

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Information Item:

Praxis Bridge

Rationale:

To keep the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) apprised of developments in certification assessments and facilitate conversations about potential future action.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, 16 KAR 6:010

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.028(1)(a) authorizes the EPSB to establish standards and requirements for obtaining and maintaining a teaching certificate. In KRS 161.030(3) the Kentucky General Assembly requires an assessment for all new teachers and teachers seeking additional certification. Specifically, the statute provides:

(a) Certification of all new teachers and teachers seeking additional certification shall require the successful completion of appropriate assessments prior to certification. The assessments shall be selected by the Education Professional Standards Board and shall measure knowledge in the specific teaching field of the applicant, including content of the field and teaching of that content. The Education Professional Standards Board shall determine the minimum acceptable level of achievement on each assessment. The assessments shall measure those concepts, ideas, and facts which are being taught in teacher education programs in Kentucky.

The statute gives the authority to select the assessments and passing scores to the EPSB but requires that the assessments measure knowledge in the specific teaching field of the applicant, including content and teaching of that content, and measure those concepts, ideas, and facts which are being taught in teacher education programs in Kentucky. 16 KAR 6:010 establishes the current examination prerequisites for teacher certification as set by the EPSB. The EPSB has also approved the -1 Standard Error of Measure to meet the required assessment scores.

Summary: At the December meeting, the EPSB heard updates from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Included in those updates was an introduction of the Praxis Bridge. This program encourages eligible candidates, who have attempted the Praxis test at least once and scored within a certain threshold, to complete a professional-learning module instead of retaking the entire assessment. EPSB members had questions regarding this program and ETS staff will be at the February meeting to provide the EPSB with additional information on the Praxis Bridge including its use by other states and how it could be utilized in Kentucky.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact at this time.

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