

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STAFF NOTE

Consent Item:

Option 9 Application, Mercer County Schools and Campbellsville University

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the application.

Rationale:

Mercer County Schools and Campbellsville University have submitted an Option 9 application that meets the requirements of KRS 161.048 and 16 KAR 9:110. Campbellsville University holds accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and their educator preparation programs have been approved by the EPSB.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 9:110

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.048(10) establishes the Option 9 alternative route to certification. This route provides for the expedited certification of a person to teach at any grade level through a cooperative program between a college or university and a school district. The expedited certification program will result in a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three school years. The candidate is not certified while completing the route but shall complete a residency/paraprofessional component and receive coaching and mentoring from experienced teachers. 16 KAR 9:110 establishes the standards and procedures for Option 9 and contains sections covering providers, residency, field experience, student teaching, application review, continuance of program approval, revocation for cause, reconsideration, data reports, and professional certificates.

Summary: Mercer County Schools has partnered with Campbellsville University to develop a proposed Option 9 program. In accordance with Section 5 of the regulation, staff has reviewed the application and found that it meets the requirements of KRS 161.048 and 16 KAR 9:110. A copy of the application is included in the Board Meeting Materials tab for EPSB review. As part of the proposal, each party has agreed to take on the following:

- Offer the Option 9 programs exclusively to classified employees who work in the district.
- Ensure candidates complete the same 200 field experience hours that traditional candidates complete within the first two years of residency.
- Maintain electronic records of field experiences that confirm that all residents have fulfilled the field experience requirements and share these records with the Campbellsville University School of Education.
- Require admitted candidates to sign the Professional Code of Ethics and act in an ethical manner.

- Provide training on the Professional Code of Ethics.
- Employ candidates either part time or full time for three years in a classified position.
- Employ the candidate full time in the area of certification sought during the third year of residency.
- Ensure a Mercer County Schools cooperative teacher and Campbellsville University supervisor will follow the EPSB approved Campbellsville University protocols for observing and evaluating student teachers including a minimum of four observations.
- Maintain electronic records that confirm that all third-year residents meet the student teaching requirements and share them with the Campbellsville University School of Education.
- Continue the partnership until the candidates currently in the program complete the program or are no longer employed by Mercer County Schools.

Campbellsville University will:

- Ensure that candidates complete the EPSB approved LBD, IECE, or P-5 Elementary Education Program for Campbellsville University. Candidates who successfully complete the program and pass the licensure exams will earn a bachelor's degree and certification.
- Offer all 120 credit hours of coursework online.
- Require candidates to complete the same 200 field experience hours that traditional candidates complete within the first two years of residency.
- Require Admitted candidates to sign the Professional Code of Ethics
- Provide candidates training on the Professional Code of Ethics.
- Ensure that during the year-long residency, a Mercer County Schools cooperative teacher and Campbellsville University supervisor will follow the EPSB approved Campbellsville University protocols for observing and evaluating student teachers including a minimum of four observations.
- Ensure that the program does not negatively impact the accreditation of the Campbellsville University School of Education.

In accordance with 16 KAR 9:110, Section 5, initial program approval will be for a period of three years. After that time, the providers may apply for continuing program approval and provide evidence of program quality.

Budget Impact: There will be costs associated with the oversight of this route.

Contact Person:

Dr. Melissa Diebel, Academic Program Manager
Division of Educator Preparation and Certification
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness
(502) 564-4606
Email: melissa.diebel@education.ky.gov