

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 2:010. Request to Waive Certification Grade Range for Carmen Sallee

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve Carmen Sallee'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: Mercer County Schools has submitted a waiver request on behalf of Carmen Sallee, a certified elementary education teacher with seven (7) years of experience. The district states they are experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in core subjects such as mathematics. They have partnered with three (3) universities to encourage Option 9 as an alternative route to teacher certification. They also have made numerous attempts to recruit and hire qualified mathematics teachers. While these efforts have increased visibility, the number of fully certified applicants remains insufficient to meet current needs. Accordingly, Mercer County Schools is requesting the EPSB waive the grade range for elementary certification to allow Ms. Sallee to teach 6th grade.

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 but, due to one (1) of the two (2) present committee members needing to abstain from discussion on this matter, did not have a motion for action or otherwise make a recommendation regarding the waiver request submitted by the individual. Therefore, this waiver has been placed on the agenda for consideration by the EPSB at its next meeting without a specific recommendation from the Waiver Committee.

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