

161.028 Education Professional Standards Board -- Powers and duties regarding the preparation and certification of professional school personnel -- Membership. (Effective July 15, 2026)

- (1) The Education Professional Standards Board is recognized to be a public body corporate and politic and an agency and instrumentality of the Commonwealth, in the performance of essential governmental functions. The Education Professional Standards Board has the authority and responsibility to:
 - (a) Establish standards and requirements for obtaining and maintaining a teaching certificate;
 - (b) Set standards for, approve, and evaluate college, university, and school district programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional school personnel. College or university programs may be approved by the board for a college or university with regional institutional level accreditation or national institutional level accreditation that is recognized by the United States Department of Education and is eligible to receive federal funding under 20 U.S.C. secs. 1061 to 1063. Program standards shall reflect national standards and shall address, at a minimum, the following:
 1. The alignment of programs with the state's core content for assessment as defined in KRS 158.6457;
 2. Research-based classroom practices, including effective classroom management techniques;
 3. Emphasis on subject matter competency of teacher education students;
 4. Methodologies to meet diverse educational needs of all students;
 5. The consistency and quality of classroom and field experiences, including early practicums and student teaching experiences;
 6. The amount of college-wide or university-wide involvement and support during the preparation as well as the induction of new teachers;
 7. The diversity of faculty;
 8. The effectiveness of partnerships with local school districts; and
 9. The performance of graduates on various measures as determined by the board;
 - (c) Include in the standards established for programs for the preparation of teachers under paragraph (b) of this subsection the requirement that interdisciplinary early childhood education or elementary regular education programs shall:
 1. Provide instruction on how to teach reading and language arts using scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instruction and reading intervention programs as defined in KRS 158.306; and
 2. Not provide instruction on teaching reading and language arts that incorporates a three-cueing system as defined in KRS 158.306;
 - (d) Require all interdisciplinary early childhood through grade five (5) educators who receive certification pursuant to KRS 161.048(2) to (6) and (9) to complete within two (2) years of initial employment a science of reading

professional learning program approved by the department;

- (e) Conduct an annual review of diversity in teacher preparation programs;
- (f) Provide assistance to universities and colleges in addressing diversity, which may include researching successful strategies and disseminating the information, encouraging the development of nontraditional avenues of recruitment and providing incentives, waiving administrative regulations when needed, and other assistance as deemed necessary;
- (g) Discontinue approval of programs that do not meet standards or whose graduates do not perform according to criteria set by the board;
- (h) Issue, renew, revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue or renew; impose probationary or supervisory conditions upon; issue a written reprimand or admonishment; or any combination of actions regarding any certificate;
- (i) Develop specific guidelines to follow upon receipt of an allegation of sexual misconduct by an employee certified by the Education Professional Standards Board. The guidelines shall include investigation, inquiry, and hearing procedures which ensure the process does not revictimize the alleged victim or cause harm if an employee is falsely accused;
- (j) Receive, along with investigators hired by the Education Professional Standards Board, training on the dynamics of sexual misconduct of professionals, including the nature of this abuse of authority, characteristics of the offender, the impact on the victim, the possibility and the impact of false accusations, investigative procedures in sex offense cases, and effective intervention with victims and offenders;
- (k) Recommend to the Kentucky Board of Education the essential data elements relating to teacher preparation and certification, teacher supply and demand, teacher attrition, teacher diversity, and employment trends to be included in a state comprehensive data and information system and periodically report data to the appropriate Interim Joint Committee on Education;
- (l) Submit reports to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission and inform the public on the status of teaching in Kentucky;
- (m) Devise a credentialing system that provides alternative routes to gaining certification and greater flexibility in staffing local schools while maintaining standards for teacher competence;
- (n) Develop a professional code of ethics;
- (o) Charge reasonable fees for the issuance, reissuance, and renewal of certificates that are established by administrative regulation. The proceeds shall be used to meet a portion of the costs of the issuance, reissuance, and renewal of certificates, the costs associated with disciplinary action against a certificate holder under KRS 161.120, and the costs associated with the development and maintenance of the Kentucky Educator Placement Service System required under KRS 160.152;
- (p) Waive a requirement that may be established in an administrative regulation promulgated by the board. A request for a waiver shall be submitted to the board, in writing, by an applicant for certification, a postsecondary institution,

or a superintendent of a local school district, with appropriate justification for the waiver. The board may approve the request if the person or institution seeking the waiver has demonstrated extraordinary circumstances justifying the waiver. Any waiver granted under this subsection shall be subject to revocation if the person or institution falsifies information or subsequently fails to meet the intent of the waiver;

