<p align="center">**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**</p>

<p align="center">**STAFF NOTE**</p>

Consent Item:
Eastern Kentucky University Program Approval: Learning and Behavior Disorders and Moderate to Severe Disabilities

Staff Recommendation:
The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve Eastern Kentucky University's Learning and Behavior Disorders and 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

Action Question:
Should the EPSB approve the Learning and Behavior Disorders and Moderate to Severe Disabilities Certification programs submitted by the Eastern Kentucky University?

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: Eastern Kentucky University is requesting to add the Master of Arts in Teaching, Learning and Behavior Disorders Initial Graduate, Master's Rank I and Rank II and Master of Arts in Teaching Moderate to Severe Disabilities Initial Graduate, Master's Rank I and Rank II-degree programs in order to address the shortage of teachers for students with Learning and Behavior Disorders and Moderate to Severe Disabilities in Kentucky. Eastern Kentucky University currently has approved Initial Undergraduate, Initial Graduate and Advanced Masters Rank I and Rank II Learning and Behavior Disorders and Moderate to Severe Disabilities programs. Given the current shortage of special educators in Kentucky, it is important to have additional 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

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the new Master of Arts in Teaching program for Learning and Behavior Disorders and 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.

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