

1 AN ACT relating to the maintenance of teacher certification.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.095 is amended to read as follows:

4 **(1)** ~~The Education Professional Standards Board[, with the advice of the Kentucky~~
5 ~~Board of Education, shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish~~
6 ~~procedures for a teacher to maintain his or her certificate by successfully completing~~
7 ~~meaningful continuing education. The Education Professional Standards Board~~
8 ~~shall develop standards for continuing education related to maintaining a certificate,~~
9 ~~including university courses, an advanced degree, or a combination of field-based~~
10 ~~experience, individual research, and approved professional development. The~~
11 ~~Education Professional Standards Board shall establish a system of quality~~
12 ~~assurance related to continuing education activities and certification requirements]~~
13 ***shall not impose conditions for a teacher to maintain his or her certificate.***

14 **(2) Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the Education Professional**
15 **Standards Board to impose disciplinary actions for cause under KRS 161.120.**

16 ➔Section 2. KRS 161.1211 is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) The Education Professional Standards Board shall rank teachers as follows:

18 Rank I. Those holding regular certificates and who have a master's degree in a
19 subject field approved by the Education Professional Standards Board or
20 equivalent continuing education and who have earned thirty (30) semester
21 hours of approved graduate work or equivalent continuing education; or those
22 teachers who have met the requirements for Rank II and earned initial
23 certification of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The
24 board shall not allow a teacher who qualified for Rank I status on the basis of
25 his or her national board certification to maintain that classification if the
26 national board certificate is revoked for misconduct or voided for other
27 reasons.

1 Rank II. Those holding regular certificates and who have a master's degree in a
 2 subject field approved by the Education Professional Standards Board or
 3 equivalent continuing education.

4 Rank III. Those holding regular certificates and who have an approved four (4)
 5 year college degree or the equivalent.

6 Rank IV. Those holding emergency certificates and who have ninety-six (96) to
 7 one hundred twenty-eight (128) semester hours of approved college training or
 8 the equivalent.

9 Rank V. Those holding emergency certificates and who have sixty-four (64) to
 10 ninety-five (95) semester hours of approved college training or the equivalent.

11 (2) In determining ranks, the Education Professional Standards Board shall classify
 12 teachers who hold valid certificates in the respective ranks according to approved
 13 college semester hours of credit or equivalent continuing education. The board, in
 14 defining preparation for certain types of vocational teachers as equivalent to college
 15 training, shall give consideration to apprenticeship training and industrial
 16 experience.

17 (3) For purposes of the state salary schedule only as referenced in KRS
 18 157.390~~[158.070]~~, rank shall be determined on September 15 of each year.

19 (4) Nothing in this section shall allow the Education Professional Standards Board by
 20 regulation to:

21 (a) Reclassify downward any teachers in Rank~~[Ranks]~~ II or Rank I; or

22 (b) *Require a teacher holding a Rank III regular certificate to obtain a Rank II*
 23 *or Rank I to maintain his or her certificate.*

24 ➔Section 3. KRS 161.020 is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) (a) No person shall be eligible to hold the position of superintendent, principal,
 26 teacher, supervisor, director of pupil personnel, or other public school position
 27 for which certificates may be issued, or receive salary for services rendered in

1 the position, unless he or she holds a certificate of legal qualifications for the
2 position, issued by the Education Professional Standards Board.

3 (b) No person seeking initial employment as a school finance officer on or after
4 July 1, 2015, shall be eligible to hold the position of school finance officer
5 unless the person holds a certificate of legal qualification for the position,
6 issued by the Kentucky Department of Education.

7 (2) No person shall enter upon the duties of a position requiring certification
8 qualifications until his or her certificate has been filed or credentials registered with
9 the local district employer.

10 ~~[(3) The validity and terms for the renewal of any certificate shall be determined by the
11 laws and regulations in effect at the time the certificate was issued.]~~

12 ➔Section 4. KRS 156.553 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) The teachers' professional growth fund is hereby created to provide teachers with
14 high quality professional development in content knowledge in mathematics,
15 reading, science, language arts, social studies, arts and humanities, practical living,
16 vocational studies, and foreign languages; classroom-based screening, diagnostic,
17 assessment, and intervention strategies; and teaching methodologies, including
18 professional development that may lead to additional certification endorsements or
19 renewal of certification. Based on available funds, student achievement data, and
20 teacher data, the Kentucky Board of Education shall annually determine the priority
21 for content emphasis based on the greatest needs.

22 (2) (a) The fund may provide moneys to teachers for:

23 1. Tuition reimbursement for successful completion of college or
24 university level courses, including on-line courses and seminars,
25 approved for this purpose by the Education Professional Standards
26 Board;

27 2. Stipends for participation in and successful completion of:

- 1 a. College or university courses, including on-line courses and
2 seminars, approved for this purpose by the Education Professional
3 Standards Board;
- 4 b. Teacher institutes developed for core content instructors by the
5 Department of Education in compliance with KRS 156.095; and
- 6 c. Other professional development programs approved by the
7 Kentucky Department of Education, including professional
8 development for teachers participating in grants awarded by the
9 Middle School Mathematics and Science Scholars Program
10 established under KRS 158.848;
- 11 3. Reimbursement for the purchase of materials required for professional
12 development programs; and
- 13 4. Reimbursement for other approved professional development activities
14 throughout the school year, including reimbursement for:
- 15 a. Travel to and from professional development workshops; and
- 16 b. Travel to and from other schools for the observation of, and
17 consultation with, peer mentors; or
- 18 (b) The fund may be used to provide grants to local school districts to support
19 staff participation in specific, statewide initiatives for the professional
20 development of teachers and administrators in specific content areas as
21 established by the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky
22 Board of Education under the provisions of subsections (4), (5), and (6) of this
23 section and referenced in KRS 158.842.
- 24 (c) The fund may be used to provide grants to colleges and universities to plan
25 and develop statewide professional development institutes and other
26 professional development services.
- 27 (d) The fund may be used to provide grants to local school districts, to colleges

1 and universities, or other entities to assist the Kentucky Department of
2 Education in evaluating costs and the effectiveness of activities and initiatives
3 established under this section.