- (q) Promote the development of one (1) or more innovative, nontraditional or alternative administrator or teacher preparation programs through public or private colleges or universities, private contractors, the Department of Education, or the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University and waive administrative regulations if needed in order to implement the program;
 - (r) Grant approval, if appropriate, of a university's request for an alternative program that enrolls an administrator candidate in a postbaccalaureate administrator preparation program concurrently with employment as an assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, or superintendent in a local school district. An administrator candidate in the alternative program shall be granted a temporary provisional certificate and shall be a candidate in the Kentucky Principal Internship Program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS 161.030, or the Superintendent's Assessment process, notwithstanding provisions of KRS 156.111, as appropriate. The temporary certificate shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years, and shall be contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional certificate shall be issued upon the candidate's successful completion of the program, internship requirements, and assessments as required by the board;
 - (s) Employ consultants as needed;
 - (t) Enter into contracts. Disbursements to professional educators who receive less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in compensation per fiscal year from the board for serving on an assessment validation panel or as a test scorer or proctor shall not be subject to KRS 45A.690 to 45A.725;
 - (u) Sponsor studies, conduct research, conduct conferences, and publish information as appropriate; and
 - (v) Issue orders as necessary in any administrative action before the board.
- (2) (a) The board shall be composed of seventeen (17) members. The secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet and the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio voting members. The Governor shall make the following fifteen (15) appointments:
1. Nine (9) members who shall be teachers representative of elementary, middle or junior high, secondary, special education, and secondary vocational classrooms;
 2. Two (2) members who shall be school administrators, one (1) of whom shall be a school principal;
 3. One (1) member representative of local boards of education; and
 4. Three (3) members representative of postsecondary institutions, two (2)

of whom shall be deans of colleges of education at public universities and one (1) of whom shall be the chief academic officer or head of an educator preparation program of an independent not-for-profit college or university.

- (b) The members appointed by the Governor shall be confirmed by the Senate under KRS 11.160. If the General Assembly is not in session at the time of the appointment, persons appointed shall serve prior to confirmation, but the Governor shall seek the consent of the Senate at the next regular session or at an intervening extraordinary session if the matter is included in the call of the General Assembly.
- (c) Each appointed member shall serve a three (3) year term. A vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment within sixty (60) days after it occurs. A member shall continue to serve until his or her successor is named. Any member who, through change of employment status or residence, or for other reasons, no longer meets the criteria for the position to which he or she was appointed shall no longer be eligible to serve in that position.
- (d) Members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be permitted to attend board meetings and perform other board business without loss of income or other benefits.
- (e) A state agency or any political subdivision of the state, including a school district, required to hire a substitute for a member of the board who is absent from the member's place of employment while performing board business shall be reimbursed by the board for the actual amount of any costs incurred.
- (f)
 1. A chair shall be elected by and from the membership and confirmed by the Senate in accordance with KRS 11.160. If the person selected as chair is not confirmed by the Senate, he or she shall still retain his or her position on the board, but shall vacate his or her position as chair, and the membership shall select a new chair.
 2. A member shall be eligible to serve no more than three (3) one (1) year terms in succession as chair. Regular meetings shall be held at least semiannually on call of the chair.
- (g) The commissioner of education shall serve as executive secretary to the board and may designate staff to facilitate his or her duties.
- (h) To carry out the functions relating to its duties and responsibilities, the board is empowered to receive donations and grants of funds; to appoint consultants as needed; and to sponsor studies, conduct conferences, and publish information.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 74, sec. 5 effective April 10, 2026; ch. 178, sec. 12, effective April 16, 2026; and ch. 196, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2026. -- Amended 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 33, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2025. -- Amended 2022 Ky. Acts ch. 236, sec. 78, effective July 1, 2022. -- Amended 2021 Ky. Acts ch. 26, sec. 8, effective June 29, 2021; and ch. 204, sec. 1, effective June 29, 2021. -- Amended 2004 Ky. Acts ch. 117, sec. 2, effective July 13, 2004. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts

ch. 288, sec. 3, effective July 15, 2002. -- Amended 2001 Ky. Acts ch. 137, sec. 7, effective June 21, 2001. -- Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 527, sec. 15, effective July 14, 2000. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 362, sec. 3, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1997 (1st Extra. Sess.) Ky. Acts ch. 1, sec. 66, effective May 30, 1997. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 107, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1996; and ch. 343, sec. 4, effective July 15, 1996. -- Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 265, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1994; and ch. 470, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1994. -- Created 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 476, Pt. II, sec. 56, effective July 13, 1990.

Legislative Research Commission Note (7/15/2026). This statute was amended by 2026 Ky. Acts chs. 74, 178, and 196, which do not appear to be in conflict and have been codified together.