

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 Stephen Norris.

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve the Office of Career and Technical Education's (OCTE) request to issue Stephen Norris's 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, in Section 2, sets the requirements for issuance of the one-year provisional certificate. Specifically, Section 2(2)(b) says that candidates must have "four (4) years of successful and appropriate occupational experience completed in the occupation area in which certification is sought."

Summary: OCTE has submitted this waiver on behalf of Stephen Norris for aviation. Mr. Norris has a total of fourteen (14) months of actual aviation experience. Mr. Norris holds aviation-related certifications as a certified flight instructor, certified flight instructor - instrument, certified flight instructor - multi-engine, commercial pilot - single and multi-engine, qualified instrumental rating, and remote pilot. All student flight hours are facilitated through a separate, third-party vendor. Mr. Norris' presence ensures that the academic curriculum remains rigorously aligned with FAA standards. Since January 2024, Mr. Norris has served as the full-time substitute for this program. They state there is no other candidate available with the legal authority to sign off on FAA-required ground school endorsements. They also request to allow the aviation teacher to be assigned primarily at the airport location. This is based on program necessity. The aerospace and aviation pathway requires access to facilities and equipment that cannot be replicated within the school setting. OCTE is requesting that the EPSB waive the years of experience requirement for Mr. Norris and issue the one-year provisional certificate.

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