

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Consent Item:

Option 9 Application, Spencer County Schools and Midway University

Staff Recommendation:

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

Rationale:

Spencer County Schools and Midway University have submitted an Option 9 application that meets the requirements of KRS 161.048 and 16 KAR 9:110. Midway University holds accreditation from the EPSB 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: Spencer County Schools has partnered with Midway University to develop a proposed Option 9 program. This program will be exclusively available to classified employees who work in the Spencer County Schools. Candidates will complete the EPSB approved learning and behavior disorders (LBD) certification program from Midway University. Candidates who successfully complete the program and pass the licensure exams will earn a bachelor's degree and certification to teach students in P-12 LBD. 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:

Spencer County Schools will:

- Maintain electronic records of field experiences that confirm that all residents have fulfilled the field experience requirements and share these records with the Midway University Department of Teacher Education.
- Ensure candidates sign the professional code of ethics and practice in an ethical manner according to the code of ethics.

- Ensure candidates receive training on the professional code of ethics through professional development provided by Spencer County Schools.
- Employ candidates admitted to the program either part-time or fulltime for three years in a classified position.
- Ensure that during the third year, the candidate is employed full-time in the area of certification sought.
- Ensure the resident will not have responsibility for the supervision or instruction of students without the direct supervision of a certified educator.
- Assign a cooperative teacher during the year-long residency for observing and evaluating student teachers including a minimum of four observations.
- Maintain electronic records that ensure and confirm that all third-year residents meet the student teaching requirements and will share them with the Midway University Department of Teacher Education.
- Will not accept new candidates if they end the program but will continue the partnership until the candidates currently in the program complete the program or are no longer employed by Spencer County Schools.

Midway University will:

- Offer all 120 credit hours of coursework online or in a hybrid evening/online format. Some synchronous education courses will be offered in the evenings during the regular academic year with the remaining courses offered online. Asynchronous general education courses will be offered not only during the regular academic year, but also for three summer terms.
- Require candidates to take classes year-round to complete the 120 hours within a three-year time period.
- Require candidates to complete the same 200 field experience hours that traditional candidates complete as per 16 KAR 5:040 within the first two years of residency.
- Ensure candidates receive training on the professional code of ethics through coursework provided by Midway University.
- Ensure a university supervisor follows the EPSB approved protocols for observing and evaluating student teachers including a minimum of four observations.
- Ensure this program will not negatively impact the accreditation of the Midway University Department of Teacher 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:

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