

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Waiver:**

16 KAR 2:020. Request to Waive Issuance Requirements for Provisional Occupation-Based Career and Technical Education Certificate for Dakota Eldridge

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve the candidate's request to be issued a one-year provisional occupation-based career and technical education certificate?

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 161.020, KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 2:020

#### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy:*** 16 KAR 2:020 establishes the qualifications for certification of teachers of occupation-based career and technical education and sets, in Section 2, the requirements for issuance of the one-year provisional certificate. Specifically, Section 2(2)(b) requires candidates to have “four (4) years” of experience, including “two (2) years of the occupational experience...within the last five (5) years.”

***Summary:*** Although the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) has submitted this waiver request on behalf of Dakota Eldridge for aviation technology, OCTE states that it “does not recommend approved of the submitted waiver as the applicant does not meet the required experience in 16 KAR 2:020.” Mr. Eldridge meets the recency requirement of two (2) years within the last five (5) years; however, the candidate only has three (3) years of experience and not the four (4) years required by regulation. In support of this waiver, the candidate further reports that he has completed a Master of Science Degree in Aerospace – Aviation Education that is pending conferral, and he also possesses a Professional Certificate for Teaching Social Studies, Grades 8 Through 12; a Professional Certificate for Middle Grades Social Studies, Grades 5-9; a Professional Certificate for Teaching Physical Education, All Grades; and, a Statement of Eligibility for Veterans of the Armed Forces. Notwithstanding OCTE's lack of support for this waiver, Mr. Eldridge does request that the EPSB waive the years of experience requirements and issue the one-year 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 (Committee) met and reviewed the waiver request submitted, although not recommended for approval, by the OCTE but did not find exceptional circumstances to justify the waiver. The Committee specifically discussed concerns about this individual not possessing the required years of experience or having the

requisite certifications applicable to the aviation pathway. Therefore, the Committee recommended that this waiver be denied by the EPSB at its next meeting.

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