

CHAPTER 185

(SB 64)

AN ACT relating to certification of math and science teachers and declaring an emergency.

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

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

- (1) (a) *There is hereby created a certification incentive fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Education Professional Standards Board. The fund shall provide grants to eligible recipients for conducting institutes as described in KRS 161.048(8), including the costs of salaries of institute instructors, consultants, materials, stipends and loans to participants, other costs associated with the institutes, and costs of assistance to teachers throughout their first year of teaching.*
- (b) *Eligible recipients of grant funds may be nonprofit organizations, institutions, and agencies, including but not limited to postsecondary education institutions, school districts, education cooperatives, and consortia of school districts.*
- (c) *The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing standards and procedures for the grant program, including minimal participation levels and maximum grant awards.*
- (2) (a) *Priority for the institutes funded under this section for academic years 2008-2009 through 2011-2012 shall be for the purpose of certifying teachers in high school mathematics, chemistry, integrated science, and physics, and middle school mathematics and earth science under the provisions of KRS 161.048 (8), Option 7: Certification of a person in a field other than education to teach in elementary, middle, or secondary programs. At the completion of academic year 2011-2012, the Education Professional Standards Board shall determine priority for specific institutes.*
- (b) *The board shall request proposals and approve at least one (1) summer institute for the purpose described in paragraph (a) of this subsection each academic year. The institute shall be a minimum of ninety (90) clock hours, based on six (6) hour days for a three (3) week period.*
- (c) *Each individual who completes a summer institute shall have additional hours of formal instruction or assistance during the first year of teaching to reach the minimum number of clock hours as required in KRS 161.048(8)(b)2.*
- (d) *Notwithstanding KRS 161.030, an alternative teacher certification candidate participating in the institute described in the provisions of this subsection shall not be required to participate in the teacher internship program until the second year of teaching. The candidate shall be assigned a teacher mentor by the grant recipient the first year of teaching. Payment of the teacher mentor shall be from the grant provided under subsection (1) of this section.*
- (3) (a) *Individuals who are accepted into an institute shall be provided a forgivable loan incentive at the beginning of the institute to encourage their participation. The amount of the forgivable loan shall be determined by the Education Professional Standards Board. The loan shall be forgiven if the participant teaches in a Kentucky public or Kentucky Board of Education certified nonpublic school for one (1) year within the three (3) years following the awarding of the loan.*
- (b) *If an individual does not successfully complete the institute or teach mathematics or science in a qualifying Kentucky school, the loan must be repaid according to procedures promulgated in administrative regulation by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.*
- (c) *The Education Professional Standards Board shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to administer the forgivable loan incentive under this section. Based on the memorandum of understanding, the authority may retain a portion of the funds for administering the forgivable loan incentive. Funds recovered under provisions of this section, minus the administrative costs, shall be returned to the State Treasury.*
- (4) *Each individual who successfully completes a summer institute shall be awarded a stipend equal to the amount of the forgivable loan as described in subsection (3) of this section. The stipend shall be awarded at the end of the institute without restrictions.*

- (5) *Grant recipients and local school districts may offer financial incentives to potential participants and individuals who complete an institute from fund sources other than the grant funds.*

➔Section 2. KRS 156.553 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The teachers' professional growth fund is hereby created to provide teachers with high quality professional development in content knowledge in mathematics, reading, science, language arts, social studies, arts and humanities, practical living, vocational studies, and foreign languages; classroom-based screening, diagnostic, assessment, and intervention strategies; and teaching methodologies, ***including professional development that may lead to additional certification endorsements or renewal of certification.*** Based on available funds, student achievement data, and teacher data, the Kentucky Board of Education shall annually determine the priority for content emphasis based on the greatest needs.
- (2) (a) The fund may provide moneys to teachers for:
1. Tuition reimbursement for successful completion of college or university level courses, including on-line courses and seminars, approved for this purpose by the Education Professional Standards Board;
 2. Stipends for participation in and successful completion of:
 - a. College or university courses, including on-line courses and seminars, approved for this purpose by the Education Professional Standards Board;
 - b. Teacher institutes developed for core content instructors by the Department of Education in compliance with KRS 156.095; and
 - c. Other professional development programs approved by the Kentucky Department of Education;
 3. Reimbursement for the purchase of materials required for professional development programs; and
 4. Reimbursement for other approved professional development activities throughout the school year, including reimbursement for:
 - a. Travel to and from professional development workshops; and
 - b. Travel to and from other schools for the observation of, and consultation with, peer mentors; or
- (b) The fund may be used to provide grants to local school districts to support staff participation in specific, statewide initiatives for the professional development of teachers and administrators in specific content areas as established by the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education under the provisions of subsections (4), (5), and (6) of this section and referenced in KRS 158.842.
- (c) The fund may be used to provide grants to colleges and universities to plan and develop statewide professional development institutes and other professional development services.
- (d) The fund may be used to provide grants to local school districts, to colleges and universities, or other entities to assist the Kentucky Department of Education in evaluating costs and the effectiveness of activities and initiatives established under this section.
- (3) The Education Professional Standards Board shall determine the college and university courses, including on-line courses and seminars, for which teachers may receive reimbursement from the fund.
- (4) The Department of Education shall:
- (a) Administer the fund. In order to process reimbursements to teachers promptly, the reimbursements shall not be subject to KRS 45A.690 to 45A.725;
 - (b) Determine the professional development programs for which teachers may receive reimbursement, or districts or colleges and universities may receive grants, from the fund;
 - (c) Determine the level of stipend or reimbursement, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, for particular courses and programs, under subsection (2) of this section; and

