

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Waiver:**

16 KAR 2:020. Request to Waive Initial Issuance Requirements for Provisional Occupation-Based Career and Technical Education Certificate for Connie Stephens

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve the request to issue Connie Stephens a one-year provisional occupation-based career and technical education certificate?

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

KRS 161.020, KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 2:020

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

**Existing Policy:** 16 KAR 2:020 establishes the qualifications for certification of teachers of occupation-based career and technical education. Section 2(1) sets the requirements for initial issuance of the one-year provisional certificate. Specifically, initial issuance requires demonstration of four (4) years of successful and appropriate occupational experience in the occupation area in which certification is sought along with at least two (2) years of occupational experience completed with the last five (5) years.

**Summary:** Fulton Independent Schools has submitted this waiver on behalf of Connie Stephens, for occupation-based certification for allied health. The district notes that Ms. Stephens has been working very effectively as an emergency certified teacher this year, demonstrating extreme professionalism throughout. Ms. Stephens is currently emergency certified in middle school science, biology, physics, earth science and chemistry until June 30, 2025. She has 14 months of recent occupation-based experience, while the remaining occupation-related experience was completed over 20 years ago. The Office of Career and Technical Education notes that recency is a vital component for occupation-based certification as it ensures up-to-date industry knowledge and skills that are essential for effectively preparing students for the current workforce demands. The candidate does not meet the certification requirement of two years of occupation-based experience within the last five years. Fulton Independent Schools is asking the EPSB to waive the recency requirement and issue Ms. Stephens occupation-based certification for allied health. The Office of Career and Technical Education does not support this waiver request.

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

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