

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 8:020. Request to Allow Master's in Adult, Occupational, and Continuing Education for Rank II for Christina Schmidt.

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve the request to waive classification requirements for Rank II?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.1211, KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 8:020

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 161.1211 sets the standards for Rank II for certified educators as a master's degree in a subject field approved by the EPSB or equivalent continuing education. Per 16 KAR 8:020, Section 2, a master's degree for rank change should either be in the academic content area for which the individual is certified or part of an approved program for rank change completed through a college of education and approved by EPSB.

Summary: Christina Schmidt holds a professional certificate for Elementary, Grades K-5. Ms. Schmidt completed a master's degree at Kansas State University in Adult, Occupational, and Continuing Education. She states she is the spouse of an active duty service member and relocated about every two years. Since her future duty locations were unpredictable, she pursued a comprehensive master's degree that would enhance her teaching and support long-term professional growth. Ms. Schmidt requests that the EPSB allow her master's degree to meet the requirements for issuance of Rank II.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

At a Special Meeting on August 17, 2026, the EPSB's Waiver Committee met and reviewed the waiver request submitted by the applicant 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.

Contact Person:

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