

CHAPTER 177**(HB 607)**

AN ACT relating to alternative teacher certification.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:
 - (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in Kentucky schools;
 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation program;
 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by a verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;
 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and
 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers.
 - (b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as described in subsections (2) through (8) of this section.
 - (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Educational Professional Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience, and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in Kentucky.
 - (d) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative certification options described in this section.
- (2) Option 1: Certification of a person with exceptional work experience. An individual who has exceptional work experience and has been offered employment in a local school district shall receive a one (1) year provisional teaching certificate with approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of a joint application by the individual and the employing school district under the following conditions:
 - (a) The application contains documentation of all education and work experience;
 - (b) The candidate has documented ten (10) years of exceptional work experience in the area in which certification is being sought;
 - (c) The candidate possesses:
 1. a. A minimum of a bachelor's degree, with a cumulative grade point average of two and five-tenths (2.5) on a four (4) point scale or a grade point average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last sixty (60) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; or
 - b. A graduate degree with a cumulative grade point average of two and five-tenths (2.5) on a four (4) point scale or a grade point average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last sixty (60) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and
 2. An academic major or a passing score on the academic content assessment designated by the Education Professional Standards Board; and

- (d) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship, the candidate shall receive a regular professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as any other teacher with a regular professional certificate.
- (3) Option 2: Certification through a local district training program. A local district or group of districts may seek approval for a training program. The state-approved local district training program is an alternative to the college teacher preparation program as a means of acquiring teacher certification for a teacher at any grade level. The training program may be offered for all teaching certificates approved by Education Professional Standards Board, including interdisciplinary early childhood education, except for specific certificates for teachers of exceptional children. To participate in a state-approved local district alternative training program, the candidate shall:
- (a) Possess a bachelor's degree with a grade point average of two and five tenths (2.5) on a four (4) point scale or, upon approval by the Education Professional Standards Board, at least a grade point average of two (2) on a four (4) point scale if the candidate has exceptional life experience related to teaching and has completed the bachelor's degree at least five (5) years prior to submitting an application to the program.
 - (b) Pass written tests designated by the Education Professional Standards Board for content knowledge in the specific teaching field of the applicant with minimum scores in each test as set by the Education Professional Standards Board. To be eligible to take a subject field test, the applicant shall have completed a thirty (30) hour major in the academic content area or five (5) years of experience in the academic content area as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.
 - (c) Have been offered employment in a school district which has a training program approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.
 - (d) Upon meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection, the candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by the Education Professional Standards Board. The regular provisional certificate shall be issued upon satisfactory completion of the program and the teacher testing internship program pursuant to KRS 161.030.
 - (e) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs.
- (4) Option 3: Certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution: A candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive alternative certification for teaching at any level:
- (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which certification is sought;
 - (b) A minimum of five (5) years of full-time teaching experience, or its equivalent, in the academic content area for which certification is sought in a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education; and
 - (c) Successful completion of the teacher internship requirement imposed under KRS 161.030.
- (5) Option 4: Certification of an adjunct instructor. A person who has expertise in areas such as art, music, foreign language, drama, science, and other specialty areas may be employed as an adjunct instructor in a part-time position by a local board of education under KRS 161.046. An individual certified as an adjunct instructor shall not be deemed "highly qualified" under the provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. secs. 6301 et seq.
- (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5) years, to a veteran for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary vocational education levels with the following qualifications:
- (a) **1.** Discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions after six (6) or more years of continuous active duty immediately before the discharge or release; *or*
 - 2.** *Completed a total of at least ten (10) years of active duty service, ten (10) years of service officially credited toward armed services retirement, or ten (10) years combination of such service; and*

- (b) At least a bachelor's degree in the content area or closely related area for which certification is sought, issued by a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education;
- (c) A grade point average of two and five-tenths (2.5) on a four (4) point scale for a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree; and
- (d) A passing score on the written exit assessment examination designated by the Education Professional Standards Board for content knowledge.

Upon an offer of employment by a school district, the eligible veteran shall receive a one (1) year provisional teaching certificate with approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of a joint application by the veteran and the employing school district. During this year, the veteran shall participate in the teacher internship program under subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of KRS 161.030. Upon successful completion of the internship program, the veteran shall receive a regular professional certificate.

- (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative program shall be granted a temporary provisional certificate and shall be a candidate in the Kentucky teacher internship program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS 161.030. A student may not participate in the internship program until the student has successfully completed the assessments required by the board. The temporary provisional certificate shall be valid for a maximum of one (1) year, and may be renewed two (2) additional 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 teacher candidate's successful completion of the program, the internship requirements, and all assessments required by the board.
- (8) Option 7: Certification of a person in a field other than education to teach in elementary, middle, or secondary programs. This option shall not be limited to teaching in shortage areas.
 - (a) An individual certified under provisions of this subsection shall be issued a one (1) year temporary provisional teaching certificate, renewable for a maximum of two (2) additional years with approval of the Education Professional Standards Board provided that the candidate:
 1. Possesses a bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which certification is sought and a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or a professional or graduate degree in a field related to the area in which certification is sought;
 2. Has a minimum score of five hundred (500) on the verbal section and a minimum score of four (4) on the analytical writing section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In addition, teachers of mathematics and physical and biological sciences shall have a minimum score of four hundred fifty (450) on the quantitative section of the GRE. A candidate who has a professional degree shall be exempt from the requirements of this subparagraph; and
 3. Passes written tests designated by the Education Professional Standards Board for content knowledge in the specific teaching field of the applicant with minimum scores in each test as set by the board.
 - (b) Prior to receiving the temporary provisional certificate or during the first year of the certificate, the teacher shall complete the following:
 1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete the equivalent of a two hundred forty (240) hour institute, based on six (6) hour days for eight (8) weeks. The providers and the content of the institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and methods of classroom management.
 2. For middle and secondary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete the equivalent of a one hundred eighty (180) hour institute, based on six (6) hour days for six (6) weeks. The providers and the content of the institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards Board and shall include research-based teaching strategies, research on child and

adolescent growth, knowledge of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and methods of classroom management.

- (c) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall receive a regular professional certificate.
- (9) A public school teacher certified under subsections (2) to (8) of this section shall be placed on the local district salary schedule for the rank corresponding to the degree held by the teacher.
- (10) Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions after six (6) or more years of continuous active duty immediately before the discharge or release, and who have at least four (4) years of occupational experience in the area in which they seek certification as a vocational industrial education teacher, shall apply for certification under and meet the requirements of the administrative regulations promulgated by the Education Professional Standards Board.
- (11) Subsections (1) to (3) of this section notwithstanding, a candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive certification for teaching programs for exceptional students:
 - (a) An out-of-state license to teach exceptional students;
 - (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area for which certification is sought; and
 - (c) Successful completion of the teacher internship requirement required under KRS 161.030.
- (12) A teacher who is fully certified in Kentucky and who is seeking an additional certification is not required to repeat the Kentucky teacher internship program.
- (13) Under KRS 161.030(5), a candidate for alternative certification may serve his or her internship in a nonpublic school.

Signed by Governor April 24, 2008.