

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Consent Item:**

University of the Cumberlands Program Approval: Moderate to Severe Disabilities

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the University of the Cumberlands Moderate to Severe Disabilities program as recommended by the Program Review Committee.

#### **Rationale:**

The submitted programs have demonstrated compliance with the EPSB regulations for admission and standards alignment requirements established in 16 KAR 2:010. The proposed educator preparation programs follow the appropriate regulations (16 KAR 5:010; 16 KAR 2:010) outlining program requirements for program approval as established by the EPSB. The programs have completed the review process and received a recommendation for approval from the Program Review Committee

#### **Applicable Statutes and Regulation:**

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, 16 KAR 5:010, 16 KAR 5:020, 16 KAR 2:010, 16 KAR 9:080

#### **Action Question:**

Should the EPSB approve the Moderate to Severe Disabilities Certification program submitted by the University of the Cumberlands?

#### **History/Background:**

**Existing Policy:** KRS 161.028 and KRS 161.030 require the EPSB to establish curricula for educator preparation programs in Kentucky and approve such programs for Educator Preparation Providers. The Educator Preparation Branch and the Program Review Committee evaluated the program review documents submitted for approval against performance-based program certification guidelines established by the EPSB. The program proposal meets all the requirements set forth by the EPSB.

**Summary:** The University of the Cumberlands is requesting to add Traditional and Option 6 University Alternative Route Master of Arts in Teaching Moderate to Severe Disabilities Initial Graduate, Master's Rank I and Rank II programs in order to address the shortage of teachers for students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities in Kentucky. Given the current shortage of special educators in Kentucky, it is important to have options for individuals to obtain master's degrees that will lead to advanced preparation and rank changes as well as those that will provide initial certifications in special education at the graduate level. The approval of the new Master of Arts in Teaching Moderate to Severe Disabilities programs will increase the university's ability to serve the needs of individuals seeking a special education master's and initial teacher certification and increase the number of certified teachers available for employment in the schools.

***Budget Impact:*** There is no budgetary impact.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:**

OELE staff and the Program Review Committee have reviewed this program proposal and determined that the program meets the requirements for approval. The program has completed the review process and received a recommendation for approval from the Program Review Committee per 16 KAR 5:010 Section 22.

**Contact Person:**

Kim Arington, Program Consultant  
Division of Educator Preparation and Certification  
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness  
(502) 892-6580  
Email: [kimberly.arington@education.ky.gov](mailto:kimberly.arington@education.ky.gov)