  
President

[Signature]  
President

[Signature]

[Signature]  
Negotiator

[Signature]

[Signature]  
Attest

February 16, 2024  
Date Signed



## Appendix A – Table I

### ALLOCATION OF FULL-TIME POSITIONS TO PAY GRADES

Effective July 1, 2022 and throughout the life of this agreement, the allocation of positions to appropriate pay levels shall be as follows:

GRADE I	GRADE IV
College Store Clerk Custodian Library Clerk Painter Purchasing Clerk II Secretary II	Certified Electrical/HVAC Worker Certified Grounds Worker Certified HVAC Worker Graphic Designer
GRADE II	
Division Clerk Fulfillment Center Clerk Groundskeeper III Maintenance Worker	
GRADE III	
Accounting Technician Accounts Payable Technician Accounts Receivable Technician Admissions/Records Technician Athletics & Recreation Technician Center for Teaching & Learning Technician Communications Technician Continuing Education & Workforce Customized Training Technician Division Technician Enrollment Center Technician Enrollment Management Technician Enrollment Services Technician Events Services Technician General & Foundation Technician Grants Technician Helpdesk Technician Information Center Technician Job Developer/Counselor Law Enforcement Programs Technician Lead Custodian/Maintenance Support Staff Accountant – Accounts Receivable Staff Accountant – General Ledger Staff Accountant - Grants Tutoring & Learning Services Technician	

## Appendix A – Table II - Wages

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### WAGES – CURRENT AND NEW EMPLOYEES

#### A. Current Employees

1. Effective July 1, 2022, current employees were initially placed in the 2022-23 fiscal year schedule by step and grade based on years in position and will move down one step for each fiscal year throughout the life of this agreement if they remain in the same position.
2. Effective for fiscal years, 2023-24 through 2026-27, year two through five of this agreement, each step movement is reflective of a 2% wage increase.
3. During the life of this agreement, if a current full-time employee's hourly wage exceeds the amount established by their respective step per grade during an applicable fiscal year, they will not receive an increase during that fiscal year and will instead receive a payment of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) which will be spread amongst the pay dates within the said fiscal year and will not be added to their hourly wage.
4. If a current employee moves to another position in a different grade during the life of this agreement, they will be placed at the minimum rate for the new job unless such a placement would result in the employee receiving the same pay or a pay decrease from the employee's then current pay rate. In such a case, the employee will be placed on the step of the new job which would result in the employee obtaining the lowest pay rate step of the new job which would result in an increase in pay.

#### B. New Hire Employees

1. Effective July 1, 2022 and throughout the life of this agreement, newly hired employees will start at the minimum step by applicable grade during the fiscal year that they are hired.
2. Each fiscal year after their minimum placement they will move down one step in their position grade as long as they remain in their same position.

<b>Step Schedule</b> <b>July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023</b>				
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MINIMUM</b>	\$12.47	\$14.27	\$17.40	\$19.26
<b>STEP 1</b>	\$12.72	\$14.56	\$17.75	\$19.65
<b>STEP 2</b>	\$12.97	\$14.85	\$18.10	\$20.04
<b>STEP 3</b>	\$13.23	\$15.14	\$18.47	\$20.44
<b>STEP 4</b>	\$13.50	\$15.45	\$18.83	\$20.85
<b>STEP 5</b>	\$13.77	\$15.76	\$19.21	\$21.26
<b>STEP 6</b>	\$14.04	\$16.07	\$19.60	\$21.69
<b>STEP 7</b>	\$14.32	\$16.39	\$19.99	\$22.12
<b>STEP 8</b>	\$14.61	\$16.72	\$20.39	\$22.57
<b>STEP 9</b>	\$14.90	\$17.05	\$20.79	\$23.02
<b>STEP 10</b>	\$15.20	\$17.40	\$21.21	\$23.48
<b>STEP 11</b>	\$15.50	\$17.74	\$21.63	\$23.95
<b>STEP 12</b>	\$15.81	\$18.10	\$22.07	\$24.43
<b>STEP 13</b>	\$16.13	\$18.46	\$22.51	\$24.91
<b>STEP 14</b>	\$16.45	\$18.83	\$22.96	\$25.41
<b>STEP 15</b>	\$16.78	\$19.21	\$23.42	\$25.92
<b>STEP 16</b>	\$17.12	\$19.59	\$23.89	\$26.44
<b>STEP 17</b>	\$17.46	\$19.98	\$24.36	\$26.97
<b>STEP 18</b>	\$17.81	\$20.38	\$24.85	\$27.51
<b>STEP 19</b>	\$18.17	\$20.79	\$25.35	\$28.06
<b>STEP 20</b>	\$18.53	\$21.20	\$25.86	\$28.62
<b>STEP 21</b>	\$18.90	\$21.63	\$26.37	\$29.19
<b>STEP 22</b>	\$19.28	\$22.06	\$26.90	\$29.78
<b>STEP 23</b>	\$19.66	\$22.50	\$27.44	\$30.37
<b>STEP 24</b>	\$20.06	\$22.95	\$27.99	\$30.98
<b>MAXIMUM-STEP 25</b>	\$20.46	\$23.41	\$28.55	\$31.60

<b>Step Schedule</b> <b>July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024</b>				
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MINIMUM</b>	\$12.47	\$14.27	\$17.40	\$19.26
<b>STEP 1</b>	\$12.72	\$14.56	\$17.75	\$19.65
<b>STEP 2</b>	\$12.97	\$14.85	\$18.10	\$20.04
<b>STEP 3</b>	\$13.23	\$15.14	\$18.47	\$20.44
<b>STEP 4</b>	\$13.50	\$15.45	\$18.83	\$20.85
<b>STEP 5</b>	\$13.77	\$15.76	\$19.21	\$21.26
<b>STEP 6</b>	\$14.04	\$16.07	\$19.60	\$21.69
<b>STEP 7</b>	\$14.32	\$16.39	\$19.99	\$22.12
<b>STEP 8</b>	\$14.61	\$16.72	\$20.39	\$22.57
<b>STEP 9</b>	\$14.90	\$17.05	\$20.79	\$23.02
<b>STEP 10</b>	\$15.20	\$17.40	\$21.21	\$23.48
<b>STEP 11</b>	\$15.50	\$17.74	\$21.63	\$23.95
<b>STEP 12</b>	\$15.81	\$18.10	\$22.07	\$24.43
<b>STEP 13</b>	\$16.13	\$18.46	\$22.51	\$24.91
<b>STEP 14</b>	\$16.45	\$18.83	\$22.96	\$25.41
<b>STEP 15</b>	\$16.78	\$19.21	\$23.42	\$25.92
<b>STEP 16</b>	\$17.12	\$19.59	\$23.89	\$26.44
<b>STEP 17</b>	\$17.46	\$19.98	\$24.36	\$26.97
<b>STEP 18</b>	\$17.81	\$20.38	\$24.85	\$27.51
<b>STEP 19</b>	\$18.17	\$20.79	\$25.35	\$28.06
<b>STEP 20</b>	\$18.53	\$21.20	\$25.86	\$28.62
<b>STEP 21</b>	\$18.90	\$21.63	\$26.37	\$29.19
<b>STEP 22</b>	\$19.28	\$22.06	\$26.90	\$29.78
<b>STEP 23</b>	\$19.66	\$22.50	\$27.44	\$30.37
<b>STEP 24</b>	\$20.06	\$22.95	\$27.99	\$30.98
<b>MAXIMUM-STEP 25</b>	\$20.46	\$23.41	\$28.55	\$31.60

<b>Step Schedule</b> <b>July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025</b>				
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MINIMUM</b>	\$12.72	\$14.56	\$17.75	\$19.65
<b>STEP 1</b>	\$12.72	\$14.56	\$17.75	\$19.65
<b>STEP 2</b>	\$12.97	\$14.85	\$18.10	\$20.04
<b>STEP 3</b>	\$13.23	\$15.14	\$18.47	\$20.44
<b>STEP 4</b>	\$13.50	\$15.45	\$18.83	\$20.85
<b>STEP 5</b>	\$13.77	\$15.76	\$19.21	\$21.26
<b>STEP 6</b>	\$14.04	\$16.07	\$19.60	\$21.69
<b>STEP 7</b>	\$14.32	\$16.39	\$19.99	\$22.12
<b>STEP 8</b>	\$14.61	\$16.72	\$20.39	\$22.57
<b>STEP 9</b>	\$14.90	\$17.05	\$20.79	\$23.02
<b>STEP 10</b>	\$15.20	\$17.40	\$21.21	\$23.48
<b>STEP 11</b>	\$15.50	\$17.74	\$21.63	\$23.95
<b>STEP 12</b>	\$15.81	\$18.10	\$22.07	\$24.43
<b>STEP 13</b>	\$16.13	\$18.46	\$22.51	\$24.91
<b>STEP 14</b>	\$16.45	\$18.83	\$22.96	\$25.41
<b>STEP 15</b>	\$16.78	\$19.21	\$23.42	\$25.92
<b>STEP 16</b>	\$17.12	\$19.59	\$23.89	\$26.44
<b>STEP 17</b>	\$17.46	\$19.98	\$24.36	\$26.97
<b>STEP 18</b>	\$17.81	\$20.38	\$24.85	\$27.51
<b>STEP 19</b>	\$18.17	\$20.79	\$25.35	\$28.06
<b>STEP 20</b>	\$18.53	\$21.20	\$25.86	\$28.62
<b>STEP 21</b>	\$18.90	\$21.63	\$26.37	\$29.19
<b>STEP 22</b>	\$19.28	\$22.06	\$26.90	\$29.78
<b>STEP 23</b>	\$19.66	\$22.50	\$27.44	\$30.37
<b>STEP 24</b>	\$20.06	\$22.95	\$27.99	\$30.98
<b>MAXIMUM-STEP 25</b>	\$20.46	\$23.41	\$28.55	\$31.60

<b>Step Schedule</b> <b>July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026</b>				
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MINIMUM</b>	\$12.72	\$14.56	\$17.75	\$19.65
<b>STEP 1</b>	\$12.72	\$14.56	\$17.75	\$19.65
<b>STEP 2</b>	\$12.97	\$14.85	\$18.10	\$20.04
<b>STEP 3</b>	\$13.23	\$15.14	\$18.47	\$20.44
<b>STEP 4</b>	\$13.50	\$15.45	\$18.83	\$20.85
<b>STEP 5</b>	\$13.77	\$15.76	\$19.21	\$21.26
<b>STEP 6</b>	\$14.04	\$16.07	\$19.60	\$21.69
<b>STEP 7</b>	\$14.32	\$16.39	\$19.99	\$22.12
<b>STEP 8</b>	\$14.61	\$16.72	\$20.39	\$22.57
<b>STEP 9</b>	\$14.90	\$17.05	\$20.79	\$23.02
<b>STEP 10</b>	\$15.20	\$17.40	\$21.21	\$23.48
<b>STEP 11</b>	\$15.50	\$17.74	\$21.63	\$23.95
<b>STEP 12</b>	\$15.81	\$18.10	\$22.07	\$24.43
<b>STEP 13</b>	\$16.13	\$18.46	\$22.51	\$24.91
<b>STEP 14</b>	\$16.45	\$18.83	\$22.96	\$25.41
<b>STEP 15</b>	\$16.78	\$19.21	\$23.42	\$25.92
<b>STEP 16</b>	\$17.12	\$19.59	\$23.89	\$26.44
<b>STEP 17</b>	\$17.46	\$19.98	\$24.36	\$26.97
<b>STEP 18</b>	\$17.81	\$20.38	\$24.85	\$27.51
<b>STEP 19</b>	\$18.17	\$20.79	\$25.35	\$28.06
<b>STEP 20</b>	\$18.53	\$21.20	\$25.86	\$28.62
<b>STEP 21</b>	\$18.90	\$21.63	\$26.37	\$29.19
<b>STEP 22</b>	\$19.28	\$22.06	\$26.90	\$29.78
<b>STEP 23</b>	\$19.66	\$22.50	\$27.44	\$30.37
<b>STEP 24</b>	\$20.06	\$22.95	\$27.99	\$30.98
<b>MAXIMUM-STEP 25</b>	\$20.46	\$23.41	\$28.55	\$31.60

<b>Step Schedule</b> <b>July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027</b>				
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MINIMUM</b>	\$12.97	\$14.85	\$18.10	\$20.04
<b>STEP 1</b>	\$12.97	\$14.85	\$18.10	\$20.04
<b>STEP 2</b>	\$12.97	\$14.85	\$18.10	\$20.04
<b>STEP 3</b>	\$13.23	\$15.14	\$18.47	\$20.44
<b>STEP 4</b>	\$13.50	\$15.45	\$18.83	\$20.85
<b>STEP 5</b>	\$13.77	\$15.76	\$19.21	\$21.26
<b>STEP 6</b>	\$14.04	\$16.07	\$19.60	\$21.69
<b>STEP 7</b>	\$14.32	\$16.39	\$19.99	\$22.12
<b>STEP 8</b>	\$14.61	\$16.72	\$20.39	\$22.57
<b>STEP 9</b>	\$14.90	\$17.05	\$20.79	\$23.02
<b>STEP 10</b>	\$15.20	\$17.40	\$21.21	\$23.48
<b>STEP 11</b>	\$15.50	\$17.74	\$21.63	\$23.95
<b>STEP 12</b>	\$15.81	\$18.10	\$22.07	\$24.43
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<b>STEP 14</b>	\$16.45	\$18.83	\$22.96	\$25.41
<b>STEP 15</b>	\$16.78	\$19.21	\$23.42	\$25.92
<b>STEP 16</b>	\$17.12	\$19.59	\$23.89	\$26.44
<b>STEP 17</b>	\$17.46	\$19.98	\$24.36	\$26.97
<b>STEP 18</b>	\$17.81	\$20.38	\$24.85	\$27.51
<b>STEP 19</b>	\$18.17	\$20.79	\$25.35	\$28.06
<b>STEP 20</b>	\$18.53	\$21.20	\$25.86	\$28.62
<b>STEP 21</b>	\$18.90	\$21.63	\$26.37	\$29.19
<b>STEP 22</b>	\$19.28	\$22.06	\$26.90	\$29.78
<b>STEP 23</b>	\$19.66	\$22.50	\$27.44	\$30.37
<b>STEP 24</b>	\$20.06	\$22.95	\$27.99	\$30.98
<b>MAXIMUM-STEP 25</b>	\$20.46	\$23.41	\$28.55	\$31.60

## **Section II**

# **Regular Part-Time Employees**



## **Article I - Recognition**

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See language for full-time employees...page 1

## **Article II – Non-Discrimination**

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See language for full-time employees...page 2

## **Article III – No Strikes or Lockouts**

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See language for full-time employees...page 2

## **Article IV – Management Rights**

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See language for full-time employees...page 3

## **Article V – Association Security and Dues Check Off**

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See language for full-time employees...page 3

## **Article VI – Association Visitation – Bulletin Boards**

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See language for full-time employees...page 3

## Article VII – Hours of Work

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- A. The College has the sole and exclusive right to determine work schedules. The work week shall normally consist of nineteen (19.0) hours per week; however, the work week, days, and hours shall be determined in accordance with College direction and need.
- B. An employee will not be required to work on Sunday as part of their pre-established regular work schedule.

## Article IX – Seniority

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- A. For purposes of this agreement, the term seniority is defined as the beginning date of their continuous service with the College as a regular part-time employee. Seniority will be applicable to part-time positions only for the purpose of bumping less senior employees within that group.
- B. An employee's continuous service shall be broken so that no prior period or periods of employment shall be counted and rights to seniority shall cease upon the following:
  - 1. Voluntary termination of employment.
  - 2. Discharge for just cause.
  - 3. When recalled after layoff, upon his failure to return to work within a period of five (5) work days after employee has received notification by certified mail to so return, provided, however, if the employee notifies the College by certified mail within the said time that they are not immediately available for work but wishes to remain on the seniority list, the employee should be retained on such list for a period of one (1) week, subject to an extension provided valid reason is given to the College.
  - 4. Acceptance of other employment while on authorized leave.
  - 5. Layoff in excess of six (6) months.
  - 6. Failure to report to work in excess of three (3) days for any reason excluding those in section E.
- C. When an employee whose continuous service has been broken by any of the causes listed in section B above and is re-employed subsequent thereto, they shall begin as a new employee of the College.
- D. Newly hired regular part-time employees shall be regarded as probationary employees for the first sixty (60) working days of their employment and shall not be entitled to seniority during that period. Upon successful completion of this period of sixty (60) working days, the seniority of such employees shall be effective as of their most recent date of placement on the payroll.
- E. Absence due to sickness for which the employee receives workers' compensation or other approved leave of absence shall not constitute an interruption of continuous service.

- F. The College shall furnish the Association with an updated seniority list of the employees, as defined in Article I hereof, on September 1 of each year; and shall update such list as necessary.
- G. The seniority of employees who are hired on the same day shall be determined by the drawing of lots.

## Article X – Vacancies

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### A. Filling of Vacancies

1. A regular part-time employee may apply for a posted position, provided they possess the required qualifications, skills, and ability. All applicants will be required to complete testing requirements for the position for which they are applying. Applicants shall not be required to complete testing requirements when they have applied for a lateral vacancy and completed the same testing for their previous position.
2. The College reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be awarded any vacancy. However, current employees who are relatively equal in qualifications will be given due consideration in filling a vacancy in order of greatest seniority. In the event the vacancy is not filled from within the Association, as defined in Article I hereof, the College may fill the vacancy from outside the Association.
3. It is understood and agreed that all employees who fill a vacancy shall be subject to a ten (10) work day trial period in which the employee must demonstrate that they possess the requisite skills and ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.
4. In the event the employee does not qualify within said ten (10) work day period, they shall be permitted to return to their former job without loss of seniority. An employee may, within said ten (10) work days, voluntarily return to their former job without a loss of seniority. Further, the College may discontinue the trial period within five (5) work days for any employee it deems not qualified to fill said vacancy. The Association reserves the right to grieve the discontinuance of a trial period.
5. The College agrees to notify employees who have applied for an opening the disposition of their application immediately upon the appointment of the successful applicant.

