

1 AN ACT relating to teachers.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.030 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) Notwithstanding the age of the pupil, the certification of all teachers and other
5 school personnel, in public schools only, is vested in the Education Professional
6 Standards Board. When so certified, teachers and other school personnel shall not
7 be required to have licensure, certification, or other forms of approval from any
8 other state agency for the performance of their respective assignments within the
9 system of public schools, except as provided for by law. All certificates authorized
10 under KRS 161.010 to 161.126 shall be issued in accordance with the
11 administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board.~~After~~
12 ~~July 15, 1994,~~ All certificate applications and other data collection instruments of
13 the board shall include a request for voluntary information about the applicant's
14 ethnic background. This information shall be available to help local school districts
15 locate minority candidates. A person who holds a certificate prior to this
16 requirement may request that ethnic information be added to his or her file. Nothing
17 in this section shall preclude the right of an individual in a nonpublic school from
18 seeking voluntary certification by the Education Professional Standards Board.
- 19 (2) Certificates shall be issued upon written application and in accordance with statutes
20 and regulations in effect at the time of application to persons who have completed,
21 at colleges, universities, or local school district programs approved by the
22 Education Professional Standards Board for the preparation of teachers and other
23 school personnel, the curricula prescribed by the administrative regulations of the
24 Education Professional Standards Board.
- 25 (3) ~~{(a)}~~ Certification of all new teachers and teachers seeking additional certification
26 shall require the successful completion of appropriate ***and approved teacher***
27 ***preparation programs***~~assessments~~ prior to certification.~~The assessments shall be~~

1 ~~selected by the Education Professional Standards Board and shall measure~~
2 ~~knowledge in the specific teaching field of the applicant, including content of the~~
3 ~~field and teaching of that content. The Education Professional Standards Board~~
4 ~~shall determine the minimum acceptable level of achievement on each assessment.~~
5 ~~The assessments shall measure those concepts, ideas, and facts which are being~~
6 ~~taught in teacher education programs in Kentucky.] Upon successful completion of~~
7 ~~an[the assessments and the] approved teacher preparation program, a professional~~
8 ~~certificate valid for five (5) years shall be issued.~~

9 ~~{(b) If an applicant for teacher certification has completed the approved teacher~~
10 ~~preparation program and has taken but failed to successfully complete the~~
11 ~~appropriate assessments selected by the Education Professional Standards~~
12 ~~Board, a conditional certificate may be issued for a period not to exceed one~~
13 ~~(1) year. The employing school district, in collaboration with the teacher~~
14 ~~education institution, shall provide technical assistance and mentoring support~~
15 ~~to the conditionally certified teacher. The teacher shall retake the assessments~~
16 ~~during the validity period of the conditional certificate. The conditional~~
17 ~~certificate shall not be reissued. Upon successful completion of the required~~
18 ~~assessments, a professional certificate valid for five (5) years shall be issued.~~
19 ~~The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative~~
20 ~~regulations to establish the standards and procedures for issuance of a~~
21 ~~conditional certificate.~~

22 ~~(c) If an out of state teacher with less than two (2) years' experience comes to~~
23 ~~Kentucky after the deadline for taking the assessments, a temporary certificate~~
24 ~~may be issued for a period up to six (6) months. The teacher shall take the~~
25 ~~assessments during the period of the temporary certificate. If the teacher fails~~
26 ~~the assessments, the temporary certificate shall be valid only for the current~~
27 ~~semester. If the teacher passes the assessments, a professional certificate valid~~

1 for five (5) years shall be issued.

2 ~~(4) A reasonable fee to be paid by the teacher and directly related to the actual cost of~~
3 ~~the administration of the assessments shall be established by the Education~~
4 ~~Professional Standards Board. Provisions shall be made for persons having less than~~
5 ~~minimum levels of performance on any assessment to repeat that assessment, and~~
6 ~~candidates shall be informed of their strengths and weaknesses in the specific~~
7 ~~performance areas. The Education Professional Standards Board shall provide for~~
8 ~~confidentiality of the individual assessment scores. Scores shall be available only to~~
9 ~~the candidate and to the education officials who are responsible for determining~~
10 ~~whether established certification standards have been met. Scores shall be used only~~
11 ~~in the assessment for certification of new teachers and of out of state teachers with~~
12 ~~less than two (2) years of teaching experience who are seeking initial certification~~
13 ~~in Kentucky.]~~

14 ~~(4)~~⁽⁵⁾ If an applicant establishes eligibility for a five (5) year professional certificate
15 under ~~the provisions of~~ subsection ~~(3)~~^{(3)(a)} of this section, the applicant shall
16 also be eligible for the issuance of a certificate for substitute teaching as provided
17 by the administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board.

