

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 2:120. Request to Waive Emergency Certificate Requirements for Union County Schools.

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve Union County's request to allow for a third issuance of an emergency certificate?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 2:120

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 2:120, Section 2(3) provides, "The emergency certificate shall be limited to two (2) issuances. A candidate may qualify for an additional issuance if: (a) The emergency certificate was issued after February 15 of a school year; or (b) The emergency certificate was issued for less than fifty (50) percent of the person's class schedule."

Summary: Union County Schools has been unsuccessful in finding qualified teachers for a high school English position. The candidate used his first emergency certification during the 2023-24 school year to help our high school fill a teaching vacancy in U.S. History. His second emergency certification was granted for the 2025-26 school year so the candidate could serve as an English teacher. Between those years, during the 2024-25 school year, the candidate enrolled in a dual degree program to obtain credentials as a licensed school counselor and clinical mental health counselor. However, to complete the final portion of his program, the candidate is required to work alongside a school counselor and will need to remain in a professional teaching role to do so. The district is requesting that the EPSB waive the number of years an emergency certificate can be offered and issue a third emergency certificate for this candidate.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The EPSB's Waiver Committee met on August 17, 2026 but, due to extenuating circumstances that resulted in the late submission of this request, was not able to review this waiver request at that time. Therefore, this waiver request has been placed on the agenda for consideration by the EPSB at its next meeting without a specific recommendation from the Waiver Committee.

Contact Person:

Sharon Salsman, Assistant Director
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Division of Educator Preparation and Certification
(502) 564-4606
Email: sharon.salsman@education.ky.gov