

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Teach for America Update

Rationale:

Board members requested more information on Teach for America in Kentucky.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.048

History/Background:

Existing Policy: The Kentucky General Assembly, under KRS 161.048, has enacted alternative routes to teacher and administrator certification for persons who have demonstrated exceptional work and/or educational experiences. The **Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)** is the state agency that establishes standards and procedures for the alternative route options. The EPSB provides technical assistance to qualifying individuals who have potential as educators in Kentucky schools, to local boards of education, and to institutions of higher education in implementing these options.

Option 1: Exceptional Work Experience Certification

Option 2: Local District Training Program Certification

Option 3: College Faculty Certification

Option 4: Adjunct Instructor Certification

Option 5: Veterans of the Armed Forces

Option 6: University-Based Alternative Route to Certification

Option 7: Institute Alternative Route to Certification

Option 8: Teach for America (TFA) Alternative Route to Certification

Summary: The focus of this item is Option 8, Teach for America (TFA). TFA is a nationwide non-profit organization focused on closing achievement gaps among students in low-income areas. It allows a person in a field other than education to receive a one-year Temporary Provisional Certificate (elementary, middle, and/or secondary) renewable for a maximum of three years (first issuance, renewal, renewal) if he/she has met the following conditions:

- Holds a bachelor's degree;
- Has an offer of employment from a local school district in the area of certification being sought;
- Meets the participation criteria for the TFA program;

- Successfully completes all training requirements of the TFA program; and
- Passes all content assessments required by EPSB in the area of certification being sought.

TFA teachers complete the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) during year three.

Currently, the following districts in Kentucky have Teach for America teachers:

Covington Independent
 Knox County
 Rockcastle County
 Middlesboro Independent
 Harlan Independent
 Harlan County
 Pulaski County
 Leslie County
 Somerset Independent
 Letcher County
 Hazard Independent
 Perry County
 Floyd County
 Lawrence County
 Breathitt County
 Martin County

Mr. Will Nash will provide an update on Teach for America in Kentucky at the April KBE meeting addressing the effectiveness of Teach for America teachers, retention rates and how the funds provided to Teach for America have been spent.

Budget Impact: Teach for America has received funding from the Kentucky Department of Education since 2012. The current year funding is \$250,000.

Contact Person (s):

Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner
 Office of Next Generation Learners
 (502) 564-9850
Amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov

Will Nash, Executive Director
 Teach for America
 (606) 436-6000
Will.nash@teachforamerica.org



Commissioner of Education

Date:

April 2016