18 ~~(5)~~⁽⁶⁾ (a) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a ten (10) year
19 emeritus certificate to an applicant who has:

- 20 1. Retired or will retire not more than one (1) year prior to the expiration
21 date of the certificate;
- 22 2. Met the requirements to receive an emeritus certificate as set forth in
23 administrative regulation promulgated by the Education Professional
24 Standards Board; and
- 25 3. Completed the required application unless the provisions of KRS
26 161.120 apply.

27 (b) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a one (1) time five (5)

- 1 year exception certificate to an individual:
- 2 1. Whose certificate has expired;
 - 3 2. Whose rank upon expiration was Rank I or Rank II;
 - 4 3. Who has met the requirements to receive an exception certificate as set
 - 5 forth in administrative regulation promulgated by the Education
 - 6 Professional Standards Board;
 - 7 4. Who completed three (3) years of classroom instruction prior to the
 - 8 certificate's expiration; and
 - 9 5. Who has completed the required application unless the provisions of
 - 10 KRS 161.120 apply.

11 ~~(6)~~~~(7)~~ The Education Professional Standards Board shall approve the curricula of
12 any college or university, or of any department thereof, for the training of teachers,
13 and any nontraditional or alternative teacher preparation program offered in a
14 public or private postsecondary education institution, private contractor, or state
15 agency, and shall also approve the curricula of any local district alternative
16 certification program, when the curricula comply with the administrative
17 regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board for the issuance of
18 certificates and when the institution has met the terms and conditions provided in
19 KRS 161.010 to 161.120. Any student who has completed any of these curricula, as
20 approved by the Education Professional Standards Board, and who has completed
21 the prescribed requirements for the issuance of certificates shall be granted a
22 certificate corresponding to the curricula completed.

23 ~~(7)~~~~(8)~~ The issuance of any certificate, except emergency certificates issued pursuant
24 to KRS 161.100, by the Education Professional Standards Board shall not be
25 dependent upon an offer of employment. The certification process, except for
26 emergency certificates, is independent of any job prospects and certification shall
27 be awarded on the basis of completing a teacher preparation program or an

1 alternative certification pathway~~[-and passing required assessments].~~

2 ➔Section 2. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:

4 (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety
5 of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in
6 Kentucky schools;

7 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in
8 Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation
9 program;

10 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public
11 schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by
12 a verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that
13 empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;

14 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools
15 to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and

16 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher
17 preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers;

18 (b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as
19 described in subsections (2) to (10) of this section;

20 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Education Professional
21 Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience,
22 and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these
23 options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and
24 recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in
25 Kentucky;

26 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any
27 candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to

1 those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs; and

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

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

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

15 (c) The candidate possesses:

16 1. A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;

17 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
18 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
19 average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30)
20 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate
21 coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary
22 institution; and

23 3. An academic major ~~for a passing score on the academic content~~
24 ~~assessment in the area~~ in which certification is being sought by the
25 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

26 After successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and upon the
27 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional

1 Standards Board, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be
2 subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a
3 professional certificate.

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

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

25 An individual may participate in a local school district training program upon
26 meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection and
27 approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an application by the

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education
26 Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5)
27 years, for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary career technical

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

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

15 The eligible veteran shall receive a one (1) year provisional certificate with
16 approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an application by the
17 veteran. 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 veteran shall receive a professional certificate.

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

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

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

11 (a) The candidate shall possess:

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

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

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

1 Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in
 2 reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge
 3 of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and
 4 methods of classroom management.

