

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

16 KAR 5:020. Regulatory Waiver to Allow Use of the SAT as an Assessment of Basic Knowledge

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should waive Section 1, paragraph (2)(a)2. to allow use of the SAT for purposes of the required assessment of basic knowledge for admission to an approved undergraduate initial certification education preparation program. In doing so, the EPSB should also adopt the current admissions benchmarks established by the Council on Postsecondary Education for the SAT.

Rationale:

Amendments to 16 KAR 5:020 are currently underway to allow for utilization of SAT scores when determining admission to an approved undergraduate initial certification educator preparation program. These revisions are responsive to requests from educator preparation programs as well as reflective of the SAT being administered in Spring 2026 as the required, state-provided college admissions exam for 11th-grade students in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Approval of this waiver will allow the SAT to be used as a required assessment of basic knowledge for admission to an approved undergraduate initial certification education preparation program while amendments to 16 KAR 5:020 remain pending.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB waive 16 KAR 5:020 Section 1, paragraph (2)(a)2. to allow the SAT to be used as the required assessment of basic knowledge for admission to an approved undergraduate initial certification education preparation program? Further, for purposes of implementing this waiver, if approved, should the EPSB adopt the current admissions benchmarks established by the Council on Postsecondary Education for the SAT?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 13A, 161.028, and 161.030 as well as 16 KAR 5:020

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 5:020 establishes the standards for admission to an educator preparation program that is required for certification. It currently only allows, in paragraph (2)(a)2. of Section 1, a student seeking admission to an educator preparation program to utilize ACT and/or Core Academic Skills for Educators scores to show “successful completion” of a basic knowledge assessment.

Summary: Approval of this waiver will allow SAT scores, in addition to ACT and/or Core Academic Skills for Educators scores, to be used as a required assessment of basic knowledge for admission to an approved undergraduate initial certification education preparation program while amendments to 16 KAR 5:020 remain pending. Once finalized, revisions to that regulation will, among other items, allow a student seeking admission to an educator preparation program to show “successful completion” of a basic knowledge assessment by possessing a composite SAT score of at least 1110 or by possessing the following corresponding minimum scores: 490 on the Reading

and Writing portion and 510 in Math. These scores are aligned with the current admissions benchmarks established by the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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