

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 2:010. Request to Waive Certification Grade Range for Ashley Wilkerson

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve the request to waive the certification grade range for Ashley Wilkerson?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.020, 16 KAR 2:010

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 2:010, Section 4(2)(b) states: “Elementary school: primary through grade 5 to include preparation in the academic disciplines taught in the elementary school...The elementary certificate shall be valid for teaching grade 6 if grade 6 is taught in a self-contained classroom or in a school organization in which grade 6 is housed with grade 5 in the same building.”

Summary: Edmonson County Schools has submitted a waiver request on behalf of Ashley Wilkerson, who presently holds a Professional Certificate for Teaching in the Elementary School, Primary Through Grade 5. The district is requesting to extend Ms. Wilkerson’s certification to allow her to teach grade 6, even when not housed with grade 5 in the same building. The district reports that it closed the Edmonson County 5th/6th Center at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. A new elementary school is currently under construction and will open for the 2027-2028 school year. During the construction, grade 5 students will move to two (2) elementary schools in the district; however, there is not currently sufficient space at those schools for grade 6 to be housed there as well. Therefore, grade 6 will temporarily move to Edmonson County Middle School. Accordingly, the district is requesting the EPSB waive the grade range for elementary certification to allow Ms. Wilkerson to teach grade 6 during the 2026-2027 school year.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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