

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

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

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve Jefferson 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: Jefferson County Schools has been unsuccessful in finding qualified teachers for English as a Second Language. The district has many languages represented in their district and that brings many challenges. They state they are committed to providing quality education to all students. The candidate currently serves as a migrant learner teacher and the district needs to retain employees in critical shortage areas. The candidate needs more time to take and pass the PRAXIS Principles of Learning and Teaching assessment. 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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