

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

Recommendations from the Certification Structure Workgroup

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should accept the grade band and certification recommendations of the Certification Structure Workgroup.

Rationale:

Tasked by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), the Certification Structure Workgroup (Workgroup) has reviewed and discussed state and national data as well as sought feedback from Kentucky school districts and educator preparation providers to determine if the current grade band structure meets the needs of Kentucky school districts. Additionally, as tasked by the EPSB, the Workgroup followed the same approach in exploring teacher certifications in hard to fill positions such as the sciences, special education and mathematics. The Workgroup has established recommendations for EPSB consideration.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 2:010

History/Background:

Existing Policy: One of the EPSB's goals is that every certified position in a Kentucky public school is staffed by a properly credentialed educator. In furtherance of this goal, the EPSB will undertake a continuous review of the certification structure to ensure that it aligns with the Kentucky academic standards and the workforce needs to best serve the students of the Commonwealth. The EPSB also shall monitor the validity and reliability of certification assessments and maintain a focus on continuous improvement for all certification procedures and processes.

Following a presentation on the proposed recommendations for grade bands at the June 2025 EPSB meeting, the Certification Structure Workgroup continued research and discussions on certifications related to hard to fill positions, including special education and secondary sciences, as well as permissions related to middle school and secondary math.

Summary: EPSB will present a summary of the work accomplished by the Certification Structure Workgroup as well as recommendations from the Workgroup related to Kentucky's certifications.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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