

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Action Item:**

Option 7 Institute Proposal, Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative's (OVEC) Option 7 Institute Proposal.

#### **Rationale:**

The Option 7 Institute Proposal submitted by OVEC completed a multi-tiered review process by staff from the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness (OELE) and an external review panel. It was determined that the proposal met the requirements of KRS 161.048(8) and the guidelines approved by the EPSB. The reviewers recommended the proposal for approval by the EPSB.

#### **Action Question:**

Should the EPSB approve OVEC's Option 7 Institute Proposal?

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 9:100

#### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy:*** KRS 161.048(8) establishes the Option 7 Alternative Route to Certification. This route allows a person in a field other than education to receive a one-year temporary provisional teaching certificate in elementary, middle school, secondary, grades 5-12, or grades P-12. The temporary provisional certificate may be renewed up to four times unless the candidate is pursuing certification for teaching exceptional children or interdisciplinary early childhood education. A candidate shall possess: a bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which certification is sought or a graduate degree in a related field; a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or 3.0 on the last thirty hours of credit completed. During the first year of the certificate, the candidate shall complete a 240-hour institute, if pursuing elementary certification, or a 180-hour institute if pursuing middle or secondary certification. The providers and the content of the institute shall be approved by the EPSB. 16 KAR 9:100 and the *Guidelines for Submitting an Application to Provide an Alternative Route to Certification Institute* establish the required elements of the Option 7 route to certification and the application review process.

***Summary:*** OVEC, its 14 member districts, and the University of Louisville have entered into a partnership to facilitate this Option 7 program to provide job-embedded training paired with non-traditional coursework to prepare aspiring educators for certification in their desired content area.

The proposal submitted by OVEC is an institute that spans eighteen months from admission to completion. Certification areas include: Middle Grades: English (5-9), Math (5-9), Science (5-9), and Social Studies (5-9). Secondary Grades: Biology (8-12), Chemistry (8-12), Earth Space Science (8-12), English (8-12), Math (8-12), Physics (8-12), Social Studies (8-12), French (8-12), Spanish (8-12), LBD (P-12), and MSD (P-12). The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) education preparation programs are fully accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and approved by the EPSB

CEHD has defined three continuous assessment plan transition points for monitoring candidates throughout initial certification programs. Initial certification programs are represented in the Continuous Assessment Record and Documentation System (CARDS) 1, 2 and 3. Through the CEHD assessment system the college collects and analyzes data on applicants' qualifications, candidates' undergraduate and graduate performance, and unit operations to evaluate and improve the unit and its programs.

Admission to the Option 7 teacher preparation program, leading to certification in Middle Grades, Secondary, Special Education or World Language Education, is based on university and program requirements. Candidates must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 (or a 3.0 on the last 30 hours of credit completed). Candidates provide evidence of proficiency in written communication (C or above in Intermediate College Writing or equivalent course, or 4.0 or higher on the GRE Analytical Writing Exam) and oral communication (C or above in Communications Course or interview protocol).

All candidates for Middle, Secondary or World Language Education must earn an undergraduate degree with a major in a teaching content area, or have completed specific, content prerequisite courses to prepare the candidate in a teaching content area. Candidates who do not have a major in the content area will be required to complete a transcript review process with faculty to determine if additional coursework may be required. Candidates may apply for admission with no more than six (6) credit hours of prerequisite courses remaining to complete. All candidates for Early Elementary Education are required to complete specific prerequisite courses with a 3.0 average GPA or higher.

18-month learning cycle for all included certification areas (Institute-240 total hours)

- In-person convening for Induction + cohort convening mid-point + cohort convening defenses (20 hours)
- Synchronous and asynchronous sessions combined with seminars throughout the program (160 hours)- covers best practices and core information that beginning teachers need to know based on the course syllabi descriptions identified in the next section.
- Job-embedded practitioner-based content cohorts that include coaching/feedback cycles and mentoring sessions (60 hours)-covers best practices and core information that beginning teachers need to know based on the course syllabi descriptions identified in the next section.
- Capstone Project/Defense of Learning

OVEC's institute proposal is included in the Board Meeting Materials tab and requires approval by the EPSB before it may be offered for certification.

***Budget Impact:*** There is no budgetary impact.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:**

The program has completed a multi-tiered review process and received a recommendation for approval based on the guidelines approved by the EPSB. OELE staff and an external review team comprised of one individual from an educator preparation provider, one from an educational cooperative and one from a school district have reviewed this program proposal and determined that the program meets the requirements for approval.

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