

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

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

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve Keeley Pierce's request to waive certification grade ranges.

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 Keeley Pierce's request to waive certification grade ranges and allow her to teach grade 6, even when not housed with grade 5 in the same building?

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.

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 individual 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.

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