

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 2:010. Request to Waive Certification Grade Range for Keeley Pierce

Action Question:

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

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 Keeley Pierce, who presently holds a Temporary Provisional Certificate for Early Elementary, Grades P-5. The district is requesting to extend Ms. Pierce’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. Pierce to teach grade 6 during the 2026-2027 school year.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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