

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

16 KAR 2:120. Request to Waive Emergency Certificate Requirements for Bardstown Independent Schools

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve Bardstown Independent Schools' request to waive emergency certificate requirements.

Rationale:

The EPSB's Waiver Committee found exceptional circumstances to justify approval of this waiver request and, accordingly, recommends that this waiver be approved by the EPSB.

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve Bardstown Independent's request to allow for a third issuance of an emergency certificate?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 2:120

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 2:120, Section 2(3)(b) provides that "The emergency certificate shall be limited to two (2) issuances. A candidate may qualify for an additional issuance if: 1. The emergency certificate was issued after February 15 of a school year; or 2. The emergency certificate was issued for less than fifty (50) percent of the person's class schedule."

Summary: Bardstown Independent Schools has been unsuccessful in finding qualified teachers for Spanish. The candidate has been unsuccessful in passing the World Language Spanish Praxis Test (5195) after multiple attempts but, per the district, "has demonstrated steady growth through each attempt." The district reports that the candidate, who successfully completed the Bardstown Teacher Intern Program, is a "proficient teacher" and a "highly effective resource," particularly for their English Learner population. The district also reports that it has provided two (2) high school Spanish teachers as mentors to the candidate and that, on her most recent Praxis attempt, the candidate was just two (2) points away from being "within -1 SEM of Kentucky's passing benchmark score." The district is hopeful "that an additional year of emergency certification will help her reach that passing test score" and, accordingly, is requesting that the EPSB waive the number of years an emergency certificate can be offered and issue a third emergency certificate for this candidate.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

At a Special Meeting on June 16, 2026, the EPSB's Waiver Committee met and reviewed the waiver request submitted by the school district and found exceptional circumstances to justify the waiver. Therefore, the Waiver Committee recommended that this waiver be placed on the Consent Agenda for approval by the EPSB at its next meeting.

Contact Person:

Sharon Salsman, Assistant Director
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness
Division of Educator Preparation and Certification
(502) 564-4606
Email: sharon.salsman@education.ky.gov