

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

16 KAR 5:040. Request to Waive Student Teacher Days Due to District School Closures for Morehead State University Students

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve Morehead State University's request to waive student teaching days for six (6) student teachers impacted by district closures during the Spring 2026 term.

Rationale:

Approval of this waiver would recognize that impacted student teachers met the intent of the applicable regulation and allow these student teachers to timely proceed with program completion and licensure eligibility. Specifically, impacted student teachers faced extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances during the Spring 2026 term, including multiple district-mandated school closures related to inclement weather, extreme temperatures, and/or illness that resulted in a minor shortfall in in-person student teaching days that could not be fully recovered within the placement timeframe without extending the university's academic term or altering district placements.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB approve Morehead State University's request to waive student teaching days for the listed student teachers, who were each impacted by district closures during the Spring 2026 term?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 5:040

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 5:040, Section 5(4) requires each education preparation provider (EPP) to "provide a full professional semester to include a period of student teaching for a minimum of seventy (70) full days, or its equivalent, in instructional settings that correspond to the grade levels and content areas of the student teacher's certification program."

Summary: District closures prevented some student teachers attending Morehead State University from completing the required seventy (70) full days in instructional settings before the close of the Spring 2026 academic semester at the EPP. District closures related to inclement weather, extreme temperatures, and/or illness are out of the control of the student teachers and the EPPs; however, efforts have been made to meet the intent of the applicable regulation by including supplemental instruction while completing as many hours as possible during the Spring 2026 academic semester.

Specifically, Morehead State University states that these student teachers were required, where applicable, to have active engagement during Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) virtual learning days utilized by the district(s) as well as increased instructional responsibility during in-person days when the district(s) re-opened. Finally, the EPP also required these student teachers to attend district-approved professional development sessions, contributing to growth in, for example, instructional strategies and classroom management, as well as confirmed all program outcomes and competencies were met through the use of formal observations, evaluations, and supervisor feedback.

Morehead State University has submitted a Regulation Waiver Request on behalf of six (6) student teachers that were affected and has also provided details regarding the number of days for each student teacher the EPP is requesting be waived.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Contact Person:

Brandon Harrod, Program Coordinator
Division of Educator Preparation and Certification
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness
(502) 564-4606
Email: brandon.harrod@education.ky.gov