

1 AN ACT relating to teacher certification.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 161 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 5 *(1) Notwithstanding any statute or regulation to the contrary, a teacher candidate in*
6 *an approved teacher preparation program shall have the option to successfully*
7 *complete a competency demonstration as an alternative to obtaining a passing*
8 *score on any assessments required for certification as designated by the*
9 *Education Professional Standards Board.*
- 10 *(2) Each approved teacher preparation program shall include a competency*
11 *demonstration option. The competency demonstration option may be structured*
12 *as a student teaching or internship model offered through the university or at a*
13 *local school district through a partnership with the university and shall be*
14 *overseen by the university. The option shall:*
- 15 *(a) Provide a combination of curriculum and practical experience;*
- 16 *(b) Require the teacher candidate to demonstrate teaching and content area*
17 *knowledge and application equivalent to passing any assessments required*
18 *for certification; and*
- 19 *(c) Allow for completion within one (1) academic year or less.*
- 20 *(3) Upon successful completion of the competency demonstration option, a certificate*
21 *valid for one (1) year shall be issued and the teacher shall be eligible to*
22 *participate in the internship program as provided in Section 2 of this Act.*
- 23 *(4) A teacher candidate may elect to participate in the option prior to taking any*
24 *assessments required for certification or upon failing to successfully complete*
25 *any assessment required for certification. A teacher candidate may take any*
26 *assessments required for certification while participating in the option. If a*
27 *teacher candidate obtains passing scores on the assessments required for*

1 certification, completion of the competency demonstration option shall not be
2 required to obtain certification. A teacher candidate who has completed all other
3 requirements of the approved teacher preparation program shall have the term of
4 the conditional certificate issued under subsection (3) of Section 2 of this Act to
5 complete the competency demonstration option under this section. A teacher
6 education institution shall not charge tuition or fees to a candidate who has
7 completed all other requirements of the teacher preparation program and who
8 plans to complete the competency demonstration option during the permitted
9 term.

10 (5) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative
11 regulations establishing standards and procedures for the competency
12 demonstration option.

13 ➔Section 2. KRS 161.030 is amended to read as follows:

14 (1) Notwithstanding the age of the pupil, the certification of all teachers and other
15 school personnel, in public schools only, is vested in the Education Professional
16 Standards Board. When so certified, teachers and other school personnel shall not
17 be required to have licensure, certification, or other forms of approval from any
18 other state agency for the performance of their respective assignments within the
19 common schools, except as provided for by law. All certificates authorized under
20 KRS 161.010 to 161.126 shall be issued in accordance with the administrative
21 regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board. After July 15, 1994, all
22 certificate applications and other data collection instruments of the board shall
23 include a request for voluntary information about the applicant's ethnic background.
24 This information shall be available to help local school districts locate minority
25 candidates. A person who holds a certificate prior to this requirement may request
26 that ethnic information be added to his or her file. Nothing in this section shall
27 preclude the right of an individual in a nonpublic school from seeking voluntary

1 certification by the Education Professional Standards Board.

2 (2) Certificates shall be issued upon written application and in accordance with statutes
3 and regulations in effect at the time of application to persons who have completed,
4 at colleges, universities, or local school district programs approved by the Education
5 Professional Standards Board for the preparation of teachers and other school
6 personnel, the curricula prescribed by the administrative regulations of the
7 Education Professional Standards Board.

8 (3) (a) Certification of all new teachers and teachers seeking additional certification
9 shall require the successful completion of appropriate assessments prior to
10 certification, except as described in Section 1 of this Act and paragraph (b)
11 of this subsection. The assessments shall be selected by the Education
12 Professional Standards Board and shall measure knowledge in the specific
13 teaching field of the applicant, including content of the field and teaching of
14 that content. The Education Professional Standards Board shall determine the
15 minimum acceptable level of achievement on each assessment. The
16 assessments shall measure those concepts, ideas, and facts which are being
17 taught in teacher education programs in Kentucky. Upon successful
18 completion of the assessments and the approved teacher preparation program,
19 a certificate valid for one (1) year shall be issued.

20 (b) If an applicant for teacher certification has completed the approved teacher
21 preparation program and has not taken, or has taken but failed to successfully
22 complete, the appropriate assessments selected by the Education Professional
23 Standards Board, a conditional certificate may be issued for a period not to
24 exceed one (1) year, if the employing school district, in collaboration with the
25 teacher education institution, agrees to provide significant input, technical
26 assistance, and mentoring support to the conditionally certified teacher. The
27 teacher shall have the option to retake the assessments during the validity

1 period of the conditional certificate or successfully demonstrate teaching and
2 content area competency equivalent to passing any required assessments
3 through the competency demonstration option described in Section 1 of this
4 Act. The conditional certificate shall not be reissued. Upon successful
5 completion of the required assessments or successful demonstration of
6 competency, a certificate valid for one (1) year shall be issued and the teacher
7 shall be eligible to participate in the internship program as provided in
8 subsection (5) of this section. The teacher shall not be eligible to participate in
9 the internship program while teaching on the conditional certificate. The
10 Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative
11 regulations to establish the standards and procedures for issuance of the
12 conditional certificate.

