

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Consent Item:

Option 9 Application, Bullitt County Schools and University of Louisville

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the application.

Rationale:

Bullitt County Schools and University of Louisville have submitted an Option 9 application that meets the requirements of KRS 161.048 and 16 KAR 9:110. University of Louisville holds accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and their educator preparation programs have been approved by the EPSB.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 9:110

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.048(10) establishes the Option 9 alternative route to certification. This route provides for the expedited certification of a person to teach at any grade level through a cooperative program between a college or university and a school district. The expedited certification program will result in a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three school years. The candidate is not certified while completing the route but shall complete a residency/paraprofessional component and receive coaching and mentoring from experienced teachers. 16 KAR 9:110 establishes the standards and procedures for Option 9 and contains sections covering providers, residency, field experience, student teaching, application review, continuance of program approval, revocation for cause, reconsideration, data reports, and professional certificates.

Summary: Bullitt County Schools has partnered with the University of Louisville to develop a proposed Option 9 program. In accordance with Section 5 of the regulation, staff has reviewed the application and found that it meets the requirements of KRS 161.048 and 16 KAR 9:110. A copy of the application is included in the Board Meeting Materials tab for EPSB review. As part of the proposal, each party has agreed to take on the following:

Bullitt County Schools shall:

- Employ the program students in a residency or paraprofessional program within the school district for the duration of each student's respective participation in the program subject to the provisions below.
- Ensure the availability of funding to continue the employment of each program student for the duration of the student's participation in the program.
- Provide valuable practical teaching and learning experiences to all students participating in the program.
- Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and mentoring to the program students.

- Ensure that the program students receive training on the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel established in 16 KAR 1:020.
- Provide opportunities for the program student to assume major responsibility for the full range of teaching duties, including extended co-teaching experiences, in a real school situation under the guidance of qualified personnel from the district and university during the final year of the program.
- Place the student in a setting that is consistent with his or her planned certification content and grade range in the final year of the program.
- Place the resident with a cooperating teacher or teachers.
- Share and coordinate with the university to file an electronic report with the EPSB which identifies the required data points.
- Maintain and share with the university electronic records that confirm that all third-year program students meet the requirements.
- Ensure that the program students complete a minimum of two hundred clock hours of field experiences in a variety of primary through grade 12 school settings and shall maintain and share with the university electronic records that confirm all program students have fulfilled the field experiences required.

University of Louisville shall:

- Ensure that the completion of coursework and field experience by each program student will result in a bachelor's degree and a recommendation for initial certification.
- Ensure that courses are sequenced and offered to allow for completion of the program within three years.
- Ensure that all educator program admissions regulations are followed and documented.
- Accept documented work experience in place of student teaching experience.
- Submit the annual electronic report to EPSB as required by 16 KAR 5:020.
- Assign a university supervisor to work with the student during the last year of the student's participation in the program.
- Ensure university supervisors conduct a minimum of four (4) observations of the program student in the actual teaching situation. The observation reports shall be filed as a part of the student teacher record and used as a validation of the supervisory function.
- Ensure university supervisors are available to work with the program student and personnel in the district regarding any problems that may arise relating to the student teaching situation.

In accordance with 16 KAR 9:110, Section 5, initial program approval will be for a period of three years. After that time, the providers may apply for continuing program approval and provide evidence of program quality.

Budget Impact: There will be costs associated with the oversight of this route.

Contact Person:

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