## Article XII – Layoff

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- A. Whenever it is necessary to reduce the working force of the College, employees shall be given a minimum of one (1) week advanced written notification of layoff indicating the reasons for such action.
- B. If the experience, skill and ability of two (2) or more employees having the same classification are substantially equal, layoffs shall be in the inverse order of seniority.
- C. Employees shall be recalled on the basis of seniority to positions for which they are qualified.

- D. In all cases of layoff or the abolition of position, an affected employee has the right to exercise their seniority and bump the least senior employee within their own or lower-rated classification, provided they have the qualifications, skills, and ability to do the job.
- E. In the event an employee's position is abolished and the employee is laid off, said employee shall be retained on a recall list for a period of six (6) months. The College agrees to mail a vacancy announcement to any employee who is qualified to fill such vacancy in accordance with the requirements of Article X hereof.

## **Article XIII – Personnel Files**

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See language for full-time employees...page 8

## **Article XV – Holidays**

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- A. Regular part-time employees shall receive their regular pay for the following holidays:
  - 1. New Year's Day
  - 2. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  - 3. Memorial Day
  - 4. Independence Day
  - 5. Labor Day
  - 6. Thanksgiving Day
  - 7. December 25
- B. An employee required to work on any of the holidays specified in section A will receive one and one-half (1-1/2) times their straight-time hourly rate, plus holiday pay at straight time, or two and one-half (2-1/2) times their normal rate of pay for all such hours worked.
- C. Monday shall be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Sunday, and Friday shall be recognized as a holiday for all holidays occurring on Saturday.

## **Article XVII – Leaves of Absence**

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### **A. Childbirth Leave**

- 1. A pregnant employee shall be granted unpaid childbirth leave for a maximum of six (6) weeks as certified by her attending physician.
- 2. A pregnant employee shall submit written notification to her immediate supervisor of the anticipated duration of the childbirth leave at least one (1) week in advance, if possible, of the commencement of the leave period.

3. A pregnant employee shall not be required to leave prior to the childbirth unless she can no longer satisfactorily perform the duties of her position.
4. Every employee shall have the right to return to the same position she held before going on childbirth leave. If the position has been abolished, she shall have the right to return to an equivalent position.
5. Upon return from childbirth leave, the employee shall retain all seniority and pension rights to which she had been entitled had she been in regular service of the College.

#### **B. Work-Related Disability**

1. An employee who sustains a work-related injury must follow the college's procedure for dealing with injury or illness which includes being treated by a physician that is on the college's Worker's Compensation Physicians' Panel.
2. An employee who sustains a work-related injury, as a result of which they are disabled, shall receive the disability payment to which they may be entitled under workers' compensation, social security, or other applicable disability benefit. This payment shall be made only for periods during which the employee would have been working.

#### **C. Bereavement Leave**

1. Employees may make up lost time due to bereavement, provided such make up time is approved by the employee's supervisor and the make-up day(s) occur within ten (10) days of the time off due to bereavement; and the absence is not in excess of the following:

5 Days	4 Days	2 Days	1 Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse</li> <li>• Child</li> <li>• Parent</li> <li>• Brother</li> <li>• Sister</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Son-in-law</li> <li>• Daughter-in-law</li> <li>• Parent-in-law</li> <li>• Grandchild</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grandparent</li> <li>• Brother-in-law</li> <li>• Sister-in-law</li> <li>• Uncle</li> <li>• Aunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niece</li> <li>• Nephew</li> </ul>

2. The College may grant an exception of bereavement leave as defined in section C.1 above.

#### **D. Sick Leave**

Employees may make up lost time due to personal sickness; provided such make up time is approved by the employee's supervisor and the make-up day(s) occur within ten (10) days of the date of illness.

#### **E. Jury Duty**

An employee called for jury duty or subpoenaed to appear in court as a Commonwealth witness will be granted a leave of absence and paid the difference between their daily rate and moneys received from the court except mileage reimbursement. Evidence in the form of a subpoena or official notification from court shall be presented to the Director of Human Resources or their designee as far in advance as possible. The employee is expected to report for regular duties when attendance at court is not required.

#### **F. Military Leave**

1. Employees who are members of Reserve components of the Armed Forces are entitled to leave with pay on all working days not exceeding fifteen (15) days in any calendar year during which they are engaged in field training authorized by the Federal Forces.
2. Employees who are members of the Pennsylvania National Guard are entitled to leave with pay on all days during which they shall, as members of the National Guard, be engaged in the active service of the Commonwealth or in authorized field training, consistent with the Military Code of 1949.

#### **G. Miscellaneous Leave Without Pay**

Employees may be granted leave without pay or benefit at the sole discretion of the administration for any reason and period of time in excess of five (5) days that may be authorized by the administration. The administration shall act on requests for leave within twenty (20) days of submission and if denied, shall state the reasons in writing.

### **Article XVIII – Association**

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See language for full-time employees...page 13

### **Article XIX – Wages - Benefits**

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- A. The wages applicable to regular part-time employees covered herein are fully set forth in Appendix A and attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- B. Regular part-time employees shall participate under one (1) of the following three (3) retirement programs: Retirement benefits under one of the following three (3) programs:
  - (a) **SERS** – As of July 1, 2015 SERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the College.
  - (b) **PSERS** – As of July 1, 2015 PSERS retirement plan election will only be offered to those current and newly hired employees with previous enrollment and active membership prior to becoming eligible for retirement benefits through the College.

- (c) **TIAA** – The College shall provide a percentage contribution of the total wage of each regular part-time employee participating in the TIAA retirement program in accordance with the following:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>% of Contribution</b>
2022-23	10.00
2023-24	10.00
2024-25	10.00
2025-26	10.00
2026-27	10.00

### **C. Tuition Waiver**

All part-time employees, their spouses, and dependents as defined by the Internal Revenue Service shall be permitted to take courses at the College without tuition charge. In the event an employee dies, retires, or is disabled, this privilege is continued for a period not to exceed five (5) years. In addition, the College will waive the general fee.

## **Article XX – Just Cause**

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See language for full-time employees...page 17

## **Article XXI – New or Changed Job**

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See language for full-time employees...page 17

## **Article XXII – Shift Differential**

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See language for full-time employees...page 18

## **Article XXV – Miscellaneous**

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See language for full-time employees...page 18

## **Article XXVI – Grievance Procedure**

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## **Article XXVII – Legality**

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## **Article XXIX – Headings**

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See language for full-time employees...page 22

## **Article XXX – Safety & Security**

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See language for full-time employees...page 22

## **Article XXXI – Term of Agreement**

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See language for full-time employees...page 23



## Appendix A – Table I

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### ALLOCATION OF PART-TIME POSITIONS TO PAY GRADES

Effective July 1, 2022 and throughout the life of this agreement, the allocation of positions to appropriate pay levels shall be as follows:

<b>GRADE I</b>
Advanced Technology Lab Aide
Education Center Clerk
Office Support Clerk
TRIO Grant Clerk
Custodian
<b>GRADE II</b>
Division Clerk
<b>GRADE III</b>
Career Connector
Enrollment Center Technician
Information Center Technician
Job Developer/Counselor
<b>GRADE IV</b>
No Part-Time Positions In This Pay Grade

## Appendix A – Table II - Wages

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### WAGES – CURRENT AND NEW EMPLOYEES

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 628 Session of  
2005

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Report of the Committee of Conference

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To the Members of the House of Representatives and Senate:

We, the undersigned, Committee of Conference on the part of the House of Representatives and Senate for the purpose of considering House Bill No. 628, entitled:  
"An act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled 'An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto,' further providing for annual budget; prescribing a penalty; and making an editorial change,"

respectfully submit the following bill as our report:

JESS M. STAIRS

MICHAEL DIVEN

MICHAEL F. GERBER

(Committee on the part of the House of Representatives.)

JAMES J. RHOADES

DAVID J. BRIGHTBILL

RAPHAEL J. MUSTO

(Committee on the part of the Senate.)

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," further providing, in school  
6 finances, for annual budget, and in teacher certification,  
7 for program of continuing professional development; providing  
8 for, in teacher certification, evaluation of applicants;  
9 further providing, in pupils and attendance, for fixing the  
10 cost of certain tuition, for cost of tuition and maintenance  
11 of certain exceptional children in approved institutions and  
12 in chartered schools for the education of the deaf and the  
13 blind; further providing for educational assistance program  
14 and educational support services, for definitions, for  
15 notification and for the program; further providing, in Head  
16 Start supplemental assistance, for definitions, for the  
17 program and for priority in funding; providing for  
18 opportunities for educational excellence through concurrent  
19 enrollment; further providing, in education empowerment, for  
20 education empowerment districts and for mandate waiver  
21 program, and, in community colleges, for definitions, for  
22 financial program and for payment reimbursement; providing,  
23 in community colleges, for establishment of the Community  
24 College Capital Fund and for annual reports; further  
25 providing, in the State System of Higher Education, for  
26 annual audits and, in educational improvement tax credit, for  
27 qualification and application and for limitations on amount  
28 of tax credits; further providing, in school district  
29 reimbursement, for definitions, for small district assistance  
30 and for temporary special aid; providing for basic education  
31 funding for 2004-2005 school year; further providing for  
32 payments on account of limited English proficiency programs,  
33 for payments to intermediate units and for special education  
34 payments; providing, in school district reimbursement, for  
35 effect of failure to file certain reports; further providing,  
36 in school district reimbursement, for approved reimbursable  
37 rental for leases and sinking fund and for Pennsylvania  
38 Accountability Grants; and making an inconsistent repeal  
39 relating to the Workforce Development Act.

40 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
41 hereby enacts as follows:

42 Section 1. Section 687(a) and (j) of the act of March 10,  
43 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
44 amended July 4, 2004 (P.L.536, No.70), are amended to read:

45 Section 687. Annual Budget; Additional or Increased  
46 Appropriations; Transfer of Funds.--(a) (1) The board of  
47 school directors of each school district of the second, third,  
48 or fourth class shall, annually, at least thirty (30) days prior

1 to the adoption of the annual budget, prepare a proposed budget  
2 of the amount of funds that will be required by the school  
3 district in its several departments for the following fiscal  
4 year. Such proposed budget shall be prepared on a uniform form,  
5 prepared and furnished by the Department of [Public Instruction,  
6 and shall be apportioned to the several classes of expenditures  
7 of the district as the board of school directors thereof may  
8 determine.] Education. The uniform form shall require  
9 identification of specific function, subfunction and major  
10 object of expenditure. On the date of adoption of the proposed  
11 budget required under this section, the president of the board  
12 of school directors shall certify to the Department of Education  
13 that the proposed budget has been prepared, presented and will  
14 be made available for public inspection using the uniform form  
15 prepared and furnished by the Department of Education. The  
16 certification shall be in a form and manner as required by the  
17 Department of Education. Final action shall not be taken on any  
18 proposed budget that has not been prepared, presented and made  
19 available for public inspection using the uniform form prepared  
20 and furnished by the Department of Education. Final action shall  
21 not be taken on any proposed budget[,] in which the estimated  
22 expenditures exceed two thousand dollars (\$2000)[,] until after  
23 ten (10) days' public notice. Nothing in this act shall be  
24 construed to prevent any school district[,] whose total  
25 estimated expenditures do not exceed two thousand dollars  
26 (\$2000)[,] from holding a public hearing.

27 (2) (i) The proposed budget, on the uniform form required  
28 by the Department of Education, shall be printed[,] or otherwise  
29 made available for public inspection to all persons [who may  
30 interest themselves,] and shall be made available for



duplication to any person, on request, at least twenty (20) days prior to the date set for the adoption of the budget.

(ii) Fees for duplication under this paragraph by photocopying, printing from electronic media or microfilm, copying onto electronic media, transmission by facsimile or other electronic means and other means of duplication must be reasonable and based on prevailing fees for comparable duplication services provided by local business entities.

\* \* \*

(j) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, the board of school directors of each school district may reopen its 2003-2004 budget [or], its 2004-2005 budget or its 2005-2006 budget to reflect any State allocations for fiscal year 2003-2004 [or], fiscal year 2004-2005 or fiscal year 2005-2006 provided by the General Assembly through this act.

Section 2. Section 1205.2(a), (h) and (o) of the act, added November 23, 1999 (P.L.529, No.48), are amended and the section is amended by adding subsections to read:

Section 1205.2. Program of Continuing Professional Education.--(a) A continuing professional education program is hereby established for professional educators, the satisfactory completion of which is required to maintain active certification. [The] Except as provided in subsection (j.1), the continuing professional education program shall require the satisfactory completion of continuing professional education every five (5) years, which shall include:

(1) six (6) credits of collegiate study;

(2) six (6) credits of continuing professional education courses;

(3) one hundred eighty (180) hours of continuing

1 professional education programs, activities or learning  
2 experiences; or

3 (4) any combination of collegiate studies, continuing  
4 professional education courses, or other programs, activities or  
5 learning experiences equivalent to one hundred eighty (180)  
6 hours.

7 \* \* \*

8 (h) The department shall provide the following information  
9 to professional educators and school entities:

10 (1) Notice of the number of credits or hours needed for a  
11 professional educator to comply with this section, as of the  
12 date on which such notice is given. Such notice shall be  
13 provided no later twelve (12) months prior to the end of a  
14 professional educator's five-year compliance period. For  
15 professional educators who have not completed sufficient credits  
16 or hours to comply with this section, such notice shall be  
17 provided in writing and mailed to the most recent address on  
18 record with the department. For professional educators who have  
19 completed sufficient credits or hours to comply with this  
20 section, such notice shall be provided by electronic means,  
21 which shall include a notation on the electronic system  
22 maintained by the department pursuant to subsection (g)  
23 affirming that the professional educator has completed  
24 sufficient credits or hours to comply with this section.

25 (2) Reasonable access to reports and records relating to a  
26 professional educator's continuing professional education.

27 (3) Notice of inactive certification requested by a  
28 professional educator.

29 (4) Notice of inactive certification due to failure of the  
30 professional educator to meet the requirements of this section,

whether or not the individual is employed by a school entity.

(5) Notice of reinstatement.

(h.1) Whenever a professional educator moves from the address named in the application for State certification or from the professional educator's current address, such professional educator shall notify the department and provide the department with the most current address. Notification shall be made in a form and manner determined by the department.

\* \* \*

(j.1) (1) The continuing professional education program shall require satisfactory completion of continuing professional education by April 30, 2006, for a professional educator who:

(i) was certified prior to May 1, 2001;

(ii) was not provided written notice as required under subsection (h)(1); and

(iii) has not satisfactorily completed continuing professional education as required under subsection (a).

(2) After a professional educator to whom this subsection applies completes the credits or hours needed to satisfy the requirements of the initial compliance period, any record of additional credits or hours shall be credited toward the subsequent compliance period: Provided, That credits or hours credited to a professional educator as a result of the satisfactory completion of an individual course of collegiate studies, an individual continuing professional education course, or an individual program, activity or learning experience shall not be divided between the initial compliance period and the subsequent compliance period but shall be credited toward only one compliance period.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to delay

or extend the initial or subsequent compliance periods for a professional educator to whom this subsection applies.

(4) This subsection shall expire May 1, 2006.

(j.2) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (h)(1), the department shall provide a professional educator to whom subsection (j.1) applies with written notice of the number of credits or hours needed for the professional educator to comply with this section as of the date on which such notice is given. Such notice shall be provided immediately and shall be mailed to the most recent address on record with the department.

(2) This subsection shall expire May 1, 2006.

\* \* \*

(o) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Approved provider" is an institution of higher education, school entity, individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company or association approved by the department to provide continuing professional education credits or hours under this section. Provided, a school entity may approve a provider of continuing professional education credits or hours in accordance with department guidelines.

"Area of a professional educator's assignment or certification" shall mean any component of the education profession as it relates to the current job title or description of the professional educator or to any area of certification listed on the professional employee's Pennsylvania certification or to the type of certificate or endorsement held by the professional educator.

"Collegiate studies" shall mean a formal program or course of

1 study at an institution of higher education leading to the award  
2 of academic credit.

3 "Compliance period" shall mean the period of time in which a  
4 professional educator must satisfactorily complete continuing  
5 professional education as required under subsection (a) and  
6 which concludes every five years beginning:

7 (1) July 1, 2000, for those professional educators who were  
8 issued a State certificate prior to July 1, 2000; or

9 (2) on the date on which the professional educator is issued  
10 a State certificate for those professional educators who were  
11 certified after July 1, 2000.

12 "Continuing professional education courses" shall mean  
13 courses for credit, other than collegiate studies, conducted by  
14 providers approved by the department.

15 "Professional educator" shall mean an individual who holds a  
16 Pennsylvania teacher, educational specialist or administrative  
17 certification or letter of eligibility.

18 "School entity" shall mean a school district, an intermediate  
19 unit, a joint school district, an area vocational-technical  
20 school, a charter school, the Scotland School for Veterans'  
21 Children and the Scranton School for the Deaf or any of these  
22 acting jointly.

23 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

24 Section 1216. Evaluation of Applications for  
25 Certification.--(a) All applications for certification shall be  
26 evaluated in their entirety. The Department of Education shall  
27 notify the applicant if the application is incomplete and  
28 include a listing of all materials or information needed to  
29 complete the application. The applicant's pending application  
30 shall remain open for one year following the date of such

1 notification. No letter of denial of certification shall be  
2 issued unless all deficiencies in the application are stated in  
3 the letter of denial.