13 (c) If an out-of-state teacher with less than two (2) years' experience comes to
14 Kentucky after the deadline for taking the assessments, a temporary certificate
15 may be issued for a period up to six (6) months provided the local board
16 cannot fill the vacant position with a certified teacher. The teacher shall take
17 the assessments if they are administered during the period of the temporary
18 certificate. The certificate shall be extended for the remainder of the year if the
19 teacher successfully completes the assessments. If the teacher fails the
20 assessments, the temporary certificate shall be valid only for the current
21 semester.

22 (4) A reasonable fee to be paid by the teacher and directly related to the actual cost of
23 the administration of the assessments shall be established by the Education
24 Professional Standards Board. Provisions shall be made for persons having less than
25 minimum levels of performance on any assessment to repeat that assessment, and
26 candidates shall be informed of their strengths and weaknesses in the specific
27 performance areas. The Education Professional Standards Board shall provide for

1 confidentiality of the individual assessment scores. Scores shall be available only to
2 the candidate and to the education officials who are responsible for determining
3 whether established certification standards have been met. Scores shall be used only
4 in the assessment for certification of new teachers and of out-of-state teachers with
5 less than two (2) years of teaching experience who are seeking initial certification in
6 Kentucky.

7 (5) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section, all new teachers and out-of-
8 state teachers with less than two (2) years of successful teaching experience who are
9 seeking initial certification in Kentucky shall serve a one (1) year internship. The
10 teacher shall be a full-time employee or shall have an annual contract and serve on
11 at least a half-time basis and shall have supervision, assistance, and assessment
12 during the one (1) year internship. The internship may be served in a public school
13 or a nonpublic school which meets the state performance standards as established in
14 KRS 156.160 or which has been accredited by a regional or national accrediting
15 association. Successful completion shall be determined by a majority vote of the
16 beginning teacher committee. The internship period shall be counted as experience
17 for the purpose of continuing contract status, retirement eligibility, and benefits for
18 single salary experience increments. Upon successful completion of the beginning
19 teacher program, the one (1) year initial teaching certificate shall be extended for
20 the remainder of the usual duration period established for that particular certificate
21 by Education Professional Standards Board administrative regulations.

22 (6) The beginning teacher committee shall be composed of three (3) persons who have
23 successfully completed special training in the supervision and assessment of the
24 performance of beginning teachers as provided in subsection (8) of this section,
25 except as provided in paragraph (g) of this subsection. The committee shall consist
26 of a resource teacher, the school principal of the school where the internship is
27 served, and a teacher educator appointed by a state-approved teacher training

1 institution.

2 (a) If more than two (2) teacher interns are employed in the same school, the
3 principal's responsibility may be shared with an assistant principal who holds
4 certification as a principal.

5 (b) In unusual situations, the Education Professional Standards Board may permit
6 the assistant principal to serve in lieu of the principal on a beginning teacher
7 committee.

8 (c) If the teacher training institution is unable to provide a member, the district
9 superintendent shall appoint an instructional supervisor from the school
10 district.

11 (d) If the intern is teaching in a regionally or nationally accredited nonpublic
12 school without a principal, the person filling the principal member position
13 may have other appropriate qualifications as required by administrative
14 regulations promulgated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

15 (e) If the teacher training institution is unable to provide a member to serve on the
16 beginning teacher committee in a nonpublic school, the chief officer of the
17 school shall appoint an instructional supervisor or a teacher with like
18 qualifications and responsibilities to serve on the beginning teacher committee
19 in lieu of the teacher educator.

20 (f) The resource teacher shall be appointed by the Education Professional
21 Standards Board with recommendations from the local school district from a
22 pool of qualified resource teachers, and, any statutes to the contrary
23 notwithstanding and to the extent of available appropriations, shall be entitled
24 to be paid a reasonable stipend by the Education Professional Standards Board
25 for work done outside normal working hours. In the case of a resource teacher
26 in a nonpublic school, payment shall be made directly to the resource teacher
27 by the Education Professional Standards Board. Priority shall be given to

1 resource teachers in the following order, except as provided in paragraph (g)
2 of this subsection:

- 3 1. Teachers with the same certification in the same school;
- 4 2. Teachers with the same certification in the same district;
- 5 3. Teachers in the same school;
- 6 4. Teachers in the same district; and
- 7 5. Teachers in an adjacent school district.

8 (g) 1. The resource teacher for an individual pursuing initial certification as a
9 baccalaureate level teacher of exceptional children/communication
10 disorders shall be a master's level teacher of exceptional
11 children/communication disorders, if one is available.

12 2. If a master's level teacher of exceptional children/communication
13 disorders is not available, the Education Professional Standards Board
14 may allow a licensed speech-language pathologist to serve on the
15 beginning teacher committee in lieu of a resource teacher.

