

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Waiver:**

16 KAR 5:040. Alternative Student Teaching Placement Request for Alix Cornett

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve the University of Kentucky's (UK) alternative student teaching placement request for Alix Cornett?

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

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 5:040

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

**Existing Policy:** 16 KAR 5:040 Section 5 (4)(d) requires that a candidate pursuing a primary through grade 12 certificate shall have their student teaching balanced between an elementary school placement and a middle/high school placement. Institutions unable to locate a placement aligned with grade level requirements shall submit an alternative placement request to EPSB staff.

**Summary:** UK is requesting a waiver to place Alix Cornett a Master of Arts in Teaching World Languages program student at the secondary level for all of her required student teaching placement days in the Spring 2026 semester. Since Ms. Cornett is a candidate in the Japanese program, a Japanese placement at the elementary level would be required. UK has made numerous efforts to locate an elementary placement that would comply with the regulation, however, there are currently no elementary schools in the surrounding areas that offer Japanese on a consistent basis. UK provided supporting documentation stating, Ms. Cornett has been working on an English as a Second Language endorsement and has completed numerous experiences at elementary schools around Fayette County. UK also stated that Ms. Cornett has taught significantly at the adult and College level. Given her additional experience and having exhausted all possibilities in the district and surrounding areas, UK is requesting a waiver for Ms. Cornett to complete all seventy days student teaching at the secondary level.

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

#### **Contact Person:**

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