4 (b) The grade point average used by the department in  
5 evaluating the grade point average requirements for  
6 certification pursuant to 22 Pa.Code § 354.24 (relating to  
7 academic performance) shall be as follows:

8 (1) For applicants whose initial preparation culminated in a  
9 bachelor's degree or higher prior to October 7, 2000, the grade  
10 point average in effect on the date of application for  
11 certification.

12 (2) For applicants whose initial preparation culminates in a  
13 bachelor's degree or higher on or after October 7, 2000, the  
14 grade point average in effect on the date of graduation.

15 Section 4. Section 1309(b) of the act, amended June 30, 1995  
16 (P.L.220, No.26), is amended to read:

17 Section 1309. Cost of Tuition; How Fixed.--\* \* \*

18 (b) [The] For students who the Secretary of Education has  
19 determined are legal residents of Pennsylvania without fixed  
20 districts of residence, the tuition herein provided for shall be  
21 paid annually by the Secretary of Education[,]. For all other  
22 students, the tuition herein provided shall be paid by the  
23 district of residence or the institution as the case may be[.]  
24 within thirty (30) days of its receipt of an invoice from the  
25 district in which the institution is located.

26 Section 5. Sections 1376(c.2) and 1376.1(f) of the act,  
27 amended July 4, 2004 (P.L.536, No.70), are amended and the  
28 sections are amended by adding subsections to read:

29 Section 1376. Cost of Tuition and Maintenance of Certain  
30 Exceptional Children in Approved Institutions.--\* \* \*

1 (c.2) [Beginning with payments made in the 2004-2005 school  
2 year and each school year thereafter, the Department of  
3 Education shall establish procedures and audit standards to  
4 govern the scope of reportable costs, the format of the audit  
5 and the standards and methods used by the Commonwealth to audit  
6 attendance. Each approved private school shall submit a cost  
7 report of its expenditures for the prior fiscal year to the  
8 Department of Education no later than August 1, 2004, and no  
9 later than August 1 of each year thereafter. Audit reports of  
10 expenditures for the prior fiscal year prepared by an  
11 independent certified public accountant shall be prepared in  
12 accordance with the established procedures and audit standards  
13 and submitted by the approved private school to the Department  
14 of Education by November 1, 2005, and no later than November 1  
15 of each year thereafter. For payments in the 2004-2005 school  
16 year, the Department of Education shall issue guidelines for  
17 budget and audit standards no later than October 15, 2004. For  
18 payments in the 2005-2006 school year and each school year  
19 thereafter, the Department of Education shall annually issue  
20 guidelines for budget and audit standards at least three (3)  
21 months prior to the date that the approved private schools must  
22 submit their budget information pursuant to subsection (c.4).  
23 These guidelines shall include provisions for audit methodology  
24 and a definition of allowable administrative expenditures.  
25 Allowable administrative expenditures shall not exceed ten  
26 percent (10%) of each approved private school's budget. Each  
27 audit shall identify expenditures and include all spending on  
28 students for whom payment is made pursuant to subsection (a) or  
29 (b) and shall identify the source and amount of all revenue used  
30 to educate students for whom payment is made pursuant to

subsection (a) or (b). Work papers pertaining to the audit of an approved private school by an independent certified public accountant shall be made available to the Department of Education upon request. Audits of cost reports submitted for school years prior to the 2004-2005 school year shall be completed in a manner consistent with prior audit practices. An approved private school may submit an audit for the 2003-2004 school year prepared by an independent certified public accountant provided the following have occurred:

(1) The Department of Education has failed to process and settle the cost reports within twelve (12) months from submission by the approved private school.

(2) The Department of Education has failed to settle any appeals or postsettlement resolution within fifteen (15) months from submission by the approved private school.

(3) The approved private school has responded to reasonable requests for information and documents by the Department of Education.

Upon receipt of the independent audit for the 2003-2004 school year, the Department of Education shall have three (3) months to review the audit and settle any outstanding payments due to or from the approved private school.]

(4) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year and each school year thereafter, each approved private school shall maintain an accounting and bookkeeping system and be subject to audit as provided in standards promulgated by the Department of Education. Such standards shall require that each approved private school submit an audit to the Department of Education by November 1 of each year. Such audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards by an



independent certified public accountant. Such standards shall include a definition of administrative costs, which costs shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of each approved private school's total costs.

(5) (i) Where the amount of an approved private school's reportable costs in the 2004-2005 fiscal year is less than the amount of revenues received by the approved private school for the 2004-2005 fiscal year from the Commonwealth for the provision of educational services to children who have been approved by the Department of Education, the difference may be retained by the approved private school for use in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

(ii) Beginning in the 2005-2006 fiscal year, where the amount of reportable costs in a fiscal year is less than the amount of revenues received in that fiscal year by the approved private school from the Commonwealth for the provision of educational services to children who have been approved by the Department of Education, the approved private school shall remit the difference to the Commonwealth. Any such funds shall be deposited in the Audit Resolution Fund for the resolution of previous audits.

(6) Audits of cost reports submitted for school years prior to the 2004-2005 school year shall be completed in a manner consistent with prior audit practices. An approved private school may submit an audit for the 2003-2004 school year prepared by an independent certified public accountant provided the following have occurred:

(i) The Department of Education has failed to process and settle the cost reports within twelve (12) months from submission by the approved private school.

1       (ii) The Department of Education has failed to settle any  
2 appeals or postsettlement resolution within fifteen (15) months  
3 from submission by the approved private school.

4       (iii) The approved private school has responded to  
5 reasonable requests for information and documents by the  
6 Department of Education.

7 Upon receipt of the independent audit for the 2003-2004 school  
8 year, the Department of Education shall have three (3) months to  
9 review the audit and settle any outstanding payments due to or  
10 from the approved private school.

11       \* \* \*

12       (c.8) Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this  
13 subsection, the Department of Education shall promulgate interim  
14 standards necessary to implement subsection (c.2) which shall be  
15 published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. The interim standards  
16 shall not be subject to review pursuant to the act of June 25,  
17 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act,"  
18 and shall not be subject to sections 201 through 205 of the act  
19 of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the  
20 Commonwealth Documents Law. The interim standards shall apply to  
21 audits conducted after July 1, 2005. Within one year of  
22 publication of the interim standards in the Pennsylvania  
23 Bulletin, the Department of Education shall deposit proposed  
24 standards. The interim standards shall remain in effect until  
25 the effective date of the final standards.

26       \* \* \*

27       Section 1376.1. Actual Cost of Tuition and Maintenance of  
28 Certain Exceptional Children in the Four Chartered Schools for  
29 Education of the Deaf and the Blind.--\* \* \*

30       (f) [Beginning with payments made in the 2004-2005 school

1 year and each school year thereafter, the department shall  
2 establish procedures and audit standards to govern the scope of  
3 reportable costs, the format of the audit and the standards and  
4 methods used by the Commonwealth to audit attendance. Each  
5 chartered school shall submit a cost report of its expenditures  
6 for the prior fiscal year to the department no later than August  
7 1, 2004, and each August 1 thereafter. Audit reports of  
8 expenditures for the prior fiscal year prepared by an  
9 independent certified public accountant shall be prepared in  
10 accordance with established procedures and audit standards and  
11 submitted by the chartered school to the department by November  
12 1, 2005, and no later than November 1 of each year thereafter.  
13 For payments in the 2004-2005 school year, the department shall  
14 issue guidelines for budget and audit standards no later than  
15 October 15, 2004. For payments in the 2005-2006 school year and  
16 each school year thereafter, the department shall annually issue  
17 guidelines for budget and audit standards at least three (3)  
18 months prior to the date that the chartered schools must submit  
19 their budget information pursuant to subsection (f.2). The  
20 guidelines shall include provisions for audit methodology and a  
21 definition of allowable administrative expenditures. Allowable  
22 administrative expenditures shall not exceed ten percent (10%)  
23 of each chartered school's budget. Each audit shall identify  
24 expenditures, shall include all spending on students for whom  
25 payment is made pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) and shall  
26 identify the source and amount of all revenue used to educate  
27 students for whom payment is made pursuant to subsection (b) or  
28 (c). Work papers pertaining to the audit of a chartered school  
29 by an independent certified public accountant shall be made  
30 available to the department upon request. Audits of cost reports

1 submitted for school years prior to the 2004-2005 school year  
2 shall be completed in a manner consistent with prior audit  
3 practices. A chartered school may submit an audit for the 2003-  
4 2004 school year prepared by an independent certified public  
5 accountant provided the following have occurred:

6 (1) The department has failed to process and settle the cost  
7 reports within twelve (12) months from submission by the  
8 chartered school.

9 (2) The department has failed to settle any appeals or  
10 postsettlement resolution within fifteen (15) months from  
11 submission by the chartered school.

12 (3) The chartered school has responded to reasonable  
13 requests for information and documents by the department.  
14 Upon receipt of the independent audit for the 2003-2004 school  
15 year, the department shall have three (3) months to review the  
16 audit and settle any outstanding payments due to or from the  
17 chartered school.]

18 (4) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year and each school  
19 year thereafter, each chartered school shall maintain an  
20 accounting and bookkeeping system and be subject to audit as  
21 provided in standards promulgated by the Department of  
22 Education. Such standards shall require that each chartered  
23 school submit an audit to the department by November 1 of each  
24 year. Such audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally  
25 accepted accounting standards by an independent certified public  
26 accountant. Such standards shall include a definition of  
27 administrative costs, which costs shall not exceed ten percent  
28 (10%) of each approved chartered school's total costs.

29 (5) (i) Where the amount of a chartered school's reportable  
30 costs in the 2004-2005 fiscal year is less than the amount of

revenues received by the chartered school for the 2004-2005 fiscal year from the Commonwealth for the provision of educational services to children who have been approved by the Department of Education, the difference may be retained by the chartered school for use in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

(ii) Beginning in the 2005-2006 fiscal year, where the amount of reportable costs in a fiscal year is less than the amount of revenues received in that fiscal year by the chartered school from the Commonwealth for the provision of educational services to children who have been approved by the Department of Education, the chartered school shall remit the difference to the Commonwealth. Any such funds shall be deposited in the Audit Resolution Fund for the resolution of previous audits.

(6) Audits of cost reports submitted for school years prior to the 2004-2005 school year shall be completed in a manner consistent with prior audit practices. A chartered school may submit an audit for the 2003-2004 school year prepared by an independent certified public accountant provided the following have occurred:

(i) The Department of Education has failed to process and settle the cost reports within twelve (12) months from submission by the chartered school.

(ii) The Department of Education has failed to settle any appeals or postsettlement resolution within fifteen (15) months from submission by the chartered school.

(iii) The chartered school has responded to reasonable requests for information and documents by the Department of Education.

Upon receipt of the independent audit for the 2003-2004 school year, the Department of Education shall have three (3) months to

1 review the audit and settle any outstanding payments due to or  
2 from the chartered school.

3 \* \* \*

4 (f.5) Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this  
5 subsection, the Department of Education shall promulgate interim  
6 standards necessary to implement subsection (f) which shall be  
7 published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. The interim standards  
8 shall not be subject to review pursuant to the act of June 25,  
9 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act,"  
10 and shall not be subject to sections 201 through 205 of the act  
11 of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the  
12 Commonwealth Documents Law. The interim standards shall apply to  
13 audits conducted after July 1, 2005. Within one year of  
14 publication of the interim standards in the Pennsylvania  
15 Bulletin, the Department of Education shall deposit proposed  
16 standards. The interim standards shall remain in effect until  
17 the effective date of the final standards.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 6. The definition of "eligible student" in section  
20 1501-C of the act, amended December 23, 2003 (P.L.304, No.48),  
21 is amended and the section is amended by adding definitions to  
22 read:

23 Section 1501-C. Definitions.

24 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
25 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
26 context clearly indicates otherwise:

27 "2005 mathematics proficiency target." Forty-five percent of  
28 students in a school entity scoring at a level equal to or above  
29 proficient on the PSSA test in mathematics administered to  
30 students in a school with an eleventh grade in the 2003-2004

1 school year.

2 "2005 reading proficiency target." Fifty-four percent of  
3 students in a school entity scoring at a level equal to or above  
4 proficient on the PSSA test in reading administered to students  
5 in a school with an eleventh grade in the 2003-2004 school year.

6 \* \* \*

7 "Eligible student." A resident of this Commonwealth who is  
8 enrolled full time in kindergarten through [ninth] twelfth grade  
9 in a school entity and is deemed eligible pursuant to section  
10 1502-C(b) or section 1512-C(b).

11 \* \* \*

12 Section 7. Section 1506-C of the act, amended December 23,  
13 2003 (P.L.304, No.48), is amended to read:

14 Section 1506-C. Notification of program.

15 A school entity in this Commonwealth shall notify parents of  
16 the availability of education support services and tutoring  
17 under the educational assistance program at such time as the  
18 parents receive the results of any eligibility test[.] or  
19 whenever the school entity recommends tutoring under the  
20 educational assistance program.

21 Section 8. Section 1512-C(b), (e), (g) and (h.1) of the act,  
22 amended or added December 23, 2003 (P.L.304, No.48) and July 4,  
23 2004 (P.L.536, No.70), are amended to read:

24 Section 1512-C. Educational Assistance Program.

25 \* \* \*

26 (b) Eligibility.--A student shall be eligible for tutoring  
27 services under this section where such student is enrolled full  
28 time in an eligible school entity and:

29 (1) scored below proficient on a Pennsylvania System of  
30 School Assessment test in a subject area required under the

1 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 [in the immediate preceding  
2 school year]; or

3 (2) is enrolled in kindergarten through third grade and  
4 scored below the score approved by the department under  
5 section 1502-C(b) on any other eligibility test[.]; or

6 (3) has been recommended for tutoring by the school  
7 entity.

8 \* \* \*

9 (e) Tutoring services.--Tutoring services provided under  
10 this section shall include intensive instruction in those  
11 subject areas assessed through a Pennsylvania System of School  
12 Assessment test and required under the No Child Left Behind Act  
13 of 2001. Such tutoring services may:

14 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1502, be  
15 provided outside of the normal school day and hours of the  
16 school entity, including mornings, evenings, weekends and  
17 during the summer months.

18 (2) Take place on an individual or small group basis,  
19 provided that tutoring services may be provided to no more  
20 than ten students in a given class at a given time during the  
21 school term and no more than 15 students during the summer  
22 months.

23 (3) Be provided during the normal school day and hours  
24 of the school entity, provided that the tutoring is in  
25 addition to and does not interfere with an eligible student's  
26 regularly scheduled classroom instruction times and does not  
27 supplant services required in a student's individualized  
28 education program.

29 \* \* \*

30 (g) Educational assistance funding.--



1           (1) During the 2003-2004 [and], 2004-2005 and 2005-2006  
2 school years, the department shall provide each eligible  
3 school entity with educational assistance funding calculated  
4 by:

5           (i) Dividing the number of Pennsylvania System of  
6 School Assessment tests administered in the eligible  
7 school entity on which students scored below proficient  
8 in reading or mathematics by the total number of  
9 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment tests  
10 administered in the eligible school entity in reading and  
11 mathematics during the 2002-2003 school year.

12           (ii) Multiplying the quotient from subparagraph (i)  
13 by the average daily membership of the eligible school  
14 entity during the 2002-2003 school year.

15           (iii) Multiplying the product from subparagraph (ii)  
16 by the dollar value of funds appropriated to the  
17 Department of Education for the Educational Assistance  
18 Program in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

19           (iv) Dividing the product from subparagraph (iii) by  
20 the sum of the products of subparagraph (ii) for all  
21 eligible school entities that qualify for grant funds  
22 under this [subsection] paragraph.

23       (1.1) During the 2005-2006 school year, the department  
24 shall provide each school entity with at least one school  
25 that has failed to achieve its 2005 mathematics proficiency  
26 target or its 2005 reading proficiency target with  
27 educational assistance funding for the support of tutoring  
28 services to eligible students enrolled in seventh through  
29 twelfth grade. Such funding shall be calculated as follows:

30           (i) Dividing the number of Pennsylvania System of

School Assessment tests administered in the eligible school entity to eleventh grade students on which such students scored below the 2005 reading or mathematics proficiency target by the total number of Pennsylvania System of School Assessment tests administered in the eligible school entity to eleventh grade students in reading and mathematics during the 2003-2004 school year.

(ii) Multiplying the quotient from subparagraph (i) by the average daily membership of the eligible school entity during the 2004-2005 school year.

(iii) Multiplying the product from subparagraph (ii) by the difference between the dollar value of funds appropriated to the department for the educational assistance program in the 2004-2005 fiscal year and the dollar value of funds appropriated to the department for the educational assistance program in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

(iv) Dividing the product from subparagraph (iii) by the sum of the products of subparagraph (ii) for all eligible school entities that qualify for grant funds under this paragraph.

(2) The amount of educational assistance funding provided under this article shall be limited to funds appropriated for this purpose.

\* \* \*

(h.1) Redistribution of funds.--For the 2004-2005 school year and each school year thereafter, an eligible school entity that chooses not to receive educational assistance funding under subsection (g) shall forfeit the right to such funds. Such funds shall then be distributed on a pro rata basis among all other

1 eligible school entities choosing to receive educational  
2 assistance funding under subsection (g).

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 9. Section 1501-D of the act is amended by adding a  
5 definition to read:

6 Section 1501-D. Definitions.

7 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
8 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
9 context clearly indicates otherwise:

10 \* \* \*

11 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,  
12 independent school or an intermediate unit.

13 Section 10. Sections 1502-D(b) and (d) and 1503-D of the  
14 act, added December 23, 2003 (P.L.304, No.48), are amended to  
15 read:

16 Section 1502-D. Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program.

17 \* \* \*

18 (b) Administration.--The department shall administer the  
19 program, consistent with Federal Head Start guidelines. [During  
20 the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the] The department shall provide  
21 supplemental financial assistance to existing providers of  
22 Federal Head Start services.

