

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Waiver:**

16 KAR 2:010. Request to Waive Certification Grade Range for Carmen Sallee

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve the request to waive the certification grade range for Carmen Sallee?

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

KRS 161.020, KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 2:010

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

**Existing Policy:** 16 KAR 2:010 Section 4(2)(b) Elementary school: primary through grade 5 to include preparation in the academic disciplines taught in the elementary school. 1. The elementary certificate shall be valid for teaching grade 6 if grade 6 is taught in a self-contained classroom or in a school organization in which grade 6 is housed with grade 5 in the same building.

**Summary:** Mercer County Schools has submitted a waiver request on behalf of Carmen Sallee, a certified elementary education teacher with six years of experience. The district states they are experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in core subjects such as mathematics. They have partnered with three universities to encourage Option 9 as an alternative route to teacher certification. They have made numerous attempts to recruit and hire qualified mathematics teachers. While these have increased visibility, the number of fully certified applicants remains insufficient to meet current needs. Mercer County Schools is requesting the EPSB waive the grade range for elementary certification to allow Ms. Sallee to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

#### **Contact Person:**

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