

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 an elementary education position. The current emergency certified teacher has twenty-eight years of experience in the field and has served primarily as an instructional assistant. The candidate is working on completing a proficiency evaluation for certification for teaching interdisciplinary early childhood education (IECE) and has already passed the IECE Praxis exam. She has found that she loves teaching second grade, and the district feels it is crucial to keep her in that role so there will be consistency and routine for the students. 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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