

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program Guidance and Standards

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the guidance for the Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program to comply with the requirements of Senate Bill 265.

Rationale:

Senate Bill 265 of the 2024 legislative session creates a new teacher induction and mentor program. The legislation, which became effective on the Governor's signature, requires the EPSB to develop standards and guidance for the program and directs districts to provide an induction program for teachers in their first year of teaching beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB approve the Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program guidance?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, 16 KAR 7:010

History/Background:

Existing Policy: Section 2 of SB 265 creates a new teacher induction and mentor program. The EPSB is tasked with developing standards and guidance for the program, and districts are directed to provide an induction program for teachers in their first year of teaching.

Summary: The new teacher induction and mentor program is established to provide new teachers with the assistance and support necessary to begin a successful teaching career through a mentoring relationship during their first year of employment. This program will assist new teachers and teachers new to a district in further understanding of the teaching techniques, procedures, requirements, and expectations of their specific grade level or subject area assignment. Staff presented the statutory requirements of the program and draft guidance documents to the EPSB at the June meeting and engaged the EPSB in a discussion on the vision for the program. Following the meeting, staff met with stakeholders to review and develop the guidance document. A copy of the guidance is included for EPSB review.

Budget Impact: No appropriation was provided for this program. There will be costs associated with staff time for the development of the guidance and required reports. Costs for implementation of the program will fall to the districts.

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