Education Professional Standards Board

October 2016
Update Memo

EPSB Mission

The Education Professional Standards Board, in full collaboration and cooperation with its education partners, promotes high levels of student achievement by establishing and enforcing rigorous professional standards for preparation, certification, and responsible and ethical behavior of all professional educators in Kentucky.

The EPSB Goals, Strategies, Policies, Procedures, Strategic Plan and Annual Report may be found at http://www.epsb.ky.gov/boardinfo/mission.asp.

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Special Report on Teacher Distribution/Shortage by KSBA

KSBA released the following articles pertaining to teacher recruitment and retention in September:

- Special Report: Nearly one in four Kentucky public school teachers are eligible to retire; EPSB chief: issue isn't a shortage, but rather a distribution problem in areas and subjects...
- ...Teach Kentucky has helped dozens of Kentucky districts meet classroom needs with attention to quality over quantity; "alternative certification" tied to U of L school...
- ...Future Educators initiative used by several districts to "grow their own" to meet future instructional needs; "rising educators" program started at UK...
- ...Murray State U. begins professional development pilot program focused on preparing student teachers for the middle school classroom; effort could expand...
- ...Crittenden Co. superintendent wants to see greater flexibility in certified hiring options; at issue is required passage of Praxis exams to teach certain grade levels...
- ...Fleming Co. High principal mixes creativity and aggressive efforts to fill vacancies - calling neighboring districts, universities, using social media to put out the word

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LEAD Reports Due Soon

Districts are reminded that October is the month during which the LEAD report must be corrected, completed, and submitted to EPSB. November 1, 2016, is the sign-off date, but districts may sign-off earlier if all errors have been corrected. Superintendents should take a moment this month to speak with the LEAD coordinators and view the Preliminary Audit Report, which will show any critical errors such as out-of-field teachers, new teachers not yet in KTIP, and those with expired certificates. With questions regarding the LEAD report, contact EPSBLEADTEAM@ky.gov.

KTIP Information for the Fall of 2016

Please make sure all intern teachers are entered into the EPSB Intern Management System (IMS). **Any intern able to complete 140 instructional days must be documented as soon as possible**. Interns denied for budget last year are first priority. Our goal is to accommodate everyone this year; however, they must be entered in IMS. Your timely assistance is needed to make this happen.

EPSB Meeting Policy Amended

At the August 15, 2016, meeting of the Board, the EPSB conducted the first reading of an amendment to the meeting policy. The new policy, which is scheduled to have a second reading at the October 10, 2016, meeting of the Board, provides that the EPSB shall meet the **second Monday of February, April, October and December**, and on the **third Monday of June and August**. The meetings shall commence at 10 a.m. (ET) If approved, the new policy will go into effect for the December 12, 2016, Board meeting.

The Board did alter the start time for the October 10, 2016, meeting to start at 10 a.m. With the change in the start time, this meeting will be considered a Special Called Meeting.

The Kentucky Teacher Standards

The EPSB staff is currently reviewing *16 KAR 1:010 Standards for certified school personnel (AKA the Kentucky Teacher Standards)* and gathering input from appropriate constituency groups. This will be presented to the Board at the October 10, 2016, meeting as a first reading. If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions concerning this regulation, please send those to Dr. Ben Boggs at ben.boggs@ky.gov.

Certification Fee Increases

KRS 161.028(1)(q) states that "The Education Professional Standards Board has the authority and responsibility to: Charge reasonable fees for the issuance, reissuance, and renewal of certificates that are established by administrative regulation. The proceeds shall be used to meet a portion of the costs of the issuance, reissuance, and renewal of certificates, and the costs associated with disciplinary action against a certificate holder under KRS 161.120."

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Certification fees were first established by the Board in January of 1997. Fees have not changed since that time. With the passing of the most recent biennium budget, the EPSB was reduced by approximately 9.5%. Additionally, language was included in the budget that stated the EPSB "may use the funds generated from professional school personnel certification fees to support the operations of the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program."

After receiving feedback from all stakeholders, concerns were raised around the fees for the issuance of the five-year substitute and the emergency substitute certifications. Currently, the fee for the five-year substitute certification is fifteen (15) dollars and there is no charge for the emergency substitute certification. At the August 2016 Board meeting it was proposed to start charging (15) dollars for the emergency substitute certification and increase the fee from fifteen (15) dollars to thirty-five (35) dollars for the five-year substitute certification. It is believed by some stakeholders that the additional fees would cause a hardship to both the candidate and the local school districts.

In addition to the fee structure, a synchronization option would increase certification processing efficiency and result in potential savings for candidates with multiple certificates. Those that choose this option upon renewal or adding a new certificate may align the date of renewal for all certificates to the same year, as long as they meet the renewal requirements for each area of certification. For example, if a person has three certificates that are due in 2017, 2019, and 2020 respectively, then she/he would have to pay $85 (new fee) to renew each certificate; a resulting cost of $255. However, if the person elects to "synchronize" her/his certificates when renewing the certificate due in 2017, she/he will pay the $85 renewal fee along with a $15 synchronization fee (total of $100) and each certificate would be aligned for renewal in 2022, saving the educator $155.

Following a careful review of the certification fees and the necessary expenditures to continue serving the students and education community of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the following changes to 16 KAR 4:040 with changes in certification fees will be presented to the Board for consideration:

- Increase the "Issuance, reissuance, or renewal of a regular certificate" from fifty (50) dollars to eighty-five (85) dollars;
- Increase the "Reissuance of limited four (4) year certification" from thirty-five (35) dollars to fifty (50) dollars; and
- Add a synchronization option for aligning multiple certifications which would include an eighty-five (85) dollars renewal fee + fifteen (15) dollars synchronization fee for a total of one hundred (100) dollars.

Additionally, the following change relating to method of payment is presented to the Board for consideration:

- Require that certification fees be paid through an electronic payment rather than certified check or money order.

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Meetings Across the State

10/5/2016	KBE	Board Meeting
10/5/2016	GRREC	Board Meeting
10/10/2016	Legislature	Interim Joint Education Committee Meeting
10/12/2016	KDE	Commissioner's Accountability Steering Committee
10/12/2016	NKCES	Board Meeting
10/13/2016	SESC	Board Meeting
10/17/2016	KASA/CEL	Maximizing Achievement Interactive Web Conference
10/19/2016	CKEC	Board Meeting
10/19-20/2016	KEDC	Board Meeting
10/20/2016	KASA/CEL	Implementing Standards - Based Literacy Instruction
10/21/2016	KASA/CEL	Employee Discipline - Module 1
10/24/2016	KASA/CEL	Leading and Learning: Making Learning Visible for ALL Students
10/26/2016	WKEC	Board Meeting
10/26/2016	OVEC	Board Meeting
10/26/2016	KASA/CEL	Making School Matter - Students Owning Their Own Learning
10/27/2016	KASA/CEL	Leveraging Leadership Skills: A Practical Approach for Aspiring Superintendents

The next scheduled meeting of the EPSB is Monday, October 10, 2016, at 10 a.m. (ET) in Conference Room A, 100 Airport Road, 3rd Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky.

EPSB meeting agendas may be found one week prior to the meeting at http://www.epsb.ky.gov/boardinfo/meetingagendas.asp.