

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

16 KAR 5:040. Extension of Student Teacher Waivers

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should extend the student teaching flexibilities for the 2025-2026 school year.

Rationale:

The EPSB has previously approved waivers allowing experience that a student teacher acquired as an emergency certified substitute teacher to meet the requirements of student teaching, allowing student teachers to maintain classified employment, and allowing all student teaching observations to be performed remotely for all educator preparation programs. The EPSB has also indicated that future amendments to 16 KAR 5:040 should incorporate these flexibilities.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB extend the student teaching flexibilities through the 2025-2026 school year?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.010, KRS 161.028, KRS 161.042, 16 KAR 5:040

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.010(6) defines student teacher as “an adult who has completed the prerequisite teacher preparation as prescribed by the accredited teacher education institution in which he or she is enrolled, and who is jointly assigned by the institution and a local school district to engage in a period of practice teaching under the direction and supervision of the administrative and teaching staff of the school district and the institution.” KRS 161.042 further sets out the role of the student teacher but tasks the EPSB with promulgating administrative regulations on the specifics of the utilization of student teachers and the requirements for the supervising teacher, school and school district. Through 16 KAR 5:040, the EPSB has set forth the requirements for admission, placement and supervision in student teaching.

Summary: Since 2020, the EPSB has approved waivers allowing experience that a student teacher acquired as an emergency certified substitute teacher to meet the requirements of student teaching and allowing all student teaching observations to be performed remotely for all educator preparation programs. Due to the positive feedback, the EPSB has continued to approve these waivers annually. Additionally, at the July 2023 meeting, the EPSB approved a waiver to allow student teachers to maintain classified employment for the 2023-2024 school year. The EPSB reviewed proposed amendments to 16 KAR 5:040 that incorporated these waivers. The EPSB indicated that they wanted the waivers to be incorporated into 16 KAR 5:040 and approved the waivers for the 2024-2025 school year. That amendment was delayed as staff worked to comply with the requirements of House Bill 162 from the 2024 legislative session. While staff works to update 16 KAR 5:040, it is recommended that the EPSB approve the following waivers for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Approve remote student teaching observations for all educator preparation programs under 16 KAR 5:040, Section 4(1).
- Conditionally waive 16 KAR 5:040, Section 5(7) to allow student teachers to maintain classified employment and allow student teachers to receive funds from the student teacher stipend program.
- Conditionally waive 16 KAR 5:040, Section 5(6) & (7) to allow experience that a student teacher acquires as an emergency certified substitute teacher to meet the requirements of student teaching

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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