23 \* \* \*

24 (d) Criteria for funding.--To implement the program, the  
25 department shall request proposals from existing Head Start  
26 providers and may award grants or enter into service contracts  
27 with existing Head Start providers that meet all of the  
28 following criteria:

29 (1) Demonstrate the need for additional Head Start  
30 services in the provider's service area, whether the need is

determined by the percentage of eligible children who are not served in the provider's service area or by the demand for extended day services.

(2) Demonstrate the ability to expand staff, space or services [either] to serve additional children or to provide extended day services:

(i) within the Head Start program; [or]

(ii) in cooperation with licensed child-care centers or registered family or group day-care homes; [to serve additional children or to provide extended day services.] or

(iii) in cooperation with school entities.

(3) Demonstrate the ability to comply with Federal and State requirements for child-care service providers if the Head Start provider intends to provide extended day services.

(4) Demonstrate the ability to enter into a collaborative agreement with a [child-care service provider if the Head Start provider intends to enter into a collaborative agreement with a licensed child-care center or a registered family or group day-care home to offer extended day services.] school entity, a licensed child-care center or a group day-care home, or a registered family day-care home, if the head start provider intends to enter into a collaborative agreement.

Section 1503-D. Priority in funding.

[The] (a) General rule.--A Head Start provider that received a grant in the prior fiscal year shall be eligible to receive a grant in an amount equal to the grant received in the immediately preceding fiscal year, less any start-up costs. If by March 1 the Head Start provider did not enroll at least 90%

of the number of children it was approved to serve for that  
year, then the grant shall be reduced proportionally based on  
the number of children enrolled as of March 1.

(b) Priority for remaining funding.--For the remaining  
funds, the department shall give priority in funding to Head  
Start providers applying for grants to serve additional eligible  
children.

Section 11. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
article to read:

ARTICLE XVI-B

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATIONAL

EXCELLENCE

(a) Preliminary Provisions.

Section 1601-B. Scope of article.

This article deals with concurrent enrollment.

Section 1602-B. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this article  
shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Allowable tuition." The portion of tuition charged to a  
school entity that is eligible for grant funding under this  
article, which funding does not exceed:

(1) for any two-year postsecondary institution or  
eligible private licensed school, the advertised tuition rate  
charged by the institution for enrolled postsecondary  
students;

(2) for any four-year public or private postsecondary  
institution or eligible private licensed school, the tuition  
rate charged by the State System of Higher Education for

1 enrolled postsecondary students;

2 (3) for any postsecondary institution that offered  
3 postsecondary credit to students of the school entity prior  
4 to the effective date of this section, the tuition rate  
5 charged to those students; or

6 (4) for any early college high school program, middle  
7 college high school program or gateway to college program,  
8 the tuition charged for the program to a student's school  
9 district of residence.

10 "Concurrent course." A postsecondary course that meets the  
11 requirements under section 1605-B and that is included in a  
12 concurrent enrollment agreement. The term includes an early  
13 college high school program, a gateway to college program or a  
14 middle college high school program.

15 "Concurrent enrollment agreement." The written agreement  
16 between a school entity and each eligible postsecondary  
17 institution establishing and detailing a concurrent enrollment  
18 program.

19 "Concurrent enrollment committee." A committee comprised of  
20 representatives from a school entity and eligible postsecondary  
21 institutions with which it offers a concurrent enrollment  
22 program.

23 "Concurrent enrollment program." A program administered and  
24 developed by a school entity and an eligible postsecondary  
25 institution that allows students to concurrently enroll in  
26 postsecondary courses and to receive both secondary and  
27 postsecondary credit for that coursework. The term includes an  
28 early college high school program, a gateway to college program  
29 or a middle college high school program.

30 "Concurrent student." A student who is enrolled in a school

district, a charter school, an area vocational-technical school,  
a nonpublic school, a private school or a home education program  
under section 1327.1 and who takes a concurrent course through a  
concurrent enrollment program.

"Department." The Department of Education of the  
Commonwealth.

"Early college high school program." A concurrent enrollment  
program established under section 1611-B(a) that consists of a  
structured sequence of secondary and postsecondary coursework  
offered over a five-year to six-year period, the successful  
completion of which yields both a high school diploma and  
postsecondary credits equivalent to an associate of arts degree  
or credits sufficient to enter a bachelor of arts program as a  
junior.

"Eligible postsecondary institution." A nonprofit two-year  
or four-year public or private college or university or an  
eligible private licensed school approved to operate in this  
Commonwealth. The term does not include a foreign corporation.

"Eligible private licensed school." A private licensed  
school as defined in the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585,  
No.174), known as the Private Licensed Schools Act, that is  
authorized to confer the degree of Associate in Specialized  
Technology or Associate in Specialized Business.

"Gateway to college program." A concurrent enrollment  
program established under section 1611-B(a) that offers eligible  
participants the opportunity to enroll in postsecondary  
coursework that is aligned to State academic standards, the  
successful completion of which yields both a high school diploma  
and the accumulation of postsecondary credits.

"Household." An individual living alone or with the

1 following: spouse, parent and their unemancipated minor  
2 children; other unemancipated minor children who are related by  
3 blood or marriage; or other adults or unemancipated minor  
4 children living in the household who are dependent upon the  
5 individual.

6 "Household income." All money or property received of  
7 whatever nature and from whatever source derived. The term does  
8 not include the following:

9 (1) Periodic payments for sickness and disability other  
10 than regular wages received during a period of sickness or  
11 disability.

12 (2) Disability, retirement or other payments arising  
13 under workers compensation acts, occupational disease acts  
14 and similar legislation by any government.

15 (3) Payments commonly recognized as old-age or  
16 retirement benefits paid to persons retired from service  
17 after reaching a specific age or after a stated period of  
18 employment.

19 (4) Payments commonly known as public assistance or  
20 unemployment compensation from a governmental agency.

21 (5) Payments to reimburse actual expenses.

22 (6) Payments made by employers or labor unions for  
23 programs covering hospitalization, sickness, disability or  
24 death, supplemental unemployment benefits, strike benefits,  
25 Social Security and retirement.

26 (7) Compensation received by members of the United  
27 States Armed Forces serving in a combat zone.

28 "Low-income concurrent student." A concurrent student who is  
29 a member of a household with an annual household income less  
30 than or equal to 150% of the Federal income poverty guidelines



published by the Department of Health and Human Services.

"Middle college high school program." A concurrent enrollment program established under section 1611-B(a) that offers secondary and postsecondary coursework on the campus of an eligible postsecondary institution, the successful completion of which yields both a high school diploma and the accumulation of postsecondary credits.

"School entity." A school district or an area vocational-technical school.

"Total approved cost." The sum of the costs for allowable tuition, books and fees for any concurrent course and the cost of transportation to and from an eligible postsecondary institution where such transportation is provided by a school entity, as set forth in a concurrent enrollment agreement as required under section 1613-B(b).

Section 1603-B. Responsibilities of department and State Board of Education.

(a) Rules and regulations.--The State Board of Education shall promulgate any regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this article, pursuant to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act.

(b) Promotional materials.--The department shall publish promotional materials on its publicly accessible website that may be used by school entities to inform parents and students enrolled in the school entities about the requirements, features and opportunities of concurrent enrollment programs established under this article. To the extent that the department provides school entities with printed promotional materials for dissemination, the department shall make such materials available, upon request, to any charter school, nonpublic

1 school, private school or home education program.

2 (c) Grants.--

3 (1) The department shall provide a grant to any school  
4 entity that has applied for grant funds under section 1611-  
5 B(c) and has approved a concurrent enrollment program as set  
6 forth in this article. The grant amount to each school entity  
7 shall be calculated for each concurrent course as follows:

8 (i) Determine the total approved cost for all  
9 concurrent students who are residents of the school  
10 district or enrolled in the area vocational-technical  
11 school.

12 (ii) Multiply the amount from subparagraph (i) by  
13 the sum of 0.425 and the market value/income aid ratio of  
14 the school entity, provided, that where a concurrent  
15 student is enrolled in an area vocational-technical  
16 school, the market value/income aid ratio shall be the  
17 average of the market value/income aid ratios of the  
18 concurrent students' school districts of residence.

19 (2) The total amount of grants provided for concurrent  
20 courses classified as early college high school, middle  
21 college high school or gateway to college programs shall not  
22 exceed 4% of the total amount of funds appropriated for  
23 concurrent enrollment programs under this article.

24 (3) The total amount of grants provided on behalf of  
25 concurrent students who are enrolled in charter schools,  
26 nonpublic schools, private schools or home education programs  
27 shall not exceed 4% of the total amount of funds appropriated  
28 for concurrent enrollment programs under this article.

29 (4) The grant amount shall not exceed 100% of the total  
30 approved cost of a concurrent course. Where funds

appropriated for this program are insufficient to fund the full amount of all grants calculated under this subsection, each grant amount shall be reduced on a pro rata basis.

(d) Supplemental grants.--

(1) The department shall provide a supplemental grant amount to any school entity that has applied for grant funds under section 1611-B(c) and has at least one low-income concurrent student enrolled in a concurrent course. The supplemental grant amount shall equal the cost of tuition, books and fees for which a low-income concurrent student is responsible in order to enroll in a concurrent course.

(2) The sum of all supplemental grants provided under this subsection shall not exceed 8% of the total amount of funds appropriated for concurrent enrollment programs under this article. Where funds available for supplemental grants are insufficient to fund the full amount of all supplemental grants under this subsection, supplemental grant amounts shall be reduced on a pro rata basis.

(e) Technical assistance.--Upon request of a board of school directors of a school entity, the department shall provide technical assistance in the development of concurrent enrollment agreements and concurrent enrollment programs.

(f) Annual report.--The department shall produce an annual report on concurrent enrollment programs using the reporting information submitted by school entities under section 1611-B(b). The annual report shall be provided to the chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the Senate and

the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives. The report shall be published on the department's publicly accessible website.

Section 1604-B. Faculty.

(a) General rule.--A member of an eligible postsecondary institution's faculty who teaches a concurrent course under this article shall not be an employee of a school entity, an independent contractor of a school entity or an employee of an independent contractor of a school entity for purposes of sections 111 and 2518 unless the faculty member teaches a course in a school entity's building.

(b) Adjunct faculty members.--Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit an eligible postsecondary institution from contracting with a professional employee of a school entity for purposes of a concurrent enrollment program if the professional employee meets all qualifications for an adjunct faculty member at the eligible postsecondary institution.

(c) Reductions prohibited.--A school entity may not reduce the school entity's complement of professional or paraprofessional employees due to student participation in a program established under this article.

(d) Construction.--Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to supersede or preempt any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between a school entity and an employee organization.

Section 1605-B. Qualifying courses.

A concurrent course offered by an eligible postsecondary institution as part of a concurrent enrollment program established under this article shall meet the following requirements:

1       (1) The concurrent course shall be set forth in the  
2       concurrent enrollment agreement and shall either fulfill a  
3       graduation requirement or be identified as advanced  
4       coursework in a core academic subject as defined by the No  
5       Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

6       (2) The concurrent course shall be a course for which  
7       the eligible postsecondary institution awards credit.

8       (3) The concurrent course may be conducted during the  
9       school entity's regular school hours, notwithstanding any  
10      other provision of this act.

11 Section 1606-B. Construction of article.

12      Programs established under this article shall not be  
13      construed as extracurricular activities.

14                      (b) Concurrent Enrollment.

15 Section 1611-B. Responsibilities of school entities.

16      (a) Concurrent enrollment program.--A school entity seeking  
17      a grant under section 1603-B(c) shall do all of the following:

18              (1) Enter into a concurrent enrollment agreement with an  
19              eligible postsecondary institution or institutions, as  
20              required under section 1613-B.

21              (2) Form a concurrent enrollment committee as required  
22              under section 1612-B.

23      (b) Annual reporting information.--A school entity that  
24      receives a grant under section 1603-B(c) shall submit an annual  
25      report to the department. The report shall include:

26              (1) The eligible postsecondary institution or  
27              institutions with which the school entity has established a  
28              concurrent enrollment program.

29              (2) The number of concurrent students participating in a  
30              concurrent enrollment program.

1       (3) The number of concurrent students participating in a  
2 concurrent enrollment program who are enrolled in early  
3 college high school, middle college high school or gateway to  
4 college programs.

5       (4) The approved courses offered through a concurrent  
6 enrollment program.

7       (5) The total approved cost for each concurrent course.

8       (6) The total amount of grant funds received pursuant to  
9 section 1603-B(c).

10      (c) Application for grant funds.--A school entity seeking  
11 grant funds under section 1603-B(c) shall submit an application  
12 to the department no later than September 15, 2005, and August  
13 15 of each year thereafter. The application shall include:

14           (1) The total approved cost of each concurrent course  
15 included in the concurrent enrollment agreement.

16           (2) The number of concurrent students to be enrolled in  
17 each concurrent course pursuant to the concurrent enrollment  
18 agreement.

19           (3) The cost of tuition, books and fees for which a  
20 student will be responsible in order to enroll in each  
21 concurrent course included in the concurrent enrollment  
22 agreement.

23           (4) The number of low-income concurrent students to be  
24 enrolled in each concurrent course pursuant to the concurrent  
25 enrollment agreement.

26           (5) The number of concurrent students to be enrolled in  
27 early college high school, middle college high school or  
28 gateway to college programs pursuant to the concurrent  
29 enrollment agreement.

30           (6) The eligible postsecondary institutions at which

1 concurrent courses will be offered pursuant to the concurrent  
2 enrollment agreement.

3 (d) Use of grant funds.--A school entity shall use the  
4 grants provided under section 1603-B(c) and (d) to pay the  
5 portion of total approved costs for which it is provided grants.

6 (e) Limitation.--A school entity shall not be responsible  
7 for the payment of any portion of the total approved costs for  
8 any concurrent student enrolled in a charter school, nonpublic  
9 school, private school or home education program in excess of  
10 the grants provided under section 1603-B(c) and (d).

11 (f) Construction.--Nothing in this article shall be  
12 construed to preclude a school entity that does not receive a  
13 grant under section 1603-B(c) from continuing or entering into  
14 an agreement with an institution of higher education under the  
15 provisions of section 1525.

16 Section 1612-B. Concurrent enrollment committees.

17 (a) Composition.--

18 (1) (i) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (ii),  
19 in order to be eligible for grant funds under section  
20 1603-B(c), a school entity shall form a concurrent  
21 enrollment committee, which shall include no fewer than  
22 six members.

23 (ii) The number of committee members appointed under  
24 paragraph (3) or (4) shall not exceed the number of  
25 committee members appointed under paragraph (2).

26 (2) At least four members shall be appointed by the  
27 board of school directors of the school entity. At a minimum,  
28 the members shall include:

29 (i) A parent of a high school student enrolled in  
30 the school entity.

1           (ii) A teacher employed by the school entity and  
2           selected by the teachers of the school entity.

3           (iii) An administrator employed by the school entity  
4           and selected by the superintendent of the school entity.

5           (iv) A member of the board of school directors of  
6           the school entity, who shall be the chairman.

7           (3) At least two members shall be appointed by each  
8           eligible postsecondary institution participating in the  
9           concurrent enrollment program, of which at least one shall be  
10          a faculty member representing a department with  
11          administrative authority over one or more approved concurrent  
12          courses.

13          (4) Where more than three eligible postsecondary  
14          institutions participate in the concurrent enrollment  
15          program, one member shall be appointed by each eligible  
16          postsecondary institution.

17          (b) Duties.--The concurrent enrollment committee shall do  
18          all of the following:

19               (1) Develop a proposed concurrent enrollment agreement,  
20               which may include separate, individual agreements with each  
21               eligible postsecondary institution with members appointed to  
22               the concurrent enrollment committee.

23               (2) Present the proposed concurrent enrollment agreement  
24               to the board of school directors of the school entity for  
25               approval.

26               (3) Meet no less than quarterly to review the concurrent  
27               enrollment program.

28               (4) Recommend any changes to the concurrent enrollment  
29               program to the board of school directors of the school  
30               entity.



1       (5) Develop criteria to permit students who are not  
2       qualified under section 1614-B(a) to enroll in the concurrent  
3       enrollment program.

4       Section 1613-B. Concurrent enrollment agreements.

5       (a) Deadline.--In order to be eligible for funding under  
6       section 1603-B(c), a concurrent enrollment committee shall  
7       develop a concurrent enrollment agreement and present it to the  
8       board of school directors of the school entity and to each  
9       eligible postsecondary institution with members appointed to the  
10       concurrent enrollment committee for approval prior to the  
11       submission of a grant application pursuant to section 1611-B(c).

12       (b) Required provisions.--The concurrent enrollment  
13       agreement shall at a minimum include all of the following  
14       provisions:

15               (1) A ratification or modification of all existing  
16               concurrent enrollment agreements to meet the requirements of  
17               this article.

18               (2) An explanation of the criteria used to determine  
19               student qualification for concurrent enrollment, which shall  
20               include all of the following:

21                       (i) Postsecondary placement test scores.

22                       (ii) The results of nationally available achievement  
23                       tests or other standardized tests included in the  
24                       participating school entity's local assessment system.

25                       (iii) Satisfactory progress toward fulfilling  
26                       applicable secondary school graduation requirements, as  
27                       determined by the school entity.

28                       (iv) Demonstrated readiness for college-level  
29                       coursework, as determined by the eligible postsecondary  
30                       institution.

