

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 2:120. Request to Waive Emergency Certificate Requirements for Christian County Schools

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve Christian County's request to allow for a third issuance of an emergency certificate?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 2:120

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 2:120 Section 2(3)(b) provides that "An emergency certificate shall not be issued to the same person in any subsequent year unless the original emergency certificate was issued under the following conditions: 1. The emergency certificate was issued after February 15 of a school year; or 2. The emergency certificate was issued for less than fifty (50) percent of the person's class schedule. (c) If an emergency certificate is issued to a person pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection, there shall be no more than one (1) subsequent issuance of an emergency certificate to the same person." At the February 2024 meeting, the EPSB approved an amendment to 16 KAR 2:120 to allow for two issuances of an emergency certificate, with an additional issuance if one of the above conditions is met.

Summary: Christian County Schools has been unsuccessful in finding qualified teachers for teaching English as a second language. The school has had zero applicants. The district is actively recruiting certified teachers by attending and contacting EL or TESOL certified graduates from Kentucky and Tennessee. The district states that the candidate, who holds certification for teaching elementary and special education, has done an excellent job teaching their EL students for the past two years, and with a lack of certified applicants they need her to continue in the role for a third year. The district is requesting that the EPSB waive the number of years an emergency certificate can be offered and issue a third emergency certificate for this candidate.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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