



Revisions to Educator Certification Education Professional Standards Board

Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

Certification Structure Workgroup

Charge: Review and discuss state and national data, seek feedback from Kentucky school districts and Educator Preparation Providers to determine if the current grade band structure meets the needs of Kentucky school districts.

Stakeholder Groups Represented

- Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)
- Kentucky School Counselor Association (KSCA)
- Educator Preparation Providers
- Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS)
- Kentucky Education Association (KEA)
- Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA)
- Kentucky Association of School Human Resource Managers (KASHRM)
- Legislators
- KDE Staff
- Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)
- Principals Advisory Council (PrAC)
- Teachers Advisory Council (TAC)
- Education Cooperatives

Certification Grade Bands Recommendation

Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education

- Retain Preschool-Kindergarten, consider optional endorsement for Grades 1-3

Elementary

- Grades K-6

Middle Grades

- Grades 4-9

Secondary

- Grades 7-12



Certification Recommendations

- 1) Special Education** – Continue with current specialized certificates
- 2) Mathematics** – Expand permissions for Middle School Math 5-9 for Algebra I and Geometry
- 3) General Science** – Add a Secondary General Science Certificate*



*Consider flexibilities for science certifications – credentials, permissions, etc.

Science Certification: Quality

- Flexibility must be paired with clear guardrails.
- Advanced courses (AP, dual credit, upper-level chemistry/physics) may require additional credentials.
- Mention of district accountability for documenting teacher readiness emphasized (current teachers adding credentials).



Science Preparation and Coursework

In addition to a general science major:

- Questioning the necessity of full disciplinary majors for foundational high school science (education or teaching content major).
- Preference for general science preparation with concentrations.
- Considerations of recognizing minors for certification.
- Strong emphasis on pedagogy, classroom management, and support.



Timeline for Regulation Changes

Revisions to 16 KAR 2:010. Kentucky professional and provisional teacher certificates.

- EPSB adopted the recommendations of the Certification Structure Workgroup in April 2026.
- Implementation of these recommendations through revisions to 16 KAR 2:010 were initiated in June 2026.
- Action on the revised regulation is anticipated at the EPSB's meeting on August 18, 2026.
- If approved by EPSB at that time, filing will occur by September 15, 2026.
- Earliest possible effective date is around April 6, 2027.

Proposed Regulation Changes

Grade Levels and Specializations

- **IECE** - Birth to Primary – no change
- **Elementary** – Changed to primary through grade 6
 - Removed the two exceptions (i.e., same building and self-contained)
- **Middle school** – Changed to grades 4 through 9
- **Secondary school** – Changed to grades 7 through 12
 - Added **General Science** certificate
- **Grades 5-12** - Aligned certificate grade bands for 5 through 12 certificates to 4 through 12 for consistency
- **Math** - Revised language to allow middle school grades 4 through 9 mathematics to teach Algebra I and Geometry to grades 10, 11 and 12

Proposed Regulation Changes

Additional Certification for Secondary Sciences

- Added proposed language based on information from the Certification Structure Workgroup:
 - Process for adding science credentials to existing science certificates
 - Prior to September 15, 2028 –
 - Hold a professional certificate in at least one of the secondary sciences – biology, chemistry, earth science or physics
 - Submit proof of completing 8 credit hours - equivalent to two courses in the content area with each including a laboratory component
 - On or after September 15, 2028 – complete the HQ process defined in regulation

Proposed Regulation Changes

Revisions to the Highly Qualified Route – adding credentials

- Expands option to all contents – exceptions: Elementary, IECE, LBD, MSD, HI, VI and Communications Disorders
- 15 hours of post-secondary coursework
- Professional Learning
- Experience – teaching on content area
- Successful completion of the content assessments for 45 of the required 90 points

Implementation of House Bill 727 (2026)

District Exception Renewal

- Allows a superintendent to issue a waiver from the required graduate coursework for an educator with an expired certificate or statement of eligibility
- Waiver permits a one-time issuance of a 5-year certificate

Kentucky Educator Placement Service (KEPS) System Replacement

- Contractor identified and work towards compliance will begin soon
- Goal of launching new KEPS by Spring 2027
- Existing KEPS will remain in place in the interim

Questions?