

1 AN ACT relating to Option 9 alternative teacher certification programs.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:

- 5 (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety  
6 of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in  
7 Kentucky schools;
- 8 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in  
9 Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation  
10 program;
- 11 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public  
12 schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by  
13 a verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that  
14 empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;
- 15 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools  
16 to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and
- 17 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher  
18 preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers;
- 19 (b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as  
20 described in subsections (2) to (10) of this section;
- 21 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Education Professional  
22 Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience,  
23 and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these  
24 options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and  
25 recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in  
26 Kentucky;
- 27 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any

1 candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to  
2 those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs; and

3 (e) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative  
4 regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative  
5 certification options described in this section. If the certification option  
6 requires employment prior to certification, the procedures shall establish a  
7 process for candidates to obtain an eligible for hire letter from the Education  
8 Professional Standards Board.

9 (2) Option 1: Certification of a person with exceptional work experience. An individual  
10 who has exceptional work experience shall receive a one (1) year provisional  
11 certificate with approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an  
12 application by the individual under the following conditions:

13 (a) The application contains documentation of all education and work experience;  
14 (b) The candidate has documented exceptional work experience in the area in  
15 which certification is being sought; and

16 (c) The candidate possesses:

- 17 1. A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;
- 18 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five  
19 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point  
20 average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30)  
21 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate  
22 coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary  
23 institution; and
- 24 3. An academic major or a passing score on the academic content  
25 assessment in the area in which certification is being sought by the  
26 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

27 After successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and upon the

1 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional  
2 Standards Board, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be  
3 subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a  
4 professional certificate.

5 (3) Option 2: Certification through a local school district training program. A local  
6 school district or group of school districts may seek approval for a training  
7 program. The state-approved local school district training program is an alternative  
8 to the college teacher preparation program as a means of acquiring teacher  
9 certification for a teacher at any grade level. The training program may be offered  
10 for all teaching certificates approved by the Education Professional Standards  
11 Board, including interdisciplinary early childhood education, except for specific  
12 certificates for teachers of exceptional children. To participate in a state-approved  
13 local school district alternative training program, the candidate shall possess:

- 14 (a) A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;
- 15 (b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five  
16 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average  
17 of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit  
18 completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a  
19 nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and
- 20 (c) A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which  
21 certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education  
22 Professional Standards Board. To be eligible to take an academic content  
23 assessment, the applicant shall have completed a thirty (30) hour major in the  
24 academic content area or five (5) years of experience in the academic content  
25 area as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.

26 An individual may participate in a local school district training program upon  
27 meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection and

1 approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an application by the  
2 individual. The candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by  
3 the Education Professional Standards Board. After successful completion of the  
4 local school district training program, one (1) year of teaching, and upon the  
5 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional  
6 Standards Board, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be  
7 subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a  
8 professional certificate.

9 (4) Option 3: Certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution: A  
10 candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive a one (1) year  
11 provisional certificate for teaching at any level:

12 (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which  
13 certification is sought; and

14 (b) A minimum of five (5) years of full-time teaching experience, or its  
15 equivalent, in the academic content area for which certification is sought in a  
16 regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education.

17 After successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and upon the  
18 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional  
19 Standards Board, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be  
20 subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with  
21 professional certificates.

22 (5) Option 4: Certification of an adjunct instructor. A person who has expertise in areas  
23 such as art, music, foreign language, drama, science, computer science, and other  
24 specialty areas may be employed as an adjunct instructor in a part-time position by  
25 a local board of education under KRS 161.046.

26 (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education  
27 Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5)

1 years, for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary career technical  
2 education levels to a veteran of the Armed Forces who was honorably discharged  
3 from active duty as evidenced by Defense Department Form 214 (DD 214) or  
4 National Guard Bureau Form 22 or to a member of the Armed Services currently  
5 serving with six (6) or more years of honorable service, including Reserves,  
6 National Guard, or active duty. The candidate shall possess:

- 7 (a) A bachelor's degree or graduate degree;
- 8 (b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five  
9 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average  
10 of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit  
11 completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a  
12 nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and
- 13 (c) An academic major or a passing score on the academic content assessment in  
14 the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated  
15 by the Education Professional Standards Board.

16 The eligible veteran shall receive a one (1) year provisional certificate with  
17 approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an application by the  
18 veteran. After successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and upon the  
19 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional  
20 Standards Board, the veteran shall receive a professional certificate.

- 21 (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education  
22 Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that  
23 enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently  
24 with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative  
25 program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate. The one (1) year  
26 provisional certificate may be renewed four (4) additional years, and shall be  
27 contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program

1 and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional  
2 certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the  
3 program and all academic content assessments in the specific teaching field of the  
4 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board, and upon  
5 the recommendation of the employing school district.

