



Oldham County School District and Morehead State University
Option 9 Application

Oldham County Schools and Morehead State University propose to establish a collaborative partnership to deliver an Option 9 expedited route to certification in accordance with KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, and 16 KAR 9:110. Morehead State University is an approved educator preparation provider by the Education Professional Standards Board, and its programs meet all applicable state requirements for initial teacher certification.

KRS 161.048(10) establishes the Option 9 alternative route to certification, allowing for expedited teacher preparation through a cooperative partnership between a school district and an approved educator preparation provider. This pathway enables candidates to earn a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three academic years. Candidates are not certified during the program but participate in a structured residency or paraprofessional experience while receiving coaching and mentoring from experienced educators.

16 KAR 9:110 outlines the standards and procedures governing Option 9 programs, including requirements related to program approval, residency, field experiences, student teaching, candidate monitoring, and program accountability.

As part of the proposal between Oldham County and Morehead State University, each party has agreed to the following:

The proposed program will:

- Include a structured residency or paraprofessional component in which candidates are employed by Oldham County Schools in roles aligned to their certification area
- Provide candidates with progressive responsibilities, culminating in a third-year experience that integrates both paraprofessional and instructional responsibilities in lieu of traditional student teaching
- Utilize experienced, certified teachers to provide ongoing coaching and mentorship
- Emphasize development of a sustainable teacher pipeline, particularly in high-need certification areas such as P-5 elementary education
- Ensure candidates complete required field experiences during the first two years and are placed in aligned instructional settings during the third year

- The partnership will maintain ongoing communication and shared responsibility for candidate monitoring, ensuring alignment with EPSB standards, program integrity, and continuous improvement expectations.

Candidate Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must:

- Be admitted to Morehead State University and meet all requirements outlined in 16 KAR 5:020, including:
 - Minimum GPA of 2.75 overall or 3.00 in the last 30 hours
 - Demonstrated basic academic skills via ACT (composite 22) or Praxis CASE scores
- Secure and maintain employment in a classified position within Oldham County Schools
- Participate fully in residency, mentoring, and program requirements

Responsibilities of Oldham County Schools

Oldham County Schools will:

- Employ candidates in a residency or paraprofessional role throughout program participation, contingent upon satisfactory progress
- Provide qualified mentor teachers, including at least one certified in the candidate's area of certification
- Ensure mentor teachers provide regular evaluations to the university
- Support candidates in completing required field experiences across diverse grade levels (e.g., K-2 and 3-5)
- Ensure candidates gain meaningful, hands-on experience aligned to certification goals
- Maintain funding and program support for participating candidates
- Participate in program review and communication with the university
- Continue program implementation until enrolled candidates complete or exit the program

Responsibilities of Morehead State University

Morehead State University will:

- Provide coursework and program sequencing enabling completion within three academic years
- Ensure all program components lead to a bachelor's degree and initial certification
- Monitor and document candidate progress, including required field experience hours (minimum 200 hours)
- Ensure compliance with all EPSB admission and program requirements
- Assign a university supervisor during the culminating clinical experience

- Oversee program quality and reporting in alignment with 16 KAR 9:110

Data Privacy and Compliance

Oldham County Schools shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws regarding data privacy and security, including:

- Kentucky Personal Information Security and Breach Investigation Procedures and Practices Act (KRS 61.931–61.933)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Both parties agree to safeguard all personal and student data, limit use to program purposes, and ensure proper handling, reporting, and disposal of records.

General Provisions

- Both parties agree to nondiscrimination in accordance with all applicable laws
- This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- Any legal actions shall be filed in Franklin County Circuit Court
- The agreement will be reviewed annually
- Either party may terminate the agreement with thirty (30) days written notice

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Claudette Herald, Superintendent Oldham County School District	Date	Dr. Nicola Mason, Dean Volgenau College of Education Morehead State University	Date

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Dr. J. Morgan, President Morehead State University	Date