

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

16 KAR 4:090. Request to Waive Reissuance Requirement for Candidates with a Recommendation from a Kentucky School District

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the conditional waiver of the reissuance requirement to assist districts with hiring shortages during the 2024-2025 school year.

Rationale:

As districts continue to navigate teacher shortages, this proposed waiver would remove barriers to recertification for teachers with an expired Kentucky teaching certificate and allow districts to hire individuals who previously held full Kentucky certification. This waiver builds upon the relief provided by the exception certificate and is only available to those candidates who completed all preparation requirements and whose certificate was in good standing.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB approve the conditional waiver of reissuance requirements in 16 KAR 4:090 for qualifying candidates?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 4:090

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 4:090 establishes the reissuance requirement for a Kentucky teaching certificate that has lapsed. Specifically, the regulation requires six semester hours of graduate credit. In 2021, the Kentucky General Assembly created a one-time exception certificate in KRS 161.030 that requires the EPSB to issue a one-time five -year exception certificate to an individual:

- Whose certificate has expired;
- Whose rank upon expiration was Rank I or Rank II;
- Who has met the requirements to receive an exception certificate as set forth in 16 KAR 2:230;
- Who completed three years of classroom instruction prior to the certificate's expiration; and,
- Who has completed the required application unless the provisions of KRS 161.120 apply.

Summary: The proposal before the EPSB is to waive the reissuance requirement for a qualifying teacher who allowed their certificate to expire. To be eligible, the teacher must meet the following requirements:

- Previously held a Kentucky teaching certificate that was in good standing at the time of expiration;
- Certificate expiration was not the result of failure to complete preparation requirements;
- Recommendation from a Kentucky school district;
- Completion of the application requirements; and,
- Not subject to denial under KRS 161.120.

This waiver is similar to the one-time exception certificate; however, it applies to candidates who held Rank III certification at the time the certificate expired and/or had less than three years of experience. Candidates would still be required to submit an application, complete the Character and Fitness review, and pay the certification fee.

The proposed waiver is for the 2024-2025 school year. The EPSB approved a similar waiver for the 2023-2024 school year, that resulted in twenty-three (23) certificates being reissued. This waiver received positive reviews and districts have inquired about it for the upcoming school year.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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