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

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

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

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

26 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 27 1. A bachelor's degree; ***and***

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

- 1 (a) The program shall:
- 2 1. Include a residency or paraprofessional component which employs the
- 3 person within the participating district for the duration of the program to
- 4 gain work experience to supplement the expedited program and reduced
- 5 coursework;
- 6 2. Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide
- 7 coaching and to mentor the candidates; and
- 8 3. Be designed to meet the needs of the participating district and may
- 9 include an emphasis in developing a teacher pipeline for the district's
- 10 students, improving the numbers of underrepresented populations
- 11 among the district's workforce, or focusing on increasing the number of
- 12 teachers with certification areas that are in high demand.
- 13 (b) A school district entering into a cooperative partnership shall ensure the
- 14 availability of funding for each candidate employed within the district in the
- 15 residency or paraprofessional program for the duration of the candidate's
- 16 participation in the program. However, nothing in this subsection shall be
- 17 interpreted as requiring the district to continue employing the candidate
- 18 during the program or after the candidate has received initial certification.
- 19 (c) A person who has begun a traditional path or another option for certification
- 20 shall be eligible to transfer into this option if the person meets the program's
- 21 requirements.
- 22 (d) If a school district participating in a cooperative partnership determines to end
- 23 the partnership, the district shall no longer accept new candidates to the
- 24 program but shall continue the partnership until the district's employed
- 25 candidates for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer
- 26 employed by the district.
- 27 (11) A public school teacher certified under subsections (2) to (10) of this section shall

1 be placed on the local district salary schedule for the rank corresponding to the
2 degree held by the teacher.

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

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

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

9 ➔Section 3. KRS 161.053 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) The Education Professional Standards Board shall have the authority and
11 responsibility to certify as a teacher of exceptional children/communication
12 disorders, an individual who has:

13 (a) Completed an approved program of preparation that corresponds to the
14 certificate;

15 (b) ~~[Achieved a passing score on an appropriate assessment as determined by the
16 Education Professional Standards Board;~~

17 ~~(c)~~ Fulfilled other requirements for teacher certification as determined by the
18 Education Professional Standards Board, in accordance with KRS Chapter
19 161 and administrative regulations promulgated thereunder; and

20 (c)~~(d)~~ Completed the requirements set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

21 (2) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue two (2) levels of
22 certification for teachers of exceptional children/communication disorders:

23 (a) Baccalaureate level certification shall be issued to a person who has:

24 1. Completed an approved program of preparation leading to a bachelor's
25 degree in speech-language pathology;

26 2. Been granted licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant from
27 the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology,

- 1 under KRS Chapter 334A; and
- 2 3. Completed the other requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this
- 3 section; and
- 4 (b) Master's level certification shall be issued to a person who has:
- 5 1. Completed an approved program of preparation leading to a master's
- 6 degree in speech-language pathology; and
- 7 2. Completed the other requirements specified in subsection (1) of this
- 8 section.
- 9 (3) A person holding licensure through the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language
- 10 Pathology and Audiology as a speech-language pathology assistant, but not
- 11 certified as a teacher of exceptional children/communication disorders, may:
- 12 (a) Continue to work in the public schools as a classified employee under~~the~~
- 13 ~~provisions of~~ KRS Chapter 334A and administrative regulations promulgated
- 14 by the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; or
- 15 (b) Pursue certification as a baccalaureate level teacher of exceptional
- 16 children/communication disorders while working as a speech-language
- 17 pathology assistant.
- 18 (4) A bachelor's level teacher of exceptional children/communication disorders shall
- 19 work under requirements for speech-language pathology assistants set forth in KRS
- 20 Chapter 334A.
- 21 (5) The Education Professional Standards Board shall develop a policy through the
- 22 promulgation of administrative regulations by June 30, 2001, to permit a speech-
- 23 language pathology assistant with two (2) years or more of successful professional
- 24 experience pursuing certification as a baccalaureate level teacher of exceptional
- 25 children to:
- 26 (a) Substitute prior professional experience for student teaching requirements;
- 27 and

1 (b) Substitute prior professional experience for beginning teacher internship
2 requirements.

3 (6) A teacher of exceptional children/communication disorders shall receive salary and
4 benefits, including membership in the Teachers' Retirement System, commensurate
5 with his or her education, certification, and experience as prescribed by law. Years
6 of experience as a speech-language pathology assistant shall be included in the
7 calculation of all benefits, including membership in the Teachers' Retirement
8 System, for individuals with baccalaureate level certification as a teacher of
9 exceptional children/communication disorders.