- 1           (v) Status as a high school junior or senior.
- 2           (3) A description and an explanation of the criteria  
3           used to determine concurrent courses offered by the eligible  
4           postsecondary institution, which shall include all of the  
5           following:
- 6           (i) The course must be nonremedial.
- 7           (ii) The course must be offered in a core academic  
8           subject as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act of  
9           2001.
- 10          (iii) The course, as offered to concurrent students,  
11          must be identical to that offered when concurrent  
12          students are not enrolled, including the use of an  
13          identical curriculum, assessments and instructional  
14          materials.
- 15          (iv) The course must enforce prerequisite coursework  
16          requirements identical to those enforced for the course  
17          when concurrent students are not enrolled.
- 18          (4) A description of minimum performance criteria, in  
19          courses offered by the school entity and in concurrent  
20          courses, required for students to remain in the concurrent  
21          enrollment program.
- 22          (5) An explanation of student transportation  
23          responsibilities, if applicable.
- 24          (6) A list of all concurrent courses offered under a  
25          concurrent enrollment agreement.
- 26          (7) The total approved cost of each concurrent course.
- 27          (8) Any additional provisions deemed appropriate by the  
28          school entity and eligible postsecondary institution.

29 Section 1614-B. Enrollment in concurrent courses.

- 30          (a) Requirements for enrollment.--

1       (1) A student enrolled in a school entity in this  
2       Commonwealth who meets the student qualifications set forth  
3       in the concurrent enrollment agreement may enroll in  
4       concurrent courses that are part of the concurrent enrollment  
5       agreement.

6       (2) A student enrolled in a charter school, a nonpublic  
7       school, a private school or a home education program in this  
8       Commonwealth shall be permitted to enroll in concurrent  
9       courses that are part of the concurrent enrollment agreement  
10      approved by the student's school district of residence,  
11      provided that:

12           (i) The student meets the qualifications set forth  
13           in the concurrent enrollment agreement.

14           (ii) The charter school, nonpublic school, private  
15           school or home education program awards secondary credit  
16           for a successfully completed concurrent course.

17      The student shall notify the school district of residence of the  
18      intent to enroll in the program. The student shall be included  
19      in the number of students reported to the department under  
20      section 1611-B(b) and (c).

21      (b) Optional enrollment.--A student enrolled in a school  
22      district, charter school, area vocational-technical school,  
23      nonpublic school, private school or home education program who  
24      does not qualify under subsection (a) may enroll in concurrent  
25      courses that are part of a concurrent enrollment program  
26      approved by the student's school district of residence or the  
27      area vocational-technical school in which the student is  
28      enrolled by meeting alternate criteria established by the  
29      concurrent enrollment committee, provided, that the charter  
30      school, nonpublic school, private school or home education

program awards secondary credit for a successfully completed concurrent course. The student shall be included in the number of students reported to the department under section 1611-B(b) and (c).

Section 1615-B. Credit for concurrent courses.

(a) Award.--A school district, charter school, area vocational-technical school, nonpublic school, private school or home education program shall award secondary credit for a successfully completed concurrent course, with success being determined by the eligible postsecondary institution and set forth in the concurrent enrollment agreement under section 1613-B(b)(4).

(b) Transcript.--A concurrent student's official secondary school transcript shall reflect that credits for a concurrent course were earned through an eligible postsecondary institution.

(c) Transfer.--

(1) In the event that a concurrent student who has earned credits for a concurrent course transfers to a school entity, the school entity that receives the concurrent student shall recognize the credits as applying toward its graduation requirements.

(2) In the event that a concurrent student who has earned credits for a concurrent course transfers to a charter school, a nonpublic school, a private school or a home education program, the charter school, nonpublic school, private school or home education program that receives the concurrent student may recognize the credits as applying toward its graduation requirements.

(d) Postsecondary award.--

1       (1) If, after graduation from a secondary school, the  
2       concurrent student enrolls in the postsecondary institution  
3       at which the concurrent student took a concurrent course,  
4       that institution shall award postsecondary credit for any  
5       concurrent courses successfully completed by the concurrent  
6       student at the institution.

7       (2) If the concurrent student enrolls in a postsecondary  
8       institution other than the one at which the concurrent  
9       student earned the credits, that institution may grant credit  
10      for courses successfully completed by the concurrent student.

11      (3) Community colleges, member institutions of the State  
12      System of Higher Education and State-related institutions may  
13      not refuse to recognize and award credit for a concurrent  
14      course based upon the fact that the credit was earned through  
15      a concurrent enrollment program.

16      (e) Credit limit.--A concurrent student's concurrent course  
17      enrollment may not exceed 24 postsecondary credits in any school  
18      year.

19      Section 12. Section 1705-B(h)(4) of the act, reenacted and  
20      amended July 4, 2004 (P.L.536, No.70), is amended to read:

21      Section 1705-B. Education Empowerment Districts.--\* \* \*

22      (h)       \* \* \*

23      (4) The department may utilize up to [\$2,000,000] \$2,875,000  
24      of undistributed funds not expended, encumbered or committed  
25      from appropriations for grants and subsidies made to the  
26      department to assist school districts certified as an education  
27      empowerment district under paragraph (3). There is hereby  
28      established a restricted account from which payments under this  
29      paragraph shall be paid. Funds shall be transferred by the  
30      Secretary of the Budget to the restricted account to the extent

1 necessary to make payments under this paragraph. Funds in the  
2 restricted account are hereby appropriated to carry out the  
3 purposes of this paragraph. The subsidy payment from this  
4 account shall be utilized to supplement the operational budget  
5 of the eligible school districts. This paragraph shall apply to  
6 fiscal years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 [and],  
7 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 and shall expire June 30, [2005] 2006.

8 Section 13. Section 1714-B of the act is amended by adding a  
9 subsection to read:

10 Section 1714-B. Mandate Waiver Program.--\* \* \*

11 (n) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g), the  
12 department may approve an application submitted by a board of  
13 school directors for a waiver of section 1361 to allow the  
14 provision of transportation to a public kindergarten, elementary  
15 school or secondary school or a nonpublic kindergarten,  
16 elementary school or secondary school operated not for profit  
17 located more than ten miles by the nearest public highway:  
18 Provided, That the provision of transportation is more cost  
19 effective for the district or the Commonwealth or addresses  
20 student safety concerns. Transportation provided under this  
21 subsection shall be considered an allowable district expense for  
22 purposes of calculating transportation reimbursement.

23 Section 14. Section 1901-A(4) of the act, added July 1, 1985  
24 (P.L.103, No.31), is amended and the section is amended by  
25 adding clauses to read:

26 Section 1901-A. Definitions.--The following words and  
27 phrases, as used in this article, shall, unless a different  
28 meaning is plainly required by the context, have the following  
29 meaning:

30 \* \* \*

(4) "Community college" shall mean a public college or technical institute which is established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this act by a local sponsor which provides a two-year, postsecondary, college-parallel, terminal-general, terminal-technical, out-of-school youth or adult education program or any combination of these. The community college may also provide area vocational-technical education services and credit, nonremedial college courses to secondary senior high school students.

\* \* \*

(11) "Independent certified public accountant" shall mean a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants who has a minimum of five years' verifiable experience in performing audits of government funds for nonprofit organizations with a comparable or larger annual budget.

(12) "High priority and high instructional cost occupation program" shall mean a for-credit, two-year or less than two-year occupational or technical program approved by the Department of Education to qualify for an economic development stipend in order to prepare students to enter high priority occupations pursuant to section 1913-A(b)(1.8)(ii).

(13) "High Priority Occupation Program" shall mean a for-credit, two-year or less than two-year occupational or technical program approved by the Department of Education to qualify for an economic development stipend in order to prepare students to enter high priority occupations pursuant to section 1913-A(b)(1.8)(iii).

(14) "Noncredit workforce development courses" shall mean noncredit courses approved by the Department of Education to qualify for an economic development stipend pursuant to section

1 1913-A(b)(1.8)(iii) and having the specific purpose of providing  
2 opportunities for students and incumbent workers to develop or  
3 upgrade skills necessary in high priority occupations. Noncredit  
4 workforce development courses may be offered by a community  
5 college at an off-campus site, at any of its facilities or  
6 through any form of distance education.

7 (15) "Workforce development courses" shall mean those  
8 noncredit courses having the specific purpose of providing  
9 opportunities for students and incumbent workers to develop or  
10 upgrade skills necessary or useful in gainful employment, for  
11 promotion or other similar opportunities in existing employment  
12 or for learning new job skills and that have, as their subject  
13 matter, instruction in any of the following general areas:

14 (1) Computers and information processing and technology,  
15 including the study of both hardware and software applications.

16 (2) Management, supervision and basic employability skills,  
17 including, but not limited to, working in teams, management and  
18 supervisory skills, effective interpersonal relations, problem  
19 solving, self-management strategies, project management and the  
20 application of Federal and State laws to the workplace.

21 (3) Health professional and allied health job skills.

22 (4) Technical, manufacturing and service industries,  
23 including, but not limited to, jobs in such fields as powdered  
24 metals, machine tool and diemaking, electronics, safety,  
25 plastics technology, hydraulics, construction,  
26 warehouse/materials management, automotive repair and  
27 management, heating, ventilation and air conditioning,  
28 refrigeration and tourism.

29 (5) Other similar areas.

30 Section 15. Section 1913-A(b)(1), (c) and (k) of the act,



1 amended or added July 1, 1985 (P.L.103, No.31), June 7, 1993  
2 (P.L.49, No.16) and June 22, 2001 (P.L.530, No.35), are amended,  
3 subsection (b) is amended by adding clauses and the section is  
4 amended by adding subsections to read:

5 Section 1913-A. Financial Program; Reimbursement of  
6 Payments.--\* \* \*

7 (b) (1) The Commonwealth shall pay to a community college  
8 on behalf of the sponsor on account of its operating costs  
9 during the fiscal year from funds appropriated for that purpose  
10 an amount equal to:

11 (i) for the 1993-1994 fiscal year through the 2000-2001  
12 fiscal year, the lesser of such college's variable State share  
13 ceiling as determined in clause (1.3) or such college's  
14 equivalent full-time student reimbursement as determined in  
15 clause (1.4); [and]

16 (ii) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year [and each fiscal year  
17 thereafter] through the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the college's  
18 equivalent full-time student reimbursement as determined in  
19 clause (1.4)[.];

20 (iii) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the college's payment  
21 as determined in clause (1.5); and

22 (iv) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and each fiscal year  
23 thereafter, the college's payment as determined in clause (1.6).

24 \* \* \*

25 (1.5) For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the payment for a  
26 community college shall consist of the following:

27 (i) Each community college shall receive reimbursement for  
28 operating costs equal to the reimbursement for the 2004-2005  
29 fiscal year as determined under clause (1.4)(i) and (ii). This  
30 amount shall be determined based upon the mid-year rebudget

1 submitted by a community college in February 2005.

2 (ii) Each community college shall receive an economic  
3 development stipend as calculated under clause (1.7).

4 (iii) Each community college shall receive a base supplement  
5 determined by:

6 (A) subtracting the total amount of funds determined under  
7 subclauses (i) and (ii) from the State appropriation for payment  
8 of approved operating expenses of community colleges for the  
9 2005-2006 fiscal year;

10 (B) dividing the payment under subclauses (i) and (ii) by  
11 the sum of the amounts determined for all community colleges  
12 under subclauses (i) and (ii); and

13 (C) multiplying the quotient from subparagraph (B) by an  
14 amount equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the amount  
15 determined under paragraph (A).

16 (iv) Each community college with a 2003-2004 equivalent  
17 full-time enrollment in credit, noncredit and workforce  
18 development courses greater than its 2002-2003 equivalent full-  
19 time enrollment in credit, noncredit and workforce development  
20 courses shall receive a growth supplement amount determined by:

21 (A) subtracting its 2002-2003 equivalent full-time  
22 enrollment in credit, noncredit and workforce development  
23 courses from its 2003-2004 equivalent full-time enrollment in  
24 credit, noncredit and workforce development courses;

25 (B) dividing the difference from paragraph (A) by the sum of  
26 the differences from paragraph (A) for all community colleges;  
27 and

28 (C) multiplying the quotient from paragraph (B) by an amount  
29 equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount determined  
30 under subclause (iii)(A).

Calculations under this subclause shall be based upon the final claim forms submitted by a community college for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 fiscal years.

(1.6) For the 2006-2007 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the payment for a community college shall consist of the following:

(i) Each community college shall receive an amount equal to the reimbursement for operating costs, base supplement and growth supplement amounts it received in the immediately preceding fiscal year.

(ii) Each community college shall receive an economic development stipend as calculated under clause (1.7). The amount available for economic development stipends shall increase each year by the percent increase in the State appropriation for payment of approved operating expenses of community colleges.

(iii) Each community college shall receive a base supplement determined by:

(A) subtracting the total amount of funds determined under subclauses (i) and (ii) from the State appropriation for payment of approved operating expenses of community colleges;

(B) dividing the payment under subclause (i) by the sum of the amounts determined for all community colleges under subclause (i); and

(C) multiplying the quotient from paragraph (B) by an amount equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the amount determined under paragraph (A).

(iv) Each community college with an equivalent full-time enrollment in credit, noncredit and workforce development courses for the year prior to the immediately preceding year greater than its equivalent full-time enrollment in credit,

noncredit and workforce development courses for the second year prior to the immediately preceding year shall receive a growth supplement amount determined by:

(A) subtracting its equivalent full-time enrollment in credit, noncredit and workforce development courses for the second year prior to the immediately preceding year from its equivalent full-time enrollment in credit, noncredit and workforce development courses for the year prior to the immediately preceding year;

(B) dividing the difference from paragraph (A) by the sum of the differences from paragraph (A) for all community colleges; and

(C) multiplying the amount from paragraph (B) by an amount equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount determined under subclause (iii)(A).

Secondary senior high school students enrolled in credit-bearing, nonremedial college courses shall be included in the calculation under paragraph (A). Calculations under this subclause shall be based upon the audited financial statements submitted by a community college pursuant to subsection (k.1).

(1.7) The payment for a community college shall include an economic development stipend which shall consist of the following:

(i) For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, each community college shall receive an amount equal to the reimbursement for the 2004-2005 fiscal year as determined under clause (1.4)(iii) and under section 1501 of the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the "Workforce Development Act." This amount shall be determined based upon the mid-year rebudget submitted by a community college in February 2005.

1     (ii) For the 2006-2007 fiscal year and each fiscal year  
2 thereafter, each community college shall receive, subject to the  
3 provisions of subclause (iii), an amount determined by:

4     (A) Adding the following:

5     (I) the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in  
6 high priority and high instructional cost occupation programs at  
7 the community college multiplied by 1.50;

8     (II) the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in  
9 high priority occupation programs at the community college  
10 multiplied by 1.25; and

11     (III) the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled  
12 in noncredit workforce development courses at the community  
13 college.

14     (B) Dividing the total from paragraph (A) by the sum of the  
15 totals from paragraph (A) for all community colleges.

16     (C) Multiplying the amount from paragraph (B) by the amount  
17 allocated for the economic development stipend pursuant to  
18 clause (1.6)(ii).

19 The number of full-time equivalent students shall be determined  
20 based upon the final mid-year rebudget submitted by a community  
21 college for the prior fiscal year. Such rebudget shall be  
22 submitted, as required by the Department of Education, no later  
23 than May 31, 2006, and May 31 of each year thereafter.

24     (iii) For the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 fiscal years, the  
25 following shall apply:

26     (A) Full-time equivalent students enrolled in stipend  
27 advanced technology programs shall be counted as full-time  
28 equivalent students enrolled in high priority and high  
29 instructional cost occupation programs for the purpose of the  
30 calculation in subclause (ii).

1     (B) Full-time equivalent students enrolled in stipend  
2     Statewide programs shall be counted as full-time equivalent  
3     students enrolled in high priority occupation programs for the  
4     purpose of the calculation in subclause (ii).

5     (C) Full-time equivalent students enrolled in other stipend  
6     occupational programs and workforce development courses shall be  
7     counted as full-time equivalent students enrolled in noncredit  
8     workforce development courses for the purpose of the calculation  
9     in subclause (ii).

10    (D) For reimbursement for any semester that begins on or  
11    after January 1, 2006, this subclause shall only apply for  
12    students who were enrolled in such programs during the fall 2005  
13    semester.

14    (1.8) (i) The Department of Education shall annually  
15    approve high priority and high instructional cost occupation  
16    programs, high priority occupation programs and noncredit  
17    workforce development courses.

18    (ii) In order to qualify as a high priority and high  
19    instructional cost occupation program, the program must:

20    (A) Provide training:

21    (I) in a high priority occupation as defined by the Center  
22    for Workforce Information and Analysis within the Department of  
23    Labor and Industry; or

24    (II) in an occupation designed to meet regional workforce  
25    needs as documented through collaboration with one or more  
26    employers.

27    (B) Bear an instructional cost to the community college, per  
28    full-time-equivalent student, of at least one hundred thirty  
29    percent (130%) of the average cost per full-time-equivalent  
30    student enrolled in the community college's credit courses.

Instructional costs shall be defined by the Department of Education and may include personnel, equipment, curricula and other costs necessary for the program.

(iii) In order to qualify as a high priority occupation program or a noncredit workforce development course, the high priority occupation program or noncredit workforce development course must:

(A) provide training in a high priority occupation as defined by the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis within the Department of Labor and Industry; or

(B) provide training in an occupation designed to meet regional workforce needs as documented through collaboration with one or more employers.

(iv) In order to qualify under subclause (ii)(A)(II) or (iii)(B), the community college shall submit an application to the Department of Education. The application shall contain:

(A) Evidence of collaboration with one or more employers.

(B) Information as to the nature of the proposed program.

(C) Evidence as to how the program will increase workforce opportunities for participants.

(v) The Department of Education shall:

(A) Determine the form and manner by which applications are to be submitted under subclause (iv).

(B) Approve or reject applications received pursuant to subclause (iv) within twenty (20) days of receipt of a completed application; otherwise such applications will be deemed approved.

(C) Annually publish guidelines listing criteria and establishing the approval process for programs and courses under this clause.

