

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program Guidance and Standards

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the guidance for the Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program to comply with the requirements of House Bill 48.

Rationale:

Section 8 of House Bill 48 amends KRS 161.031 by encouraging rather than requiring school districts to provide an induction program for new teachers. This section also adds a new requirement for the EPSB to identify in its annual report to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) any school districts that have not implemented an induction program that aligns with the EPSB established standards and guidance.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB approve the updated Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program guidance?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.031

History/Background:

Existing Policy: Section 2 of SB 265 (2024) created a new teacher induction and mentor program. The EPSB was tasked with developing standards and guidance for the program.

Summary: The new teacher induction and mentor program was established to provide new teachers with the assistance and support necessary to begin a successful teaching career through a mentoring relationship during their first year of employment. This program assists new teachers and teachers new to a district in further understanding of the teaching techniques, procedures, requirements, and expectations of their specific grade level or subject area assignment. A copy of the updated guidance is included for EPSB review.

Budget Impact: No appropriation was provided for this program. There will be costs associated with staff time for the development of the guidance and required reports. Costs for implementation of the program will fall to the districts.

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