



# Ready. Set. Grow. WVPTI Back To School Guide

## Fall 2026 News Letter

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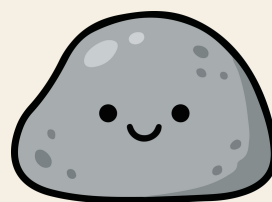
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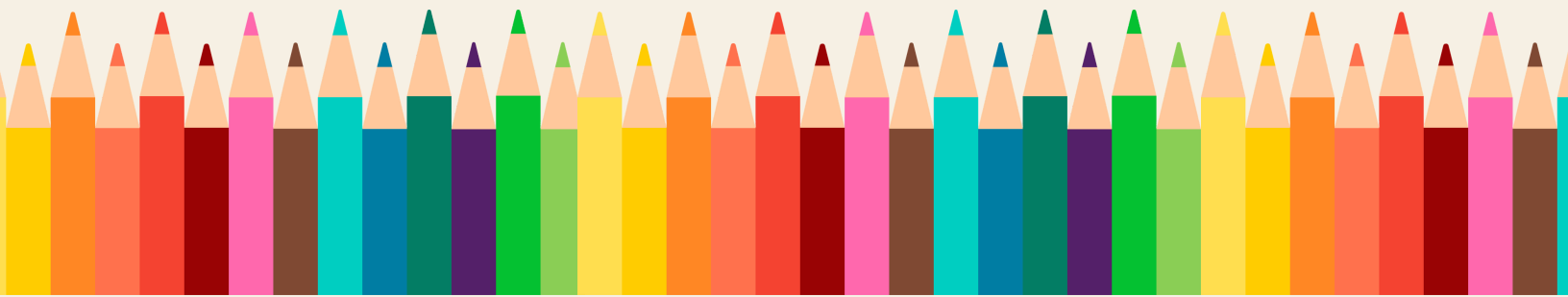
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# WELCOME BACK



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear WVPTI Families, Friends, and Partners,**

Like so many families and communities across West Virginia, the West Virginia Parent Training and Information (WVPTI) office was significantly impacted by the devastating flooding that occurred on July 21, 2026. While our office sustained substantial damage, our mission has not changed. We remain committed to serving West Virginia families every step of the way.

As we begin the recovery process, we have made the difficult decision to relocate to a new office. We will announce our new location as soon as those plans are finalized. Until then, we ask for your patience and grace as we take this journey one step at a time, just as so many families across our state are doing.

Although our physical office will change, our dedication to supporting children and youth with disabilities and their families remains stronger than ever. Our staff continues to answer calls, respond to emails, provide resources, and stand beside families as they navigate their own challenges during this difficult time.

We know that many of you have experienced heartbreaking losses, including homes, businesses, treasured belongings, and a sense of normalcy. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Together, we will rebuild, recover, and continue moving forward with hope.

Thank you for your understanding, encouragement, and continued support of WVPTI. We look forward to sharing updates with you and welcoming you to our new home in the near future.

**With gratitude,**

**Brenda Lamkin, M.Ed.**



**Brenda Lamkin,  
Executive Director**

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL ACROSS WEST VIRGINIA!

## BACK TO SCHOOL DATES 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

| COUNTY            | FIRST DAY |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Barbour County    | August 21 |
| Berkeley County   | August 20 |
| Boone County      | August 21 |
| Braxton County    | August 19 |
| Brooke County     | August 20 |
| Cabell County     | August 12 |
| Calhoun County    | August 13 |
| Clay County       | August 20 |
| Doddridge County  | August 20 |
| Fayette County    | August 13 |
| Gilmer County     | August 13 |
| Grant County      | August 21 |
| Greenbrier County | August 31 |
| Hampshire County  | August 20 |
| Hancock County    | August 24 |
| Hardy County      | August 25 |
| Harrison County   | August 18 |

| COUNTY            | FIRST DAY              |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Jackson County    | August 18              |
| Jefferson County  | August 17              |
| Kanawha County    | August 19              |
| Lewis County      | TBD / Varies by School |
| Lincoln County    | August 17              |
| Logan County      | August 20              |
| Marion County     | August 26              |
| Marshall County   | August 18              |
| Mason County      | August 24              |
| McDowell County   | August 24              |
| Mercer County     | August 20              |
| Mineral County    | August 21              |
| Mingo County      | August 26              |
| Monongalia County | August 18              |
| Monroe County     | August 20              |
| Morgan County     | August 18              |
| Nicholas County   | August 13              |

| COUNTY            | FIRST DAY   |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Ohio County       | August 26   |
| Pendleton County  | August 24   |
| Pleasants County  | August 13   |
| Pocahontas County | August 19   |
| Preston County    | August 24   |
| Putnam County     | August 24   |
| Raleigh County    | August 26   |
| Randolph County   | August 19   |
| Ritchie County    | August 13   |
| Roane County      | August 17   |
| Summers County    | August 24   |
| Taylor County     | August 26   |
| Tucker County     | September 1 |
| Tyler County      | August 19   |
| Upshur County     | August 20   |
| Wayne County      | August 13   |
| Webster County    | August 18   |
| Wetzel County     | August 19   |
| Wirt County       | August 13   |
| Wood County       | August 19   |
| Wyoming County    | August 31   |

### WEST VIRGINIA SALES TAX HOLIDAY 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

BEGINS AT 12:00 A.M. ON  
**FRIDAY JULY 31, 2026**

AND ENDS AT 11:59 P.M. ON  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026**



### BACK-TO-SCHOOL QUICK TIPS

- ☐ Update emergency contacts
- ☐ Practice bus routines
- ☐ Review medications
- ☐ Meet your child's teacher
- ☐ Charge school devices
- ☐ Check school supplies list



# PARENT ADVOCACY STARTS HERE



## WVPTI Parent Advocacy Checklist



I shared my concerns with the school in writing.



