



Kenton County School District | It's about ALL kids.

# Issue Paper

**DATE:**

4/25/2023

**AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):**

Consider/Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Northern Kentucky University (NKU) and the Kenton County School District (KCS D) for Instructional Assistants (IAs) throughout KCS D to have the opportunity to enter an Option 9 Alternative Certification Program at NKU to gain Kentucky Elementary Teacher Certification while employed as an IA .

**APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:**

01.11 General Powers and Duties of the Board

**HISTORY/BACKGROUND:**

Kentucky recently approved an Option 9 alternative certification pathway for earning Kentucky Teacher Certification. This is an expedited route to certification that results in a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three school years. The route requires a college or university to partner with a district to develop a program that includes a residency component where IAs work in their current role and gain their student teaching/practicum experience with a district mentor. Through this route, KCS D IAs would no longer be forced to take a leave of absence to complete student teaching. Not only will the continued partnership grow the education profession, it will serve as a first-hand recruiting tool for administrators who have IAs they can build and grow into future teachers.

**FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

\$0 cost to the district

**RECOMMENDATION:**

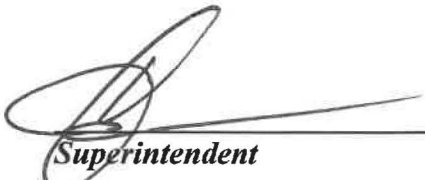
Approval to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement between Northern Kentucky University (NKU) and the Kenton County School District (KCS D) for Instructional Assistants (IAs) throughout KCS D to have the opportunity to enter an Option 9 Alternative Certification Program at NKU to gain Kentucky Elementary Teacher Certification while employed as an IA.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Malina Owens

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

*Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.*

*Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.*

From: Dr. Ginni Fair, Dean, College of Education  
RE: Option 9 Agreement  
Date: April 22, 2023

**Memorandum of Agreement**  
**NKU Partnership with Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services**

The Northern Kentucky University College of Education would like partner with NKCES districts to provide expedited Kentucky teacher certification to participants, pursuant to House Bill (HB) 277, which amended KRS 161.048 to create Option 9.

The participant teachers from NKCES districts will complete a bachelor's degree and initial certification in a three-year period while working in a non-teaching position in a school district.

A cohort of at least 20 students within the regional districts will allow NKU's College of Education to offer a cohort-model option that offers program courses in sequences and formats that meets the needs of its unique participants. To be eligible for this Option 9 route, participants must be employed by a school district within the NKCES region.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

Dr. Ginni Fair  
Dean, College of Education  
Northern Kentucky University  
Fairg1@nku.edu

**Responsibilities of NKU:**

- a) NKU will advise participants on which classes to take in which semester.
- b) NKU will offer classes in formats that are appropriate for the unique population of Option 9 students (online, in summer/winter institutes, on evenings or weekends).
- c) NKU will follow EPSB guidelines for admission to an undergraduate, initial certification educator preparation program [16 KAR 5:020, Section 1(2)].
- d) NKU will utilize work experience settings for fulfillment of student teaching expectations. (NKU may recommend, however, that participants teach or work in slightly varied settings, depending upon certification areas.)

- e) NKU will assign a university supervisor to work with the participant during the third year of the program.

**Responsibilities of Participating NKCES School Districts:**

- a) Employ the participant in a residency or paraprofessional program within the school district for the duration of the program as long as the participant is making successful progress in the Option Nine program;
- b) Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and mentoring to the participant;
- c) Ensure at least one mentor is certified in the area in which certification is being sought;
- d) Ensure the availability of funding for each participant for the duration of the candidate's participation in the program as long as the participant is making successful progress in the Option Nine program;
- e) Ensure at least one (1) year of employment provides hands-on experience in the area in which certification is being sought; and
- f) Continue this partnership until the district's employed participants for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer employed by the district.

**Responsibilities of Participants:**

- a) Participants must apply to NKU as an undergraduate student.
- b) Participants must meet admission requirements as established by EPSB in 16 KAR 5:020, Section 1(2).
- c) Participants are responsible for paying all fees charged by NKU other than tuition.
- d) Participants will be responsible for completing any state requirements necessary for certification in their program area(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Matt Cecil  
Provost & Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, NKU

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Ginni Fair  
Dean, NKU College of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
(Title)