4 (3) The Education Professional Standards Board shall determine the college and
5 university courses, including on-line courses and seminars, for which teachers may
6 receive reimbursement from the fund.

7 (4) The Department of Education shall:

8 (a) Administer the fund. In order to process reimbursements to teachers promptly,
9 the reimbursements shall not be subject to KRS 45A.690 to 45A.725;

10 (b) Determine the professional development programs for which teachers may
11 receive reimbursement, or districts or colleges and universities may receive
12 grants, from the fund;

13 (c) Determine the level of stipend or reimbursement, subject to the availability of
14 appropriated funds, for particular courses and programs, under subsection (2)
15 of this section; and

16 (d) Provide an accounting of fund expenditures and results of the use of the funds
17 for each biennium to the Interim Joint Committee on Education by November
18 1 of each odd-numbered year.

19 (5) The professional development programs approved by the Department of Education
20 for which teachers may receive support from the fund shall:

21 (a) Focus on improving the content knowledge of teachers;

22 (b) Provide training in the use of research-based and developmentally appropriate
23 classroom-based screening, diagnostic, assessment, and intervention
24 strategies;

25 (c) Provide instruction on teaching methods to effectively impart content
26 knowledge to all students;

27 (d) Include intensive training institutes and workshops during the summer;

- 1 (e) Provide programs for the ongoing support of teacher participants throughout
2 the year, which may include:
- 3 1. A peer coaching or mentoring, and assessment program; and
 - 4 2. Planned activities, including:
 - 5 a. Follow-up workshops; and
 - 6 b. Support networks of teachers of the core disciplines using
7 technologies, including but not limited to telephone, video, and on-
8 line computer networks;
- 9 (f) Provide teacher participants with professional development credit **under KRS**
10 **156.095**~~toward renewal of certification under the provisions of KRS 161.095,~~
11 ~~relating to continuing education for teachers~~; and
- 12 (g) Provide teacher participants with the opportunity to obtain certificate
13 endorsements or extensions in critical shortage areas, with priority given to
14 mathematics and science through 2016, and in core content areas to their
15 existing certifications through the TC-HQ process, established by the
16 Education Professional Standards Board to meet the requirements of the **Every**
17 **Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95**~~[No Child Left Behind Act~~
18 ~~of 2001, 20 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq].~~
- 19 (6) The Kentucky Board of Education shall specify through promulgation of
20 administrative regulations:
- 21 (a) The application and approval process for receipt of funds;
 - 22 (b) The requirements and process for the disbursal of funds; and
 - 23 (c) The number of each kind of approved course for which applicants may receive
24 funds.
- 25 (7) Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary, a local school board may
26 advance the funds necessary for its teachers to participate in a college course or
27 professional development seminar or activity approved by the Kentucky Department

1 of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board under provisions of
2 this section and receive reimbursement from the department at the conclusion of the
3 activity or course by the teacher. If funds are advanced for the benefit of a teacher
4 under this subsection, but the teacher does not fulfill his or her obligation, the
5 teacher shall reimburse the school district for the funds expended by the district on
6 the teacher's behalf.

7 (8) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 45.229, unexpended funds in the teachers'
8 professional growth fund in the 2000-2001 fiscal year or in any subsequent fiscal
9 year shall not lapse but shall carry forward to the next fiscal year and shall be used
10 for the purposes established in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

11 (9) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section to the contrary, beginning June 1,
12 2006, through the 2009-2010 school year, priority for the use of funds from the
13 teachers' professional growth fund shall be used to train and support teams of
14 teachers from all school levels to be trained as reading coaches and mentors or as
15 mathematics coaches and mentors in statewide institutes referenced in KRS 158.840
16 and 158.842, and for selected teachers to be highly trained in providing diagnostic
17 assessment and intervention services for students in the primary program struggling
18 with mathematics.

19 (a) The design of the statewide mathematics institutes to train mathematics
20 coaches and mentors shall be developed by the Committee for Mathematics
21 Achievement established in KRS 158.842. The committee shall provide
22 recommendations to the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky
23 Board of Education in the preparation of administrative regulations that may
24 be promulgated by the board to implement the provisions of this subsection
25 relating to mathematics.

26 (b) The design of the professional development program to provide highly trained
27 mathematics intervention teachers in the primary program shall be developed

1 by the Center for Mathematics in collaboration with public and private
2 institutions of postsecondary education.

3 (c) The development of the statewide program to train reading coaches and
4 mentors shall be coordinated by the Kentucky Department of Education with
5 recommendations from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development,
6 established in KRS 164.0207, and the reading steering committee established
7 in KRS 158.794. The design of the program shall reflect a consensus of the
8 agencies involved in the development of the program. The training program
9 for reading coaches and mentors shall complement other statewide reading
10 initiatives, funded with state and federal funds, and shall give priority to
11 teachers in grades four (4) through twelve (12). The program shall be
12 implemented no later than June 1, 2006. The board shall promulgate
13 administrative regulations required to implement the provisions of this
14 subsection relating to reading.

15 (10) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, beginning June 1,
16 2010, through the 2015-2016 school year, priority for the use of funds from the
17 teachers' professional growth fund shall be for the purpose of increasing the number
18 of certified teachers with extensions or endorsements in mathematics and science as
19 described in subsection (5)(g) of this section.