

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 5:040. Alternative Student Teaching Placement Request for Hannah Marsillett

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve Morehead State University's alternative student teaching placement request for Hannah Marsillett?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 5:040

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 5:040 Section 5 (4) states that each educator preparation institution shall provide a full professional semester to include a period of student teaching for a minimum of seventy (70) full days, or its equivalent, in instructional settings that correspond to the grade levels and content areas of the student teacher's certification program. Institutions unable to locate a placement aligned with grade level requirements in this section shall submit an alternative placement request to EPSB staff to be submitted to the Wavier Committee and/or the Board for approval.

Summary: Hannah Marsillett is currently enrolled in a Moderate and Severe Disabilities (MSD) program at Morehead State University and is assigned to complete student teaching this semester. The university has requested to have Ms. Marsillett's placement be conducted in the Magoffin County Schools and has organized and proposed a three-pronged approach to support the candidate's student teaching experience, since there are no qualified MSD Cooperating Teachers in the district. The only teacher that meets the three years of experience requirement in special education is Maryann Caldwell. Ms. Caldwell has over 10 years of experience with a certification in Learning and Behavior Disorders (LBD) instruction. The university has provided a letter of support from Ms. Caldwell's principal at Salyersville Grade School emphasizing her dependability, rapport with parents/community and her exceptional performance as a mentor to new hires in the district.

In addition, to ensure that Ms. Marsillett receives exposure to her content area she will work very closely with former Morehead graduate Katelyn Lanning who is employed in her first year as a MSD teacher at Magoffin County High School. Being a first-year teacher, Ms. Lanning is being mentored by Ms. Caldwell. Ms. Lanning's familiarity with the university's MSD program will help ensure Ms. Marsillett receives the proper experiences during her placement.

Ms. Marsillett will also receive additional support and mentoring from Brenda Combs an employee of the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC). Ms. Combs was assigned by KVEC earlier this academic year to support and work closely with Ms. Lanning.

The university has also submitted a letter of support from Kelli Patrick-Isaac, the Director of Special Education for Magoffin County Schools. The district is in support of this placement and states that Magoffin County Schools has struggled to find certified employees in the area of MSD. The district hopes that once Ms. Marsillett has completed her program, she could be considered for their vacant MSD position at the elementary school.

Having exhausted all possibilities and established a plan to support their student teacher in a way that covers the years of experience, content area, and provides additional support from the local cooperative, Morehead State University is requesting this waiver for Hannah Marsillett to conduct her student teaching placement in the Magoffin County Schools.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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