6 (8) Option 7: Certification of a person in a field other than education to teach in  
7 elementary, middle, or secondary programs. This option shall not be limited to  
8 teaching in shortage areas. An individual certified under provisions of this  
9 subsection shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate, renewable for a  
10 maximum of four (4) additional years with approval of the Education Professional  
11 Standards Board.

12 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 13 1. A bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which  
14 certification is sought or a graduate degree in a field related to the area  
15 in which certification is sought; and
- 16 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five  
17 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point  
18 average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours  
19 of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework  
20 from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution.

21 (b) Upon meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection and  
22 enrolling in an approved institute, the Education Professional Standards Board  
23 shall issue the candidate a one (1) year provisional certificate or during the  
24 first year of the certificate, the teacher shall complete the following:

- 25 1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete a  
26 two hundred forty (240) hour institute that is an equivalent of six (6)  
27 hour days for eight (8) weeks. The providers and the content of the

1 institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards  
2 Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in  
3 reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge  
4 of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and  
5 methods of classroom management.

6 2. For middle and secondary teaching, the individual shall successfully  
7 complete a one hundred eighty (180) hour institute that is an equivalent  
8 of six (6) hour days for six (6) weeks. The providers and the content of  
9 the institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards  
10 Board and shall include research-based teaching strategies, research on  
11 child and adolescent growth, knowledge of individual differences,  
12 including teaching exceptional children, and methods of classroom  
13 management.

14 (c) The candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to  
15 certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a professional  
16 certificate:

- 17 1. After meeting the requirements of this option;
- 18 2. After obtaining a passing score on the academic content assessment in  
19 the area in which certification is being sought;
- 20 3. After successfully completing one (1) year of teaching; and
- 21 4. Upon the recommendation of the employing school district to the  
22 Education Professional Standards Board.

23 (9) Option 8: Certification of a Teach for America participant to teach in elementary,  
24 middle, or high schools. Nothing in this subsection shall conflict with the  
25 participation criteria of the Teach for America program. An individual certified  
26 under this subsection shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate.

27 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 1           1. A bachelor's degree;
- 2           2. A successful completion of the summer training institute and ongoing
- 3           professional development required by Teach for America, including
- 4           instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing and
- 5           assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery, classroom
- 6           management, maximizing learning for diverse students, and teaching
- 7           methodologies; and
- 8           3. A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
- 9           certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional
- 10          Standards Board.
- 11          (b) The provisional certificate granted under this subsection may be renewed two
- 12          (2) times with a recommendation of the superintendent and approval of the
- 13          Education Professional Standards Board.
- 14          (c) A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate
- 15          upon the participant's successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and
- 16          the assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the
- 17          Education Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030, and upon the
- 18          recommendation of the employing school district to the Education
- 19          Professional Standards Board.
- 20          (d) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, a
- 21          teacher certified under this subsection shall have ten (10) years to complete a
- 22          master's degree or fifth year program, or the equivalent as specified by the
- 23          Education Professional Standards Board in administrative regulation.
- 24          (10) Option 9: Expedited certification of a person to teach at any grade level through a
- 25          cooperative program. With approval of the Education Professional Standards
- 26          Board, a college or university may partner with a school district to develop an
- 27          expedited certification program that results in a bachelor's degree and initial



1 certification within three (3) school years.

2 (a) The program shall:

3 1. Include a residency or paraprofessional component which employs the  
4 person within the participating district for the duration of the program to  
5 gain work experience to supplement the expedited program and reduced  
6 coursework. **The employment may include substitute teaching, subject**

7 **to the requirements of KRS 161.102;**

8 2. Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide  
9 coaching and to mentor the candidates; and

10 3. Be designed to meet the needs of the participating district and may  
11 include an emphasis in developing a teacher pipeline for the district's  
12 students, improving the numbers of underrepresented populations  
13 among the district's workforce, or focusing on increasing the number of  
14 teachers with certification areas that are in high demand.

15 (b) A school district entering into a cooperative partnership shall ensure the  
16 availability of funding for each candidate employed within the district in the  
17 residency or paraprofessional program for the duration of the candidate's  
18 participation in the program. However, nothing in this subsection shall be  
19 interpreted as requiring the district to continue employing the candidate  
20 during the program or after the candidate has received initial certification.

21 (c) A person who has begun a traditional path or another option for certification  
22 shall be eligible to transfer into this option if the person meets the program's  
23 requirements.

24 (d) If a school district participating in a cooperative partnership determines to end  
25 the partnership, the district shall no longer accept new candidates to the  
26 program but shall continue the partnership until the district's employed  
27 candidates for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer

1                   employed by the district.

2   (11) A public school teacher certified under subsections (2) to (10) of this section shall  
3       be placed on the local district salary schedule for the rank corresponding to the  
4       degree held by the teacher.

5   (12) Subsections (1) to (3) of this section notwithstanding, a candidate who possesses  
6       the following qualifications may receive certification for teaching programs for  
7       exceptional students:

8       (a) An out-of-state license to teach exceptional students; and

9       (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area  
10       for which certification is sought.