I requested an evaluation if I suspected a disability.



I kept copies of all emails and letters.



I requested copies of discipline & behavior records.



I asked whether Child Find obligations were considered.



I requested Prior Written Notice (PWN) if the school refused evaluation or services.



I requested an FBA/BIP when behavior interfered with learning.



I documented dates, meetings, and school responses.

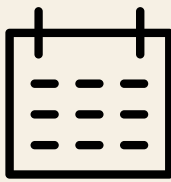
## EVERY PARENT CAN BE AN ADVOCATE

Strong advocacy begins with good communication and organization. Use this checklist throughout the school year to help you stay informed, ask questions, and build positive partnerships with your child's school.

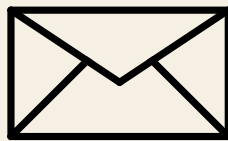
## QUICK PARENT TIPS



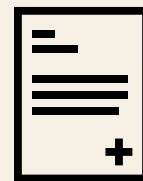
Keep an IEP binder



Write down meeting dates



Save every email



Request things in writing



Call WVPTI if you need help

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**REGISTRATION IS  
— NOW OPEN! —**

# GUIDING THE JOURNEY

**CAPS TO COMPASS** 2026  
2027



## CONTACT US

[www.wvpti-inc.org](http://www.wvpti-inc.org)

**1-800-281-1436**



WEST VIRGINIA PARENT  
TRAINING & INFORMATION



## TOPICS COVERED

- ✓ The Path from High School to Adult Life.
- ✓ Building a vision for Postsecondary Education, Employment, & Independent living.
- ✓ Understanding IEPs, 504s, & essential agency linkages.
- ✓ Decision-making options vs. guardianship
- ✓ Self advocacy for families and students.



**SCAN HERE TO REGISTER NOW:  
Or visit this link below**

[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/DWLHTY9](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DWLHTY9)



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# WVPTI ROCKS! ACROSS WEST VIRGINIA

## FIND A WVPTI ROCK AND WIN!

WVPTI is hiding 12 painted rocks in 12 different West Virginia counties!

Each rock includes the WVPTI name and phone number.

HERE'S HOW TO PLAY:



**1: FIND**  
A WVPTI Rock



**2: CALL**  
The toll-free  
number on the rock



**3: WIN**  
WVPTI swag  
& win a prize!

WVPTI  
WEST VIRGINIA PARENT TRAINING  
& INFORMATION

The Rock You Can Count On

**1-800-281-1436**

FOLLOW WVPTI FOR CLUES, UPDATES,  
AND WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
as we rock our way across West Virginia!



Follow WVPTI for  
Clues, Updates, and  
Announcements!



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# STANDING STRONG TOGETHER



## A MESSAGE TO OUR FAMILIES

Thank You for Standing with WVPTI

As we begin a new school year, please remember that through both the joyful milestones and the unexpected challenges, WVPTI is here for you. We look forward to celebrating your child's growth, learning, and accomplishments while walking beside you through every step of the journey.

We invite you to join us for our upcoming trainings and family learning opportunities beginning this September. Whether your child attends a public school, private school, charter school, homeschool, or another educational setting, WVPTI is here to provide free information, resources, and support to help you make informed decisions for your family.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for allowing us to be part of your family's journey. We look forward to serving you throughout the coming school year.

We're still here. We're still serving. And together, we're building brighter futures for West Virginia families.

Stay Connected!

Don't forget to follow West Virginia Parent Training and Information (WVPTI) on Facebook and visit our website for the latest news, upcoming events, and helpful family resources. Be sure to sign up for our free newsletter so you'll never miss trainings, webinars, family tips, and important updates throughout the year.

We look forward to connecting with you and your family!

### WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU



**Phone Support**  
1-800-281-1436



**Parent  
Engagement  
Specialists**



**Email Support**  
wvpti@aol.com



**Free  
Trainings**



**Free  
resources**



**Facebook  
page**



**Webpage**  
wvpti-inc.org

Thank you  
for  
standing  
with  
WVPTI!



**Waterline visible  
outside the  
WVPTI office  
following the  
July, 21 flood.**



# To ALL Students Returning to School



If you see any of the following:



another student  
struggling to make friends



another student  
being picked on



a student who is new, shy,  
or not with the “in crowd”



a student who is  
eating lunch alone

**Be a Leader!** | **Be a Warrior!**



Say hi. Smile at them.  
Ask if you can sit with them.  
Include them.

You never know what that person is  
facing inside or outside of school.



You are not alone. We are here.