1       \* \* \*

2       (c) (1) Capital expenses shall mean only such expenses as  
3 are incurred with the approval of the Department of Education  
4 for amortization of the purchase of lands; purchase,  
5 construction or improvement of buildings for administrative and  
6 instructional purposes, including libraries; the lease of lands  
7 or buildings, or for rentals to an authority for the same  
8 purpose; and, prior to July 1, 2005, for the purchase, lease or  
9 rental of capital equipment and furniture used for instructional  
10 or administrative purposes. Capital expenses shall include  
11 library books and complementary audio-visual equipment purchased  
12 during the first five years after establishment. On or after  
13 July 1, 2005, capital expenses may include such expenses as are  
14 incurred with the approval of the Department of Education for  
15 the purchase, lease or rental of capital equipment and furniture  
16 used for instructional or administrative purposes. For the  
17 purpose of calculating the Commonwealth's share of operating,  
18 and capital costs incurred prior to the actual admission of  
19 students to a community college, all such costs shall be  
20 interpreted as capital costs. No costs and expenses incurred in  
21 the establishment, construction, operation or maintenance of  
22 dormitories, or the equipment or furnishings for such purposes,  
23 shall be included in capital expenses or operating costs for  
24 purposes of Commonwealth reimbursement.

25       (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not prevent the  
26 Commonwealth from reimbursing a community college for capital  
27 expenses incurred prior to the effective date of this act. Such  
28 reimbursement must have approval of the Secretary of Education.

29       (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, a  
30 community college may use a portion of its payment of approved



1 operating expenses for capital expenses not otherwise reimbursed  
2 by the Department of Education.

3 (c.1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
4 two or more community colleges may jointly enter into a  
5 financing arrangement through the State Public School Building  
6 Authority for the purchase, lease or construction of capital  
7 projects deemed necessary by the community colleges. The terms  
8 and conditions of the financing arrangement shall be consistent  
9 with the terms and conditions set forth in the act of July 5,  
10 1947 (P.L.1217, No.498), known as the "State Public School  
11 Building Authority Act."

12 \* \* \*

13 (k) For fiscal years up to and including the 2004-2005  
14 fiscal year, audits of community colleges shall be conducted as  
15 follows:

16 (1) Unless otherwise prescribed by the State Board of  
17 Education, the Commonwealth's fiscal audits of community  
18 colleges under this section shall be conducted in accordance  
19 with "Government Auditing Standards," latest revision,  
20 promulgated by the United States General Accounting Office.  
21 Written audit reports will be produced and will be sent to the  
22 community college by the Commissioner of Postsecondary/Higher  
23 Education. Any cost disallowed under findings contained in the  
24 audit report shall be considered an adjudication within the  
25 meaning of 2 Pa.C.S. (relating to administrative law and  
26 procedure) and regulations promulgated thereunder.

27 (2) The Secretary of Education is hereby specifically  
28 authorized and shall be required to resolve audit findings  
29 involving disallowed costs that are contested by community  
30 colleges except for audit findings that involve mathematical

1 errors, violation of regulations or alleged illegal activities.  
2 The proposed resolution of the Secretary of Education shall not  
3 be subject to the provisions of 2 Pa.C.S. The Secretary of  
4 Education's notice to resolve audit findings shall be sent to  
5 the community college in writing. The Secretary of Education may  
6 resolve the audit findings by reducing the disallowed costs  
7 related thereto in whole or in part.

8 (3) The Secretary of Education's notice to resolve an audit  
9 finding by reducing or eliminating the disallowed costs must be  
10 made contingent upon the community college developing and  
11 implementing a corrective action plan to address the audit  
12 finding. The community college must submit a corrective action  
13 plan to the Secretary of Education within 60 days after receipt  
14 of the Secretary of Education's written notice to resolve the  
15 audit finding. The Secretary of Education shall approve, reject  
16 or alter the plan submitted by the community college within  
17 thirty (30) days of submission. After the community college  
18 receives written notice of approval or agrees in writing to the  
19 Secretary of Education's alterations of the corrective action  
20 plan, said plan shall be implemented and shall be binding on the  
21 community college. Implementation of the approved or agreed upon  
22 corrective action plan will be verified by an audit conducted by  
23 the department no later than the end of the fiscal year  
24 following the fiscal year during which the plan is implemented.  
25 If no agreed upon corrective action plan is in place within one  
26 year after the date of the Secretary of Education's written  
27 notice to resolve audit findings or if the agreed upon  
28 corrective action has not been implemented within one year after  
29 the date of the Secretary of Education's written notice to  
30 resolve the audit findings, then the Secretary of Education is

1 authorized to adjust payments to the community college to  
2 collect any amounts due based upon the findings contained in the  
3 audit report that was issued to the college by the commissioner.

4 (4) The department shall deduct any amounts due the  
5 Commonwealth as a result of audit findings that are resolved  
6 under this subsection from any future payment due to the  
7 community college from the Commonwealth. The Secretary of  
8 Education is authorized to approve a payment schedule in cases  
9 where immediate repayment of the full amount due the  
10 Commonwealth would jeopardize the ability of the community  
11 college to continue operations.

12 (5) Resolution authority provided to the Secretary of  
13 Education in this subsection shall be limited to disallowed cost  
14 findings relating to policy and/or administrative practices. The  
15 resolution authority shall not be used for audit findings in  
16 which the audited community college data and documentation is in  
17 error, where a violation of applicable law or regulation is  
18 found or where criminal violations are suspected by the  
19 Commonwealth auditors and brought to the Secretary of  
20 Education's attention in writing. Notwithstanding the  
21 limitations of this subsection, until June 30, 1995, the  
22 Secretary of Education is authorized to resolve audit findings  
23 involving disallowed costs for fiscal years prior to and  
24 including 1992-1993 when such disallowed costs result from  
25 violation of regulations.

26 (6) The department, through the Secretary of Education, is  
27 authorized to issue guidelines for the operation of the  
28 community college educational and financial programs. The  
29 department shall amend these guidelines on an annual basis to  
30 reflect the department's position on issues that require

1 resolution under this subsection.

2 (7) The provisions of subsection (d) are repealed insofar as  
3 they are inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection.

4 (k.1) (1) By January 1, 2007, and January 1 of each year  
5 thereafter, a community college shall submit to the department  
6 an audited financial statement for the immediately preceding  
7 fiscal year. The audited financial statement shall be consistent  
8 with the generally accepted accounting principles prescribed by  
9 the National Association of College and University Business  
10 Officers or its successor, by the American Institute of  
11 Certified Public Accounts or its successor or by any other  
12 recognized authoritative body and consistent with the financial  
13 reporting policies and standards promulgated by Federal  
14 Government and State government which apply to community  
15 colleges: Provided, that an audited financial statement shall  
16 not be acceptable if the audit is conducted by an employe or  
17 member of the board of trustees of the community college or by  
18 an organization or firm associated with any employe or member of  
19 the board of trustees of the community college. The Department  
20 of Education may withhold funds appropriated to community  
21 colleges as necessary to ensure that audit reports are submitted  
22 in the prescribed fashion.

23 (2) The audited financial statement required under clause  
24 (1) shall include:

25 (i) results of the tests of the community college's  
26 accounting records and other procedures that are considered  
27 necessary to enable the independent certified public accountant  
28 to express an opinion as to whether the community college's  
29 financial statements are fairly presented, in all material  
30 respects, consistent with the accounting principles set forth in

1 clause (1);

2 (ii) a schedule of operating expenses that presents all  
3 operating expenses pertaining to the community college's  
4 educational program; and

5 (iii) a verification of equivalent full-time students  
6 enrolled in the community college in each of the following  
7 categories: credit, noncredit and each economic development  
8 stipend category, during the fiscal year for which the audited  
9 financial statement is presented.

10 (3) The department shall review the audited financial  
11 statement of a community college to determine whether the State  
12 funds allocated to the community college have been expended in  
13 accordance with the accounting principles set forth in clause  
14 (1). The department shall have ninety (90) days from the receipt  
15 of an audited financial statement to review the audited  
16 financial statement and notify the community college of any  
17 material failure to meet the requirements of this subsection.

18 (4) A community college that receives notice from the  
19 department under clause (3) shall have ninety (90) days from the  
20 receipt of such notice to submit a corrective action plan to the  
21 department.

22 (5) The department shall approve, reject or alter the  
23 corrective action plan within thirty (30) days of submission.  
24 After the community college receives written notice of approval  
25 of the corrective action plan or agrees in writing to the  
26 department's alterations of the corrective action plan, the plan  
27 shall be implemented and binding on the community college.  
28 Implementation of the approved or agreed upon corrective action  
29 plan shall be verified by an audit conducted by the department  
30 no later than the end of the fiscal year following the fiscal

year during which the plan is implemented. If no agreed upon corrective action plan is in place within one year after the date of the department's written notice under clause (4) or if the agreed upon corrective action plan has not been implemented within one year after the date of the department's written notice under clause (4), then the department shall adjust payments to the community college to collect any amounts due based upon the findings contained in the audit report.

(6) The State Board of Education shall promulgate final-omitted regulations, pursuant to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act," as necessary to implement this subsection.

\* \* \*

Section 16. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

Section 1917-A. Community College Capital Fund.--(a) The Community College Capital Fund is hereby established as a separate fund in the State Treasury for the purpose of making payments to community colleges for capital expenses approved under section 1913-A(b)(4). The moneys of the fund are hereby appropriated to the Department of Education to carry out the provisions of this section.

(b) The Community College Capital Fund shall consist of all funds appropriated and allocated during the 2005-2006 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter for capital expenses approved for payment by the Department of Education under section 1913-A(b)(4).

(c) At the end of each fiscal year, any unencumbered funds shall not lapse to the General Fund and shall be available for payment of any capital expenses approved under section 1913-A(b)(4) in any subsequent fiscal year.

1     (d) Payments for capital expenses approved under section  
2     1913-A(b)(4) shall be limited to the total amount of funds  
3     included in the Community College Capital Fund.

4     Section 1918-A. Annual Report.--(a) No later than January  
5     1, 2006, the Department of Education shall, in consultation with  
6     the community colleges, complete development of a format for  
7     collecting uniform data relative to the operations of community  
8     colleges. The data shall be used in making an annual report to  
9     the Governor and the chairmen and minority chairmen of the  
10    Appropriations and Education Committees of the Senate and the  
11    chairmen and minority chairmen of the Appropriations and  
12    Education Committees of the House of Representatives. The report  
13    and the data shall be made available to the Governor and the  
14    committees via electronic transmission. The report shall cover  
15    the immediately preceding academic year and shall include, but  
16    not be limited to:

17    (1) Demographic and program data including information on  
18    full-time and part-time faculty and student enrollments, in  
19    total and within curricular areas; dual enrollment  
20    participation; credit hours taught by faculty; distance learning  
21    courses offered; articulation agreements with higher education  
22    institutions; numbers and courses with fewer than twenty (20)  
23    students; numbers and courses with more than fifty (50)  
24    students.

25    (2) Student progress and achievement measures including;  
26    retention rates; first time, full-time graduation rates after  
27    two, three and four years; passing rates on certification and  
28    licensure examinations; number of students employed within one  
29    year of program completion; placement into additional education  
30    or employment in the student's field of study.

1     (3) Economic and workforce development measures including:  
2     employer satisfaction; customized job training offerings;  
3     employment status; and numbers of businesses and organizations  
4     served.

5     (b) Where available, data shall be disaggregated by  
6     categories including gender, race and age.

7     (c) The Department of Education, in consultation with the  
8     community colleges, shall annually review the uniform data  
9     collection format and make any revisions deemed necessary.

10    (d) Reports required under this section shall be submitted  
11    prior to September 1, 2006, and September 1 of each year  
12    thereafter.

13    Section 17. Section 2015-A of the act, added November 12,  
14    1982 (P.L.660, No.188), is amended to read:

15    Section 2015-A. Annual Audit.--(a) The activities of the  
16    system under this article shall be subject to the audit of the  
17    Department of the Auditor General, but the system shall not be  
18    required to pay a fee for any such audit. It shall make an  
19    annual report to the State board and to the General Assembly  
20    showing its condition at the end of the Commonwealth's fiscal  
21    year.

22    (b) The system shall report its financial statements in  
23    accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as  
24    prescribed by the National Association of College and University  
25    Business Officers, the American Institute of Certified Public  
26    Accountants or any other recognized authoritative body, as well  
27    as applicable policy and standards promulgated by the  
28    Commonwealth and the Federal Government.

29    Section 18. Sections 2003-B(c) and (d) and 2006-B(a)(1) of  
30    the act, amended December 23, 2003 (P.L.304, No.48), are amended



1 to read:

2 Section 2003-B. Qualification and application.

3 \* \* \*

4 (c) Scholarship organizations and pre-kindergarten  
5 scholarship organizations.--A scholarship organization or pre-  
6 kindergarten scholarship organization must certify to the  
7 department that the organization is eligible to participate in  
8 the program established under this article[.] and must agree to  
9 annually report the following information to the department by  
10 December 1, 2005, and September 1 of each year thereafter:

11 (1) (i) The number of scholarships awarded during the  
12 immediately preceding school year to eligible pre-  
13 kindergarten students.

14 (ii) The total and average amounts of the  
15 scholarships awarded during the immediately preceding  
16 school year to eligible pre-kindergarten students.

17 (iii) The number of scholarships awarded during the  
18 immediately preceding school year to eligible students in  
19 grades K through 8.

20 (iv) The total and average amounts of the  
21 scholarships awarded during the immediately preceding  
22 school year to eligible students in grades K through 8.

23 (v) The number of scholarships awarded during the  
24 immediately preceding school year to eligible students in  
25 grades 9 through 12.

26 (vi) The total and average amounts of the  
27 scholarships awarded during the immediately preceding  
28 school year to eligible students in grades 9 through 12.

29 (vii) Where the scholarship organization or pre-  
30 kindergarten scholarship organization collects

1 information on a county-by-county basis, the total number  
2 and the total amount of scholarships awarded during the  
3 immediately preceding school year to residents of each  
4 county in which the scholarship organization or pre-  
5 kindergarten scholarship organization awarded  
6 scholarships.

7 (2) The information required under paragraph (1) shall  
8 be submitted on a form provided by the department. No later  
9 than September 1, 2005, and May 1 of each year thereafter,  
10 the department shall annually distribute such sample forms,  
11 together with the forms on which the reports are required to  
12 be made, to each listed scholarship organization and pre-  
13 kindergarten scholarship organization.

14 (3) The department may not require any other information  
15 to be provided by scholarship organizations or pre-  
16 kindergarten scholarship organizations, except as expressly  
17 authorized in this article.

18 (d) Educational improvement organization.--

19 (1) An application submitted by an educational  
20 improvement organization must describe its proposed  
21 innovative educational program or programs in a form  
22 prescribed by the department. The department shall consult  
23 with the Department of Education as necessary. The department  
24 shall review and approve or disapprove the application. In  
25 order to be eligible to participate in the program  
26 established under this article, an educational improvement  
27 organization must agree to annually report the following  
28 information to the department by December 1, 2005, and  
29 September 1 of each year thereafter:

30 (i) The name of the innovative educational program

1 or programs and the total amount of the grant or grants  
2 made to those programs during the immediately preceding  
3 school year.

4 (ii) A description of how each grant was utilized  
5 during the immediately preceding school year and a  
6 description of any demonstrated or expected innovative  
7 educational improvements.

8 (iii) The names of the public schools and school  
9 districts where innovative educational programs that  
10 received grants during the immediately preceding school  
11 year were implemented.

12 (iv) Where the educational improvement organization  
13 collects information on a county-by-county basis, the  
14 total number and the total amount of grants made during  
15 the immediately preceding school year for programs at  
16 public schools in each county in which the educational  
17 improvement organization made grants.

18 (2) The information required under paragraph (1) shall  
19 be submitted on a form provided by the department. No later  
20 than September 1, 2005, and May 1 of each year thereafter,  
21 the department shall annually distribute such sample forms,  
22 together with the forms on which the reports are required to  
23 be made, to each listed educational improvement organization.

24 (3) The department may not require any other information  
25 to be provided by educational improvement organizations,  
26 except as expressly authorized in this article.

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 2006-B. Limitations.

29 (a) Amount.--

30 (1) The total aggregate amount of all tax credits

1 approved shall not exceed [\$40,000,000] \$44,000,000 in a  
2 fiscal year. No less than [\$26,666,666] \$29,333,333 of the  
3 total aggregate amount shall be used to provide tax credits  
4 for contributions from business firms to scholarship  
5 organizations. No less than [\$13,333,333] \$14,666,666 of the  
6 total aggregate amount shall be used to provide tax credits  
7 for contributions from business firms to educational  
8 improvement organizations.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 19. Section 2501(9.4) of the act, added July 8, 1989  
11 (P.L.253, No.43), is amended and the section is amended by  
12 adding a clause to read:

13 Section 2501. Definitions.--For the purposes of this article  
14 the following terms shall have the following meanings:

15 \* \* \*

16 (9.4) "Municipal Equalized Millage." A city of the first  
17 through third class tax effort to be used for reimbursement  
18 under subsections (d) and (e) of section 2502 and section  
19 2502.11 shall be the amount of municipal taxes collected and  
20 reported to the Department of Community [Affairs] and Economic  
21 Development divided by the real property valuation of the  
22 municipality for the most recent year for which both  
23 municipality tax and real property valuation are available.

24 \* \* \*

25 (24) "Current Expenditure per Average Daily Membership." An  
26 amount equal to a school district's current expenditures for a  
27 school year to include General Fund expenditures in the  
28 functional classifications of instruction, support services and  
29 operation of non-instructional services, as designated in the  
30 Manual of Accounting and Related Financial Procedures for

1 Pennsylvania School Systems, divided by the average daily  
2 membership of the school district for the same school year.

