

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

Option 7 Institute Proposal, iteach

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve iteach's Option 7 Institute Proposal.

Rationale:

The Option 7 Institute Proposal submitted by iteach completed a multi-tiered review process by staff from the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness (OELE) and an external review panel. It was determined that the proposal met the requirements of KRS 161.048(8) and the guidelines approved by the EPSB. The reviewers recommended the proposal for approval by the EPSB.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB approve iteach's Option 7 Institute Proposal?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 9:100

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.048(8) establishes the Option 7 Alternative Route to Certification. This route allows a person in a field other than education to receive a one-year temporary provisional teaching certificate in elementary, middle school, secondary, grades 5-12, or grades P-12. The temporary provisional certificate may be renewed up to two times. A candidate shall possess: a bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which certification is sought or a graduate degree in a related field; a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or 3.0 on the last thirty hours of credit completed; a passing score on the Graduate Record Exam or the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators; and, a passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which certification is sought. Prior to receiving the temporary provisional certificate or during the first year of the certificate, the candidate shall complete a 240-hour institute, if pursuing elementary certification, or a 180-hour institute if pursuing middle or secondary certification. The providers and the content of the institute shall be approved by the EPSB. In October 2019, the EPSB revised the Guidelines for Submitting an Application to Provide an Alternative Route to Certification Institute. These guidelines require that a minimum of half the requisite institute hours shall be completed prior to issuance of the first temporary provisional certificate, and the remainder of the hours shall be completed prior to issuance or during the first temporary provisional certificate. The guidelines also outline the application for providing an Option 7 institute and encourages applicants who are not currently accredited by the EPSB to demonstrate partnerships with institutions of higher education accredited by the EPSB and school

districts/cooperatives recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education. Following a taskforce review and input, the EPSB amended the guidelines in April 2022 to include recommended measures of efficacy. 16 KAR 9:100 establishes the required elements of the Option 7 route to certification and the application review process.

Summary: The submitted program, iteachKENTUCKY, is part of the larger iteachU.S. organization. The following summary and the supplementary materials included in the Board Meeting Materials tab respond to the Board's requests for clarification.

iteach has maintained continuous accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) / Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) since 2012. Most recently, iteach earned full accreditation at the initial licensure-level from CAEP in October 2019 for a seven-year term ending December 31, 2026. The next onsite review is scheduled for spring 2026.

As of January 2024, iteach has 150 active memorandums of understanding with school/district partners in eight states, including extensive district partnerships in the neighboring states of Tennessee (50 district partnerships), Virginia (33 district partnerships), and West Virginia (6 district partnerships). iteachKENTUCKY is committed to establishing partnerships with Kentucky school districts/cooperatives and providing consistent and high-quality clinical experiences in collaboration with candidates' employing districts, in alignment with CAEP Standard 2: Clinical Partnerships and Practice, 16 KAR 9:100, KRS 161.048(8) and the 2022 Guidelines, as approved by the EPSB.

iteach is a nationally accredited educator preparation program provider, petitioning for approval to provide an Option 7 alternative route to certification institute in Kentucky, as established by KRS 161.048(8). While 16 KAR 9:100 and the 2022 Guidelines recommend that petitioning providers who are not already accredited by the EPSB demonstrate partnerships with an institution of higher education accredited by the EPSB, neither the administrative regulations nor the guidelines require that a petitioning provider partner with an existing Kentucky educator preparation program. As an entity dedicated to alternative teacher certification, iteach has invested in the in-house development of a robust educator preparation curriculum that meets state and accreditor standards, and as noted above, has earned full accreditation by CAEP. As a result, iteach can offer a cohesive and peer-reviewed educator preparation program that does not rely on third-party arrangements for the provision of its coursework.

iteach's institute proposal with yellow highlights to indicate all changes made based on the reviews received is included in the Board Meeting Materials tab and requires approval by the EPSB before it may be offered for certification. In accordance with 16 KAR 9:100, Section 2(8) initial approval of an Option 7 program shall not exceed two years.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The program has completed a multi-tiered review process and received a recommendation for approval based on the guidelines approved by the EPSB. OELE staff and an external review team comprised of one individual from an educator preparation provider, one from an educational cooperative and one from a school district have reviewed this program proposal and determined that the program meets the requirements for approval.

Contact Person:

Sharon Salsman, Assistant Director
Division of Educator Preparation and Certification
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness
(502) 564-4606
Email: sharon.salsman@education.ky.gov