

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Information Item:

16 KAR 5:040, Admission, Placement, and Supervision in Student Teaching, Amendment

Rationale:

The proposed amendment incorporates waivers that the EPSB has previously approved to allow student teachers to serve as emergency certified substitute teachers, allow student teachers to maintain classified employment, and allow remote observations of student teachers without submitting a request. The proposed amendment also incorporates some feedback received from the Kentucky Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (KACTE).

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.010, KRS 161.028, KRS 161.042, KRS 161.102, 16 KAR 5:040

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.010(6) defines student teacher as “an adult who has completed the prerequisite teacher preparation as prescribed by the accredited teacher education institution in which he or she is enrolled, and who is jointly assigned by the institution and a local school district to engage in a period of practice teaching under the direction and supervision of the administrative and teaching staff of the school district and the institution.” KRS 161.042 further sets out the role of the student teacher but tasks the EPSB with promulgating administrative regulations on the specifics of the utilization of student teachers and the requirements for the supervising teacher, school and school district. Through 16 KAR 5:040, the EPSB has set forth the requirements for admission, placement and supervision in student teaching.

Summary: Since 2020, the EPSB has approved waivers allowing experience that a student teacher acquired as an emergency certified substitute teacher to meet the requirements of student teaching and allowing all student teaching observations to be performed remotely for all educator preparation programs. Due to the positive feedback, the EPSB has continued to approve these waivers annually. Additionally, at the July 2023 meeting, the EPSB approved a waiver to allow student teachers to maintain classified employment for the 2023-2024 school year. The proposed amendment to 16 KAR 5:040 incorporates these waivers as well as feedback received from KACTE.

A copy of the KACTE feedback is included for EPSB review. KACTE has recommended that student teaching experiences not be split among multiple classrooms with multiple cooperating teachers. It's the group's consensus that splitting student teaching across two or more placements sacrifices depth for breadth. KACTE members would prefer to keep students in one placement for student teaching when that is possible as that provides them with richer experiences for understanding instruction, assessment, student growth over time, classroom culture/procedures/routines, and relationship building. Since the regulation also requires students to complete a range of field experiences prior to student teaching, KACTE believes the breadth of the K-12 experience can be covered in the field placements prior to the professional semester of

student teaching. KACTE has also recommended lowering the experience requirement for cooperating teachers from three years to two years as some providers are experiencing a decrease in the number of qualified teachers to serve in this role. At the meeting, staff would like to engage the EPSB in discussion around these two items to determine the EPSB's desire going forward.

The proposed amendment to 16 KAR 5:040 is included for EPSB review.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Contact Person:

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