3 Section 20. Section 2502.13 of the act, amended July 4, 2004  
4 (P.L.536, No.70), is amended to read:

5 Section 2502.13. Small District Assistance.--(a) For the  
6 1984-1985 and 1985-1986 school years, the Commonwealth shall pay  
7 to each school district which has an average daily membership of  
8 one thousand five hundred (1,500) or less and has a market  
9 value/income aid ratio of five thousand ten-thousandths (0.5000)  
10 or greater, an amount equal to fifty dollars (\$50) multiplied by  
11 that district's average daily membership. For the 1985-1986  
12 school year, no school district shall receive less on account of  
13 this section than it did for the 1984-1985 school year.

14 (b) For the school year 1986-1987, the Commonwealth shall  
15 pay to each school district which has an average daily  
16 membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or less and has  
17 a market value/income aid ratio of five thousand ten-thousandths  
18 (0.5000) or greater, or received payments under this section for  
19 the 1985-1986 school year, an amount equal to seventy-five  
20 dollars (\$75) multiplied by that district's average daily  
21 membership.

22 (c) For the school year 1987-1988, the Commonwealth shall  
23 pay to each school district which has an average daily  
24 membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or less and a  
25 market value/income aid ratio of five thousand ten-thousandths  
26 (0.5000) or greater, or received payments under this section for  
27 the 1986-1987 school year, an amount equal to eighty-five  
28 dollars (\$85) multiplied by that district's average daily  
29 membership.

30 (d) For the school year 1988-1989, the Commonwealth shall

1 pay to each school district which has an average daily  
2 membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or less and a  
3 market value/income aid ratio of five thousand ten-thousandths  
4 (0.5000) or greater, or received payments under this section for  
5 the 1987-1988 or 1988-1989 school year, an amount equal to one  
6 hundred five dollars (\$105).

7 (e) For the school year 1989-1990, the Commonwealth shall  
8 pay to each school district which has an average daily  
9 membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or less and a  
10 market value/income aid ratio of five thousand ten-thousandths  
11 (0.5000) or greater, or received payments under this section for  
12 the 1987-1988 school year, an amount equal to one hundred  
13 fifteen dollars (\$115) multiplied by the district's average  
14 daily membership as provided for in section 212 of the act of  
15 July 1, 1990 (P.L.1591, No.7A), known as the "General  
16 Appropriation Act of 1990." For the school year 1990-1991, the  
17 Commonwealth shall pay to each school district which has an  
18 average daily membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or  
19 less and a market value/income aid ratio of five thousand ten-  
20 thousandths (0.5000) or greater, or received payments under this  
21 section for the prior school year, an amount equal to one  
22 hundred seventy dollars (\$170) multiplied by that district's  
23 average daily membership.

24 (f) For the school year 1990-1991, each school district with  
25 a population per square mile of less than ninety (90), which  
26 otherwise meets the average daily membership and market  
27 value/income aid ratio requirements of this section, or received  
28 payments under this section for the prior school year, shall  
29 instead receive an amount equal to one hundred ninety dollars  
30 (\$190) multiplied by that district's average daily membership.

1       (g) For the 1987-1988 school year through the 1990-1991  
2 school year, no school district shall receive less on account of  
3 this section than it did for the prior school year. For the  
4 school year 1994-1995, the Commonwealth shall pay to each school  
5 district which has an average daily membership of one thousand  
6 five hundred (1,500) or less and a market value/income aid ratio  
7 of five thousand ten-thousandths (0.5000) or greater, an amount  
8 equal to ninety five dollars (\$95) multiplied by that district's  
9 average daily membership.

10       (h) For each of the school years 1997-1998 through 1999-  
11 2000, the Commonwealth shall pay to each school district which  
12 has an average daily membership of one thousand five hundred  
13 (1,500) or less and a market value/income aid ratio of five  
14 thousand ten-thousandths (0.5000) or greater an amount equal to  
15 seventy-five dollars (\$75) multiplied by that district's average  
16 daily membership.

17       (i) For the school years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003,  
18 the Commonwealth shall pay to each school district which has an  
19 average daily membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or  
20 less an amount equal to seventy-five dollars (\$75) multiplied by  
21 that district's average daily membership.

22       (j) For the school year 2003-2004, the Commonwealth shall  
23 pay to each school district which has an average daily  
24 membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or less an  
25 amount equal to seventy-five dollars (\$75) multiplied by that  
26 district's average daily membership. For the school year 2003-  
27 2004, the Commonwealth shall pay an additional amount to each  
28 school district which has an average daily membership of one  
29 thousand five hundred (1,500) or less and a market value/income  
30 aid ratio of five thousand ten-thousandths (0.5000) or greater

1 an amount equal to fifty dollars (\$50) multiplied by that  
2 district's average daily membership.

3 (k) For the school year 2004-2005, the Commonwealth shall  
4 pay to each school district which has an average daily  
5 membership of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or less and a  
6 market value/income aid ratio of five thousand ten thousandths  
7 (0.5000) or greater an amount equal to forty-five dollars (\$45)  
8 multiplied by that district's average daily membership.

9 Section 21. Section 2502.30 of the act, reenacted and  
10 amended July 4, 2004 (P.L.536, No.70), is reenacted to read:

11 Section 2502.30. Temporary Special Aid to School  
12 Districts.--(a) Temporary special aid shall be paid in fiscal  
13 years 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998, 1998-1999,  
14 1999-2000, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 to school  
15 districts experiencing a severe reduction in local revenue due  
16 to a decline in the assessed value of taxable properties. The  
17 allocation to these districts shall be determined by multiplying  
18 the reduction in assessed value between 1985-1986 and 1992-1993  
19 by the 1992-1993 real estate millage rate. This aid shall be  
20 paid from undistributed funds not expended, encumbered or  
21 committed from appropriations for grants and subsidies made to  
22 the Department of Education. No other funds shall be used for  
23 assistance under this section. These funds shall be sufficient  
24 to provide temporary relief to seven school districts in fiscal  
25 year 1995-1996 at seventy-five per centum (75%) of the funds  
26 received in fiscal year 1994-1995, in fiscal year 1996-1997 at  
27 fifty per centum (50%) of the funds received in fiscal year  
28 1994-1995, in fiscal year 1997-1998, 1998-1999 and in fiscal  
29 year 1999-2000 at twenty-five per centum (25%) of the funds  
30 received in fiscal year 1994-1995. For fiscal years 2001-2002,



1 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 to the extent funds are available as  
2 determined by the Secretary of the Budget, qualifying school  
3 districts shall receive twenty-five per centum (25%) of the  
4 funds received in fiscal year 1994-1995.

5 (a.1) (1) Temporary special aid shall be paid in fiscal  
6 year 2004-2005 out of the appropriation for basic education  
7 funding to school districts to certain school districts that  
8 have experienced severe increases in average daily membership  
9 and in market value/income aid ratio. To qualify for temporary  
10 special aid under this subsection, the school district's 2004-  
11 2005 market value/income aid ratio must be greater than five  
12 thousand two hundred ten thousandths (0.5200), the increase from  
13 the school district's 1991-1992 average daily membership to its  
14 2003-2004 average daily membership must be equal to or greater  
15 than eighteen per centum (18%) and the increase from the school  
16 district's 1991-1992 market value/income aid ratio to its 2003-  
17 2004 market value/income aid ratio must be equal to or greater  
18 than fifteen per centum (15%).

19 (2) The allocation to a qualifying school district under  
20 this subsection shall be determined by:

21 (i) Subtracting the school district's 1991-1992 average  
22 daily membership from its 2003-2004 average daily membership.

23 (ii) Multiplying the difference from subparagraph (i) by  
24 eight million five hundred thousand dollars (\$8,500,000).

25 (iii) Dividing the product from subparagraph (ii) by the sum  
26 of the differences from subparagraph (i).

27 (a.2) (1) Temporary special aid shall be paid in fiscal  
28 year 2004-2005 out of the appropriation for basic education  
29 funding to school districts to certain school districts that  
30 have extremely high local tax effort. To qualify for temporary

1 special aid under this subsection, the school district's 2002  
2 equalized millage rate must be equal to or greater than thirty-  
3 three (33) equalized mills and its 2004-2005 market value/income  
4 aid ratio must be equal to or greater than six thousand four  
5 hundred ten thousandths (0.6400).

6 (2) The allocation to a qualifying school district under  
7 this subsection shall be determined by:

8 (i) Multiplying the school district's 2003-2004 average  
9 daily membership by seven hundred fifty thousand dollars  
10 (\$750,000).

11 (ii) Dividing the product from subparagraph (i) by the 2003-  
12 2004 average daily membership for all qualifying school  
13 districts.

14 (b) Payments made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be paid  
15 from a restricted receipt account, which is hereby established,  
16 for such payments. Funds shall be transferred by the Secretary  
17 of the Budget to the restricted account only to the extent  
18 necessary to make the payments authorized by this section. The  
19 money in the restricted account is hereby appropriated from the  
20 account for purposes of this section.

21 (c) This section shall expire June 30, 2005.

22 Section 22. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

23 Section 2502.44. Basic Education Funding for 2004-2005  
24 School Year.--For the 2004-2005 school year, the Commonwealth  
25 shall pay to each school district a basic education funding  
26 allocation which shall consist of the following:

27 (1) An amount equal to the basic education funding  
28 allocation for the 2003-2004 school year pursuant to sections  
29 2502.13, 2502.30(a.1) and (a.2), 2502.43 and 2504.4.

30 (2) Where the school district received a grant under section

1709-B during the 2004-2005 school year, but is not eligible to receive such a grant during the 2005-2006 school year, an amount equal to the grant amount it received during the 2004-2005 school year multiplied by fifty percent (50%).

(3) An amount equal to any payment made pursuant to section 2502.10 during the 2004-2005 school year.

(4) A base supplement calculated as follows:

(i) If the school district's 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio is equal to or greater than seven thousand ten-thousandths (.7000):

(A) Multiply the school district's 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio by its 2004-2005 average daily membership.

(B) Multiply the product from clause (A) by twelve million five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000).

(C) Divide the product from clause (B) by the sum of the products of the 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio multiplied by the 2004-2005 average daily membership for all qualifying school districts.

(ii) If the school district's 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio is equal to or greater than five thousand ten-thousandths (.5000) and less than seven thousand ten-thousandths (.7000):

(A) Multiply the school district's 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio by its 2004-2005 average daily membership.

(B) Multiply the product from clause (A) by forty million dollars (\$40,000,000).

(C) Divide the product from clause (B) by the sum of the products of the 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio

1 multiplied by the 2004-2005 average daily membership for all  
2 qualifying school districts.

3 (iii) If the school district's 2005-2006 market value/income  
4 aid ratio is less than five thousand ten-thousandths (.5000):

5 (A) Multiply the school district's 2005-2006 market  
6 value/income aid ratio by its 2004-2005 average daily  
7 membership.

8 (B) Multiply the product from clause (A) by five million  
9 five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000).

10 (C) Divide the product from clause (B) by the sum of the  
11 products of the 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio  
12 multiplied by the 2004-2005 average daily membership for all  
13 qualifying school districts.

14 (5) A temporary special assistance supplement for qualifying  
15 school districts as follows:

16 (i) To qualify for the temporary special assistance  
17 supplement, the school district's 2003-2004 current expenditure  
18 per average daily membership must be less than ninety-seven and  
19 eight tenths percent (97.8%) of the 2003-2004 median current  
20 expenditure per average daily membership.

21 (ii) The temporary special assistance supplement shall be  
22 calculated for qualifying school districts as follows:

23 (A) Multiply the school district's 2004-2005 average daily  
24 membership by its 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio.

25 (B) Multiply the product from clause (A) by the lesser of:

26 (1) thirty-five dollars (\$35); or

27 (2) the difference between the value of ninety-seven and  
28 eight tenths (97.8%) percent of the 2003-2004 median current  
29 expenditure per average daily membership and the school  
30 district's 2003-2004 current expenditure per average daily

1 membership.

2 (iii) If a qualifying school district's 2003 equalized  
3 millage is equal to or greater than twenty and seven tenths  
4 (20.7) equalized mills and less than twenty-four and two tenths  
5 (24.2) equalized mills, it shall receive an additional payment  
6 calculated as follows:

7 (A) Multiply the school district's 2004-2005 average daily  
8 membership by the school district's 2005-2006 market  
9 value/income aid ratio.

10 (B) Multiply the product from clause (A) by forty-five  
11 dollars (\$45).

12 (iv) If a qualifying school district's 2003 equalized  
13 millage is equal to or greater than twenty-four and two tenths  
14 (24.2) equalized mills, it shall receive an additional payment  
15 calculated as follows:

16 (A) Multiply the school district's 2004-2005 average daily  
17 membership by the school district's 2005-2006 market  
18 value/income aid ratio.

19 (B) Multiply the product from clause (A) by fifty-five  
20 dollars (\$55).

21 (v) A school district that qualifies for the temporary  
22 special assistance supplement under this paragraph shall receive  
23 an amount equal to the sum of the amounts under subparagraphs  
24 (ii), (iii) and (iv).

25 (6) A poverty supplement calculated for qualifying school  
26 districts as follows:

27 (i) To qualify for the poverty supplement, a school  
28 district's 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio must be equal  
29 to or greater than six thousand five hundred ten-thousandths  
30 (.6500) and its personal income valuation, when divided by its

2004-2005 average daily membership, must be equal to or less than one hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000).

(ii) The poverty supplement shall be calculated for qualifying school districts as follows:

(A) Multiply the school district's 2004-2005 average daily membership by seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000).

(B) Divide the product from clause (A) by the sum of the 2004-2005 average daily membership for all qualifying school districts.

(7) A tax effort supplement calculated for qualifying school districts as follows:

(i) To qualify for the tax effort supplement, a school district's 2003 equalized millage must be equal to or greater than twenty and eight tenths (20.8) equalized mills.

(ii) The tax effort supplement shall be calculated for qualifying school districts as follows:

(A) Multiply the school district's 2004-2005 average daily membership by nine million dollars (\$9,000,000).

(B) Divide the product from clause (A) by the sum of the 2004-2005 average daily membership for all qualifying school districts.

(8) A growth supplement calculated for qualifying school districts as follows:

(i) To qualify for the growth supplement, a school district's 2004-2005 average daily membership must be greater than its 2003-2004 average daily membership.

(ii) The growth supplement shall be calculated for qualifying school districts as follows:

(A) Subtract the school district's 2003-2004 average daily membership from its 2004-2005 average daily membership and

1 multiply the difference by its 2005-2006 market value/income aid  
2 ratio.

3 (B) Multiply the difference from clause (A) by nine million  
4 five hundred thousand dollars (\$9,500,000).

5 (C) Divide the product from clause (B) by the sum of the  
6 differences from clause (A) for all qualifying school districts.

7 (9) Each school district shall receive additional funding as  
8 necessary so that the sum of the amounts under section 2502.13  
9 and paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) and this paragraph  
10 shall equal at least two percent (2%) of the amount in paragraph  
11 (1).

12 Section 23. Section 2504.4 of the act is amended by adding a  
13 subsection to read:

14 Section 2504.4. Payments on Account of Limited English  
15 Proficiency Programs.--\* \* \*

16 (a.1) To qualify for limited English proficiency payments  
17 under this section for the 2004-2005 school year, a school  
18 district's 2005-2006 market value/income aid ratio must be  
19 greater than or equal to three thousand ten thousandths (0.3000)  
20 and the number of enrolled students identified as limited  
21 English proficient in the 2003-2004 school year must be no less  
22 than two percent (2%) of the school district's 2003-2004 average  
23 daily membership. The allocation to a qualified school district  
24 under this section shall be paid in fiscal year 2005-2006 out of  
25 the appropriation for basic education funding to school  
26 districts and determined by:

27 (1) multiplying the number of enrolled students identified  
28 as limited English proficient in the 2003-2004 school year in a  
29 qualified school district by three million dollars (\$3,000,000);  
30 and

1     (2) dividing the product from paragraph (1) by the total  
2     number of enrolled students identified as limited English  
3     proficient in all qualified school districts.

4     \* \* \*

5     Section 24. Sections 2509.1 and 2509.5 of the act are  
6     amended by adding subsections to read:

7     Section 2509.1. Payments to Intermediate Units.--\* \* \*

8     (b.13) Up to ten million two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
9     (\$10,250,000) may be utilized for programs administered and  
10    operated by intermediate units during the 2005-2006 school year  
11    for institutionalized children as established in subsection  
12    (b.1).

13    \* \* \*

14    Section 2509.5. Special Education Payments to School  
15    Districts.--\* \* \*

16    (pp) During the 2005-2006 school year, each school district  
17    shall be paid the amount it received during the 2004-2005 school  
18    year under subsections (nn) and (oo).

19    (qq) (1) During the 2005-2006 school year, twenty-one  
20    million one hundred forty-one thousand four hundred forty-three  
21    dollars (\$21,141,443) of the funds appropriated to the  
22    Department of Education for special education shall be used to  
23    provide supplemental funding for special education to school  
24    districts under this subsection.

25    (2) Each school district shall receive a funding supplement  
26    calculated as follows:

27    (i) multiply each school district's 2005-2006 market  
28    value/income aid ratio by sixteen percent (16%) of its 2004-2005  
29    average daily membership;

30    (ii) multiply the product from subclause (i) by twenty



1 million dollars (\$20,000,000); and  
2 (iii) divide the resultant product from subclause (ii) by  
3 the sum of the products of the 2005-2006 market value/income aid  
4 ratio multiplied by sixteen percent (16%) of the 2004-2005  
5 average daily membership for all school districts.

