

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Information Item:

Amendment to 16 KAR 5:010. Standards for accreditation of educator preparation providers and approval of programs.

New Regulation- 16 KAR 5:015. Standards for approval of educator preparation programs.

Rationale:

The proposed amendment to 16 KAR 5:010 updates the regulation to remove the state-only accreditation review, necessitating all educator preparation providers to use an approved national accreditor beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year. The proposed amendment also removes language specific to new and continuing program approvals, which will now be governed by a separate, new regulation, 16 KAR 5:015, to better reflect the distinction between the two processes.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 13A, 161.028, 161.030, 164.945, 164.946, 164.947, 20 U.S.C. 1021-1022

History/Background:

Existing Policy: This administrative regulation, 16 KAR 5:010, establishes the standards for accreditation of an educator preparation provider and approval of a program to prepare an educator.

Summary: The amendment to 16 KAR 5:010 removes state accreditation processes and, instead, will require all educator preparation providers to utilize an approved national accreditor. The amendment provides for a transitional process, which will begin with the 2027-2028 academic year, at which time no educator preparation provider will be permitted to use the state-only accreditation review removed by this amendment. Further, the language in the renumbered Section 7 concerning “Annual Reporting” addresses removal of that reporting that has been proposed in the amendment to 16 KAR 5:020. These revisions also improve data gathering and align practices to reporting that is already being piloted with educator preparation providers.

Finally, the amendment also removes language specific to new and continuing program approvals for accredited educator preparation providers. Program approvals will, instead, be governed by 16 KAR 5:015, which is a new regulation being proposed as a companion to 16 KAR 5:010. Separating the program approval language from the accreditation regulation reflects the distinct nature of the two processes. The proposed language in 16 KAR 5:015 also provides for a more robust continuing program approval process, allowing the EPSB to provide more input and support to existing programs and educator preparation providers.

A copy of the draft amendment and the companion new regulation are included for EPSB review.

Budget Impact: Removal of the state accreditation process is anticipated to reduce administrative

burdens and related costs to the agency.

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