

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Action Item:**

Option 9 Application, Green County Schools and Campbellsville University

#### **Staff's Recommendation:**

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve the application.

#### **Rationale:**

Green County Schools and Campbellsville University have submitted an Option 9 application that meets the requirements of KRS 161.048 and 16 KAR 9:110. Campbellsville University holds accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and its educator preparation programs have been approved by the EPSB.

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

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 9:110

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

***Existing Policy:*** KRS 161.048(10) establishes the Option 9 alternative route to certification. This route provides for the expedited certification of a person to teach at any grade level through a cooperative program between a college or university and a school district. The expedited certification program will result in a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three school years. The candidate is not certified while completing the route but shall complete a residency/paraprofessional component and receive coaching and mentoring from experienced teachers. 16 KAR 9:110 establishes the standards and procedures for Option 9 and contains sections covering providers, residency, field experience, student teaching, application review, continuance of program approval, revocation for cause, reconsideration, data reports, and professional certificates.

***Summary:*** Green County Schools has partnered with Campbellsville University to develop a proposed Option 9 program. In accordance with Section 5 of the regulation, staff has reviewed the application and found that it meets the requirements of KRS 161.048 and 16 KAR 9:110. A copy of the application has been provided for review by the EPSB but will be sent under separate cover. As part of the proposal, each party has agreed to take on the following:

Green County Schools will:

- Offer the Option 9 programs exclusively to classified employees who work in the school district.
- Ensure candidates complete the same 200 field experience hours that traditional candidates complete within the first two years of residency.
- Maintain electronic records of field experiences that confirm that all residents have fulfilled the field experience requirements and share these records with the Campbellsville University School of Education.

- Require admitted candidates to sign the Professional Code of Ethics and act in an ethical manner.
- Provide training on the Professional Code of Ethics.
- Employ candidates either part time or full time for three years in a classified position.
- Employ the candidate full time in the area of certification sought during the third year of residency.
- Ensure a school district cooperative teacher and a Campbellsville University supervisor follow the EPSB-approved Campbellsville University protocols for observing and evaluating student teachers including a minimum of four observations.
- Maintain electronic records that confirm that all third-year residents meet the student teaching requirements and share them with the Campbellsville University School of Education.
- Continue the partnership until the candidates currently in the program complete the program or are no longer employed by the school district.

Campbellsville University will:

- Ensure that candidates complete the EPSB approved LBD, IECE, or P-5 Elementary Education Program for Campbellsville University. Candidates who successfully complete the program and pass the licensure exams will earn a bachelor's degree and certification.
- Offer all 120 credit hours of coursework online.
- Require candidates to complete the same 200 field experience hours that traditional candidates complete within the first two years of residency.
- Require admitted candidates to sign the Professional Code of Ethics.
- Provide candidates training on the Professional Code of Ethics.
- Ensure that during the year-long residency, a school district cooperative teacher and a Campbellsville University supervisor follow the EPSB-approved Campbellsville University protocols for observing and evaluating student teachers, including a minimum of four observations.
- Ensure that the program does not negatively impact the accreditation of the Campbellsville University School of Education.

In accordance with 16 KAR 9:110, Section 5, initial program approval will be for a period of three years. After that time, the providers may apply for continuing program approval and provide evidence of program quality.

***Budget Impact:*** There will be costs associated with the oversight of this route.

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