

15 KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

16 KAR 5:020. Request to Waive GPA Admission Requirement for a Candidate

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve a candidate'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 a candidate's request to waive the grade point average (GPA) requirement for admission to a preparation program?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 5:020, 16 KAR 9:080

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 5:020 establishes the standards for admission to an educator preparation program that is required for certification. Section 1(3) requires a bachelor's degree or advanced degree awarded by a regionally accredited college or university with a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale; or a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on the last thirty hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework.

Summary: A candidate that has received conditional admission to Western Kentucky University's (WKU) Option 6 Elementary Education program has submitted a request to waive Section 1(3) of 16 KAR 5:020 related to GPA. Specifically, the candidate does not meet the GPA requirements for admission to a program set forth in the regulation but has been teaching the past two (2) years on an emergency teaching certificate. An instructional coach within the school district where the candidate has been working submitted a letter of recommendation offering the "strongest support" of the candidate and noting the candidate "is dependable, hardworking, and deeply committed to her students and school community." The letter of recommendation also states that the candidate's "academic record does not fully capture...her dedication to improvement, her willingness to learn, and the genuine care she brings to her students each day." Approval of this waiver of the GPA admission requirement will allow WKU to fully admit the candidate to the Option 6 program as well as allow the candidate to be issued a temporary provisional certificate.

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 candidate 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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