6 (3) Each school district for which the supplement under  
7 clause (2) provides an amount less than two percent (2%) of the  
8 sum of the amounts provided under subsections (nn) and (oo)  
9 shall receive additional funding as necessary so that the sum of  
10 the amounts provided under clause (2) and this clause equals two  
11 percent (2%) of the sum of the amounts provided under  
12 subsections (nn) and (oo).

13 Section 25. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

14 Section 2552.1. Effect of Failure to File Reports.--(a) The  
15 Department of Education shall order the forfeiture of three  
16 hundred dollars (\$300) per day by a school district, charter  
17 school, area vocational-technical school or intermediate unit  
18 that does not submit its annual financial report and annual  
19 budget to the Department of Education within thirty (30) days of  
20 the submittal date established by the Department of Education.  
21 The forfeiture shall continue until a report and annual budget  
22 that meet established criteria are submitted. The Department of  
23 Education shall deduct the amount of the forfeiture from any and  
24 all State payments made to the school district, charter school,  
25 area vocational-technical school or intermediate unit.

26 (b) The Department of Education shall order the forfeiture  
27 of three hundred dollars (\$300) per day by a school district,  
28 charter school, area vocational-technical school or intermediate  
29 unit that does not submit its pupil membership/child accounting  
30 reports within thirty (30) days of the submittal date

1 established by the Department of Education. The forfeiture shall  
2 continue until a report that meets established criteria is  
3 submitted. The Department of Education shall deduct the amount  
4 of the forfeiture from any and all State payments made to the  
5 school district, charter school, area vocational-technical  
6 school or intermediate unit.

7 (c) The Secretary of Education may waive the forfeiture  
8 requirements under subsection (a) or (b) if the Secretary of  
9 Education is satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.

10 (d) In addition to the forfeiture provided under subsections  
11 (a) and (b) and notwithstanding any other provision of law to  
12 the contrary, the Department of Education may initiate the  
13 following professional disciplinary actions against a chief  
14 school administrator in accordance with the provisions and  
15 procedures set forth in the act of December 12, 1973 (P.L.397,  
16 No.141), known as the "Professional Educator Discipline Act,"  
17 for failure to submit the annual financial report and annual  
18 budget or pupil membership/child accounting reports within sixty  
19 (60) days of the submittal date established by the Department of  
20 Education:

21 (1) Action to suspend for a period of one year the letter of  
22 eligibility of a superintendent for the first violation of this  
23 subsection.

24 (2) Action to suspend for a period of one year or revoke the  
25 letter of eligibility of a superintendent for the second or  
26 subsequent violation of this subsection.

27 (3) Action to suspend for a period of one year the relevant  
28 administrative certificate held by a chief school administrator  
29 of a school entity, as the term "school entity" is defined by  
30 the "Professional Educator Discipline Act" for the first

1 violation of this subsection.

2 (4) Action to suspend for a period of one year or revoke the  
3 relevant administrative certificate held by a chief school  
4 administrator of a school entity, as the term "school entity" is  
5 defined by the "Professional Educator Discipline Act" for the  
6 second or subsequent violation of this subsection.

7 (5) In the event that the chief school administrator is not  
8 certified/certificated, action to prohibit the individual from  
9 being employed in a similar position, including the temporary  
10 rescission of any letters of eligibility or waivers to hold such  
11 position, for a period of one year for the first violation of  
12 this subsection.

13 (6) In the event that the chief school administrator is not  
14 certified/certificated, action to prohibit the individual from  
15 being employed in a similar position, including rescission of  
16 any letters of eligibility or waivers to hold such position, or  
17 temporary rescission of any letters of eligibility or waivers to  
18 hold such position for a period of one year, for the second or  
19 subsequent violation of this subsection.

20 Section 26. Section 2574(e) of the act, amended July 10,  
21 1987 (P.L.286, No.50), is amended, subsections (b) and (c) are  
22 amended by adding paragraphs and the section is amended by  
23 adding subsections to read:

24 Section 2574. Approved Reimbursable Rental for Leases  
25 Hereafter Approved and Approved Reimbursable Sinking Fund  
26 Charges on Indebtedness.--\* \* \*

27 (b) For new school buildings the approved building  
28 construction cost shall be the lesser of

29 \* \* \*

30 (4) For school buildings for which the general construction

1 contract is awarded subsequent to January 1, 2005, and for  
2 approved school building projects for which the general  
3 construction contract was awarded but for which a lease or  
4 general obligation bond resolution was not approved by the  
5 Department of Education prior to January 1, 2005, the product of  
6 the rated pupil capacity as determined by the Department of  
7 Education at the time the project is approved and (i) four  
8 thousand seven hundred dollars (\$4,700) in the case of  
9 elementary schools, (ii) six thousand two hundred dollars  
10 (\$6,200) in the case of secondary schools, (iii) an amount in  
11 the case of combined elementary-secondary schools obtained by  
12 multiplying the rated elementary pupil capacity by four thousand  
13 seven hundred dollars (\$4,700) and the rated secondary pupil  
14 capacity by six thousand two hundred dollars (\$6,200) and  
15 dividing the sum by the total rated pupil capacity.

16 (b.1) For school buildings constructed and based on an  
17 approved school facility design received from the Department of  
18 Education's school facility design clearinghouse, for which the  
19 general construction contract is awarded subsequent to January  
20 1, 2005, and for approved school building projects for which the  
21 general construction contract was awarded but for which a lease  
22 or general obligation bond resolution was not approved by the  
23 Department of Education prior to January 1, 2005, the approved  
24 building construction cost shall additionally include the  
25 product of the rated pupil capacity as determined by the  
26 Department of Education at the time the project is approved and  
27 (i) four hundred seventy dollars (\$470) in the case of  
28 elementary schools, (ii) six hundred twenty dollars (\$620) in  
29 the case of secondary schools, (iii) an amount in the case of  
30 combined elementary-secondary schools obtained by multiplying

1 the rated elementary pupil capacity by four hundred seventy  
2 dollars (\$470) and the rated secondary pupil capacity by six  
3 hundred twenty dollars (\$620) and dividing the sum by the total  
4 rated pupil capacity.

5 (c) For additions or alterations to existing buildings  
6 approved building construction cost shall be the lesser of

7 \* \* \*

8 (4) For school buildings for which the general construction  
9 contract is awarded subsequent to January 1, 2005, and for  
10 approved school building projects for which the general  
11 construction contract was awarded but for which a lease or  
12 general obligation bond resolution was not approved by the  
13 Department of Education prior to January 1, 2005, the difference  
14 obtained by subtracting the appraisal value of the existing  
15 building from the product of the rated pupil capacity of the  
16 altered or expanded building as determined by the Department of  
17 Education at the time the project is approved and (i) four  
18 thousand seven hundred dollars (\$4,700) in the case of  
19 elementary schools, (ii) six thousand two hundred dollars  
20 (\$6,200) in the case of secondary schools, (iii) an amount in  
21 the case of combined elementary-secondary schools obtained by  
22 multiplying the rated elementary pupil capacity by four thousand  
23 seven hundred dollars (\$4,700) and the rated secondary pupil  
24 capacity by six thousand two hundred dollars (\$6,200) and  
25 dividing the sum by the total rated pupil capacity of the  
26 altered or expanded building.

27 \* \* \*

28 (c.3) For school buildings for which the general  
29 construction contract is awarded on or after January 1, 2005,  
30 and for approved school building projects for which the general

1 construction contract was awarded but for which a lease or  
2 general obligation bond resolution was not approved by the  
3 Department of Education prior to January 1, 2005, and where the  
4 general construction contract alters or adds to an existing  
5 school building, the approved building construction cost shall  
6 additionally include the difference obtained by subtracting the  
7 appraisal value of the existing building from the product of the  
8 rated pupil capacity of the altered or expanded building as  
9 determined by the Department of Education at the time the  
10 project is approved and (i) four hundred seventy dollars (\$470)  
11 in the case of elementary schools, (ii) six hundred twenty  
12 dollars (\$620) in the case of secondary schools, (iii) an amount  
13 in the case of combined elementary-secondary schools obtained by  
14 multiplying the rated elementary pupil capacity by four hundred  
15 seventy dollars (\$470) and the rated secondary pupil capacity by  
16 six hundred twenty dollars (\$620) and dividing the sum by the  
17 total rated pupil capacity.

18 (c.4) For school buildings for which the general  
19 construction contract is awarded on or after January 1, 2005,  
20 and for approved school building projects for which the general  
21 construction contract was awarded but for which a lease or  
22 general obligation bond resolution was not approved by the  
23 Department of Education prior to January 1, 2005, and where the  
24 school building receives a silver, gold or platinum  
25 certification from the United States Green Building Council's  
26 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building  
27 Rating System on or after January 1, 2005, the Department of  
28 Education shall adjust the approved building construction cost  
29 to additionally include the product of the rated pupil capacity  
30 as determined by the Department of Education at the time the

1 project is approved and (i) four hundred seventy dollars (\$470)  
2 in the case of elementary schools, (ii) six hundred twenty  
3 dollars (\$620) in the case of secondary schools, (iii) an amount  
4 in the case of combined elementary-secondary schools obtained by  
5 multiplying the rated elementary pupil capacity by four hundred  
6 seventy dollars (\$470) and the rated secondary pupil capacity by  
7 six hundred twenty dollars (\$620) and dividing the sum by the  
8 total rated pupil capacity. The Department of Education in  
9 consultation with the Governor's Green Government Council shall  
10 issue guidelines to carry out this section.

11 (c.5) Reimbursement for an approved school construction  
12 project shall not exceed total project costs.

13 \* \* \*

14 (e) For area vocational-technical school and technical  
15 institute projects leased subsequent to July 1, 1964, by or for  
16 lease to a board of school directors authorized to operate such  
17 a school, the Department of Education shall calculate an  
18 approved reimbursable rental charge.

19 For area vocational-technical school and technical institute  
20 projects constructed or purchased subsequent to July 1, 1964, by  
21 a board of school directors authorized to operate such a school,  
22 the Department of Education may calculate an approved  
23 reimbursable sinking fund charge.

24 Approved reimbursable rental or sinking fund charge shall  
25 consist of that part of the annual rental or sinking fund  
26 attributable to:

27 (1) Cost of acquiring land and preparing it for use to the  
28 extent that such costs are deemed reasonable by the Department  
29 of Education and the interest on such cost of acquisition, cost  
30 of preparation and the cost of sewage treatment and the interest

1 on such cost.

2 (2) Machinery, apparatus, furniture and equipment and all  
3 other necessary expenses and interest charges, but excluding  
4 architects' fees in excess of six percent of the construction  
5 cost.

6 The approved building construction cost and the interest on  
7 such construction cost shall not exceed the product of the rated  
8 full-time pupil capacity, as determined by the Department of  
9 Education at the time the project is approved and two thousand  
10 two hundred dollars (\$2,200).

11 The provisions of the foregoing paragraph shall apply to all  
12 school building projects for which the general construction  
13 contract is awarded prior to July 1, 1966, and for approved  
14 school building projects for which a lease was approved by the  
15 Department of Education prior to July 1, 1966. For school  
16 buildings for which the general construction contract is awarded  
17 subsequent to July 1, 1966, and for approved school building  
18 projects for which the general construction contract was awarded  
19 but for which a lease was not approved by the Department of  
20 Education prior to July 1, 1966, the approved building  
21 construction cost and the interest on such construction cost  
22 shall not exceed the product of the rated full-time pupil  
23 capacity, as determined by the Department of Education at the  
24 time the project is approved, and three thousand seven hundred  
25 dollars (\$3700).

26 For school buildings for which the general construction  
27 contract is awarded subsequent to July 1, 1984, and for approved  
28 school building projects for which the general construction  
29 contract was awarded but for which a lease or general obligation  
30 bond resolution was not approved by the Department of Education



1 prior to July 1, 1984, the approved building construction cost  
2 and the interest on such construction cost shall not exceed the  
3 product of the rated full-time pupil capacity, as determined by  
4 the Department of Education at the time the project is approved,  
5 and six thousand three hundred dollars (\$6,300).

6 For school buildings for which the general construction  
7 contract is awarded subsequent to January 1, 2005, and for  
8 approved school building projects for which the general  
9 construction contract was awarded but for which a lease or  
10 general obligation bond resolution was not approved by the  
11 Department of Education prior to January 1, 2005, the approved  
12 building construction cost shall not exceed the product of the  
13 rated full-time pupil capacity, as determined by the Department  
14 of Education at the time the project is approved, and seven  
15 thousand six hundred dollars (\$7,600).

16 The Department of Education shall not approve the expenditure  
17 of any funds borrowed or obtained by the sale of bonds by any  
18 authority, nonprofit corporation, profit corporation, company or  
19 individual for construction of area vocational-technical schools  
20 or technical institutes for bleachers, athletic field, lighting  
21 equipment or apparatus used to promote and conduct  
22 interscholastic athletics.

23 \* \* \*

24 Section 27. Section 2599.2(b) of the act, added December 23,  
25 2003 (P.L.304, No.48), is amended and the section is amended by  
26 adding a subsection to read:

27 Section 2599.2. Pennsylvania Accountability Grants.--\* \* \*

28 (b) The grant shall be used by a school district to attain  
29 or maintain academic performance targets. Funds obtained under  
30 this section may be used for any of the following:

1 (1) Establishing, maintaining or expanding a quality pre-  
2 kindergarten program aligned with the current academic standards  
3 contained in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards  
4 and assessment).

5 (2) Establishing, maintaining or expanding a quality full-  
6 day kindergarten program aligned with the current academic  
7 standards contained in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4. Such programs shall be  
8 kept open for five hours each day for the full school term as  
9 provided in section 1501. The board of school directors of a  
10 school district may offer a full-day kindergarten program to  
11 children who are between four and six years old.

12 (3) Establishing, maintaining or expanding a class size  
13 reduction program. Such class size reduction program shall  
14 appoint and assign a minimum of one teacher for every 17  
15 students or two teachers for every 35 students enrolled in a  
16 kindergarten, first, second or third grade classroom. All  
17 teachers appointed and assigned to teach kindergarten, first,  
18 second or third grade shall be certified in accordance with 22  
19 Pa. Code Ch. 49 (relating to certification of professional  
20 personnel) or its successors. The department shall establish  
21 guidelines to assure that no school district satisfies the  
22 requirements of this paragraph by making a reduction in, and  
23 subsequent increase to, current teacher complement. For purposes  
24 of this paragraph, the phrase "one teacher for every 17 students  
25 or two teachers for every 35 students enrolled in a  
26 kindergarten, first, second or third grade classroom" shall  
27 refer to the number of teachers conducting a class at any one  
28 time in a classroom containing the applicable number of  
29 students.

30 (4) Establishing, expanding or maintaining programs that

1 promote the availability, coordination, integration and  
2 utilization of social and health services, associated resources  
3 and ancillary resources to meet the needs of children and  
4 families in addressing issues that may serve to limit student  
5 academic achievement.

6 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article XV-C,  
7 providing tutoring assistance[.] during the normal school day  
8 and hours of the school district, provided that the tutoring is  
9 in addition to and does not interfere with a student's regularly  
10 scheduled classroom instruction times and does not supplant  
11 services required in a student's individualized education  
12 program.

13 (6) Improving the academic performance of subgroups  
14 identified under section 1111(b) of the No Child Left Behind Act  
15 of 2001.

16 (7) Establishing, expanding or maintaining programs to  
17 assist in the building of strong science and applied-knowledge  
18 skills.

19 (8) Providing additional programs for continuing  
20 professional education that may include any of the following:  
21 training in mathematics, science and literacy-specific  
22 curriculum and instructional strategies; training in school-wide  
23 improvement planning; analysis of student achievement data,  
24 including student work and the implications for classroom  
25 practice; observing and studying exemplary school and classroom  
26 practices; implementing school-wide programs and classroom  
27 management strategies designed to improve student conduct; using  
28 technology to boost student achievement; conducting transition  
29 planning and curriculum alignment across schools and grade  
30 levels; or implementing secondary strategies to increase student

1 engagement and personalize learning.

2 (9) Establishing, expanding or maintaining math and literacy  
3 coaching programs within schools to improve math and reading  
4 instruction.

5 (10) Providing financial incentives to highly qualified,  
6 tenured teachers to work in the most academically challenged  
7 schools in a school district or providing financial incentives  
8 to aid in the recruitment of certificated teachers in  
9 mathematics, science, language arts or English as a second  
10 language to work in the most academically challenged schools in  
11 a school district.

12 (11) Providing such other programs or activities that the  
13 board of school directors of a school district determines are  
14 essential to achieving or maintaining academic performance  
15 targets through the year 2014.

16 (b.1) No subcontract between a school district and a  
17 nonprofit organization entered into for the provision of a  
18 program or services pursuant to this section may abrogate  
19 provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between the  
20 nonprofit organization and its employees.

21 \* \* \*

22 Section 28. Chapter 15 of the act of December 18, 2001  
23 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act, is  
24 repealed to the extent of any inconsistency with the amendment  
25 or addition of sections 1901-A(4), 1913-A(b)(1), (c) and (k),  
26 1917-A and 1918-A of the act.

27 Section 29. The provisions of this act are severable. If any  
28 provision of this act or its application to any person or  
29 circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect  
30 other provisions or applications of this act which can be given

1 effect without the invalid provision or application.

2 Section 30. This act shall be retroactive as follows:

3 (1) The amendment of section 1205.2(a), (h), (j.1),  
4 (j.2) and (o) of the act shall be retroactive to April 15,  
5 2005.

6 (2) The addition of section 1714-B(n) of the act shall  
7 be retroactive to May 1, 2005.

8 (3) The reenactment of section 2502.30 of the act shall  
9 be retroactive to July 1, 2004.

10 Section 31. This act shall take effect as follows:

11 (1) The addition or amendment of sections 687(a) and  
12 1216 of the act shall take effect in 60 days.

13 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect  
14 immediately.