

New Policy

Hardy County Board of Education

Taps at Military Funerals by Students

The Hardy County Board of Education recognizes the need to facilitate collaboration that will encourage capable young people to assist with the sounding of *Taps* at military funerals honoring our veterans and, thereby, help them to develop a better understanding of the sacrifices, a respect for the commitment and an appreciation of the privileges that the men and women of the armed services have provided through their service.

The purpose of this county policy is to increase the number of buglers qualified to sound *Taps* at military honors funerals of deceased veterans, and to develop programs for qualified student volunteers to participate as buglers.

Components of the Program Include:

1. A registry of students shall be created by the school's band director/music teacher that shall include:
 - a. Student's full name and phone number;
School name and phone number;
Band director/music teacher;
School Principal;
Written permission from the parent(s) to participate
 - b. The registry shall be kept on file in participating schools.
 - c. The registry shall be made available upon request to the funeral directors and established veterans' organizations.
2. After providing the appropriate musical training, information on the historical significance, and protocol necessary to ensure the integrity of the sounding of *Taps*, the band director/music teacher shall determine students eligible for the registry and report that information to the school principal.
3. Provision of Work-Based Learning Credit
 - a. The sounding of *Taps* shall be co-curricular activity;
 - b. Participation in the sounding of *Taps* may be credited toward work-based learning or community service;
 - c. Students are responsible for verifying that credit is recorded with the appropriate designated person in their school responsible for Community Service/Work-based Learning Credit;
4. Absences incurred through participation in the sounding of *Taps* shall be considered an excused absence as a school approved co-curricular/extra-curricular activity. (WVEIS Code X-1).

The County shall distribute the ***Taps for Military Funerals Policy*** (ICJ) to all 9-12 schools. This policy will be made available, but is not limited to, the following:

- The WV Department of Education Arts Coordinator
- Nationally recognized veterans' organization such:
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - American Legion
 - Marine Corps League
 - WV Division of Veterans Affairs
 - Bugles Across America
 - Other community service organizations that have appropriate information on proper military protocol.

Provisions of the policy include:

- Student participation in the "Veterans Honors Funeral Assistant Community Service Program" in voluntary;
- The sounding of *Taps* for Veterans' funerals is not a school-sponsored event; however is considered a community service for which school credit may be awarded, if the school desires;

- Parent/guardian permission must be obtained in writing for each occurrence in accordance with county board policy;
- A parent/guardian or student must be responsible for transportation and this information must be a part of the permission form;
- The school or the county may not reimburse expenses nor provide an honorarium;
- In accordance with W.Va. Code §18-2E-8e (d) (3), the Hardy County Board is not liable for student supervision while absent to participate in the sounding of *Taps* for veterans' funerals.

Incentives may be provided by schools including the following:

- Participating schools may consider the following incentives:
- Presentation of certificates, medals, pins, or other appropriate award symbols;
- Honorarium awarded by agencies other than the school or the Hardy County Board of Education;
- Public recognition at awards assemblies;
- WV Veterans certificate of recognition may be obtained from:

West Virginia Division of Veterans Affairs
1321 Plaza East, Suite 109
Charleston, WV 25301

Severability:

If any provision of this policy or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this policy.

Legal Reference: West Virginia Code, §18-2E-8e. Veteran's honors funeral assistant community service program; W.Va. 126CSR42, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs, §126-42-4.4, §126-42-5318; and W.Va. 126CSR44J, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2520.10, Music Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools, standard 1 and standard.

DATE: February 20, 2006