16 (h) The committee shall meet with the beginning teacher a minimum of three (3)
17 times per year for evaluation and recommendation with all committee
18 members present. In addition, each member of the committee shall observe
19 the beginning teacher in the classroom a minimum of three (3) times per year.
20 If the teacher's first year performance is judged by the committee to be less
21 than satisfactory, the teacher shall be provided with an opportunity to repeat
22 the internship one (1) time if the teacher is employed by a school district.

23 (7) The resource teacher shall spend a minimum of seventy (70) hours working with the
24 beginning teacher. Twenty (20) of these hours shall be in the classroom setting, and
25 fifty (50) of these hours shall be in consultation other than class time or attending
26 assessment meetings. The resource teacher shall have completed at least four (4)
27 years of successful teaching experience as attested to by his or her immediate

1 supervisor or by having achieved tenure and be able to show evidence of continuing
2 professional development by having achieved a master's degree or its equivalent or
3 the accumulation of two thousand (2,000) hours of continuing professional
4 activities.

5 (8) By contract with teacher education institutions in the Commonwealth, the
6 Education Professional Standards Board shall provide special training for persons
7 who will be serving on the beginning teacher committees. Completion of special
8 training shall be evidenced by successfully passing the assessments as prescribed by
9 the Education Professional Standards Board. A principal hired after July 15, 1996,
10 shall be required to complete the beginning teacher committee training program
11 within one (1) year after his or her appointment.

12 (9) If an applicant establishes eligibility for a one (1) year certificate under the
13 provisions of subsection (3)(a) of this section, but does not become employed on the
14 basis needed to satisfy the one (1) year internship requirement, the applicant shall be
15 eligible for the issuance of a certificate for substitute teaching as provided by the
16 administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board. The
17 applicant shall remain eligible for the one (1) year certificate, as provided in
18 subsection (3)(a) of this section, and for the opportunity to serve the internship for a
19 period of five (5) years after establishing eligibility. If the internship is not
20 completed within the five (5) year period, the applicant must reestablish eligibility
21 by repeating and passing the assessment program in effect for new teachers at that
22 time or by completing a minimum of six (6) graduate hours toward completion of a
23 graduate program required by administrative regulations promulgated by the
24 Education Professional Standards Board. The option for renewal through
25 completion of graduate hours shall be available only for the first reestablishment of
26 eligibility.

27 (10) The Education Professional Standards Board shall approve the curricula of any

1 college or university, or of any department thereof, for the training of teachers, and
2 any nontraditional or alternative teacher preparation program offered in a public or
3 private postsecondary education institution, private contractor, or state agency, and
4 shall also approve the curricula of any local district alternative certification
5 program, when the curricula comply with the administrative regulations of the
6 Education Professional Standards Board for the issuance of certificates and when
7 the institution has met the terms and conditions provided in KRS 161.010 to
8 161.120. Any student who has completed any of these curricula, as approved by the
9 Education Professional Standards Board, and who has completed the prescribed
10 requirements for the issuance of certificates shall be granted a certificate
11 corresponding to the curricula completed.

12 ➔Section 3. KRS 161.010 is amended to read as follows:

13 As used in KRS 161.020 to 161.134:

- 14 (1) "College or university work of graduate grade" means academic preparation which
15 extends beyond the usual four (4) year program of undergraduate studies leading to
16 a bachelor's degree and which is completed at a college or university accredited for
17 the graduate level;
- 18 (2) "Continuing education" means study or other activities to provide professional
19 improvement and personal growth for certified teachers throughout their career. It
20 may include, but shall not be limited to, university courses, an advanced degree, or a
21 combination of field-based experience, individual research, and approved
22 professional development activities, pursuant to KRS 156.095;
- 23 (3) "Professional certificate" means the document issued to an applicant upon
24 completion of an approved program of preparation, recommendation by the
25 educator preparation provider, and successful completion of the assessments *or the*
26 *approved competency equivalent under Section 1 of this Act* in the area in which
27 certification is being sought, and if applicable, successful completion of any

- 1 internship requirements, unless otherwise waived under KRS 161.030 based on
2 preparation and experience completed outside of Kentucky;
- 3 (4) "Provisional certificate" means the document issued to an individual prior to the
4 issuance of a professional certificate;
- 5 (5) "Standard college or university" means an institution accredited by the Southern
6 Association of Colleges and Schools or by one of the other recognized regional
7 accrediting agencies or by the Education Professional Standards Board;
- 8 (6) "Student teacher" means an adult who has completed the prerequisite teacher
9 preparation as prescribed by the accredited teacher education institution in which he
10 or she is enrolled, and who is jointly assigned by the institution and a local school
11 district to engage in a period of practice teaching under the direction and
12 supervision of the administrative and teaching staff of the school district and the
13 institution; and
- 14 (7) "Teacher's aide" means an adult school employee who works under the direction of
15 the professional administrative and teaching staff in performing, within the
16 limitations of his or her training and competency, certain instructional and
17 noninstructional functions in the school program including, but not limited to,
18 clerical duties, tutoring individual pupils, leading pupils in recreational activities,
19 conducting pupils from place to place, assisting with classroom instruction as
20 directed by the teacher, aiding the school librarian, and preparing and organizing
21 instructional materials and equipment.