

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Consent Item:

Morehead State University: Approval of Proficiency Plan

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve Morehead State University's Early Childhood Education Proficiency Evaluation Program.

Rationale:

The submitted programs have demonstrated compliance with the EPSB regulations, and the proficiency plan follows the guidelines for alternate means for recognizing competency and proficiency other than academic credit.

Applicable Statutes and Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 2:040, 16 KAR 5:010, 16 KAR 5:030

Action Question:

Should the EPSB approve the Proficiency Evaluation Plan for the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Programs submitted by Morehead State University?

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.028 and KRS 161.030 require that educators and other professional school personnel hold certificates of legal qualifications for their respective positions to be issued upon completion of programs of preparation. The traditional means of recognizing competency and proficiency for educator preparation is by earning academic credits. 16 KAR 5:030 provides an alternate means for recognizing competency and proficiency other than academic credit. This regulation outlines the criteria for an educator preparation provider (EPP) to submit a plan for EPSB approval that sets forth the process by which the EPP will conduct proficiency evaluations. The regulation became effective in August 2018. The Guidelines for Approval of Proficiency Evaluation Plans were presented to the EPSB during its December 2018 meeting.

Summary: Morehead State University is requesting to add a Proficiency Evaluation Route for the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Initial Undergraduate and Initial Graduate program in order to address the shortage of Early Childhood Education Teachers in Kentucky. Given the current shortage of Early Childhood Education Teachers in Kentucky, it is important to have options for individuals to obtain initial certifications at the undergraduate and graduate level. The approval of the Proficiency Evaluation Route will increase the university's ability to serve the needs of individuals seeking initial teacher certification in Early Childhood Certification and increase the number of certified teachers available for employment in the schools.

The submitted proficiency plan adequately addresses the components of the application which includes:

1. Identification of the programs for which it intends to have proficiency as a pathway to

certification.

2. Description of the process to evaluate a candidate's proficiency, who is involved in the process, and the process used to measure the applicable performance-based standards.
3. Description of how candidates will demonstrate meeting the admission criteria of 16 KAR 5:020 as applicable.
4. Identification of the requirements candidates must demonstrate before being exited from the program. A description of how the exit requirements will be demonstrated is included as well as the process by which the EPP will report candidates in the EPSB Admission/Exit System.
5. Inclusion of a Sample Employment Eligibility letter.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

OELE staff have reviewed the submitted documentation and determined that the plan meets the requirements for approval.

Contact Person:

Kim Arington, Program Consultant
Division of Educator Preparation and Certification
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness
(502) 564-4606
Email: kimberly.arington@education.ky.gov