- (d) Provide an accounting of fund expenditures and results of the use of the funds for each biennium to the Interim Joint Committee on Education by November 1 of each odd-numbered year.
- (5) The professional development programs approved by the Department of Education for which teachers may receive support from the fund shall:
- (a) Focus on improving the content knowledge of teachers;
 - (b) Provide training in the use of research-based and developmentally appropriate classroom-based screening, diagnostic, assessment, and intervention strategies;
 - (c) Provide instruction on teaching methods to effectively impart content knowledge to all students;
 - (d) Include intensive training institutes and workshops during the summer;
 - (e) Provide programs for the ongoing support of teacher participants throughout the year, which may include:
 - 1. A peer coaching or mentoring, and assessment program; and
 - 2. Planned activities, including:
 - a. Follow-up workshops; and
 - b. Support networks of teachers of the core disciplines using technologies, including but not limited to telephone, video, and on-line computer networks;~~and~~
 - (f) Provide teacher participants with professional development credit toward renewal of certification under the provisions of KRS 161.095, relating to continuing education for teachers; **and**
 - (g) ***Provide teacher participants with the opportunity to obtain certificate endorsements or extensions in critical shortage areas, with priority given to mathematics and science through 2016, and in core content areas to their existing certifications through the TC-HQ process, established by the Education Professional Standards Board to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq.***
- (6) The Kentucky Board of Education shall specify through promulgation of administrative regulations:
- (a) The application and approval process for receipt of funds;
 - (b) The requirements and process for the disbursement of funds; and
 - (c) The number of each kind of approved course for which applicants may receive funds.
- (7) Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary, a local school board may advance the funds necessary for its teachers to participate in a college course or professional development seminar or activity approved by the Kentucky Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board under provisions of this section and receive reimbursement from the department at the conclusion of the activity or course by the teacher. If funds are advanced for the benefit of a teacher under this subsection, but the teacher does not fulfill his or her obligation, the teacher shall reimburse the school district for the funds expended by the district on the teacher's behalf.
- (8) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 45.229, unexpended funds in the teachers' professional growth fund in the 2000-2001 fiscal year or in any subsequent fiscal year shall not lapse but shall carry forward to the next fiscal year and shall be used for the purposes established in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.
- (9) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section to the contrary, beginning June 1, 2006, through the 2009-2010 school year, priority for the use of funds from the teachers' professional growth fund shall be used to train and support teams of teachers from all school levels to be trained as reading coaches and mentors or as mathematics coaches and mentors in statewide institutes referenced in KRS 158.840 and 158.842, and for selected teachers to be highly trained in providing diagnostic assessment and intervention services for students in the primary program struggling with mathematics.
- (a) The design of the statewide mathematics institutes to train mathematics coaches and mentors shall be developed by the Committee for Mathematics Achievement established in KRS 158.842. The committee shall provide recommendations to the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Board of

Education in the preparation of administrative regulations that may be promulgated by the board to implement the provisions of this subsection relating to mathematics.

- (b) The design of the professional development program to provide highly trained mathematics intervention teachers in the primary program shall be developed by the Center for Mathematics in collaboration with public and private institutions of postsecondary education.
 - (c) The development of the statewide program to train reading coaches and mentors shall be coordinated by the Kentucky Department of Education with recommendations from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, established in KRS 164.0207, and the reading steering committee established in KRS 158.794. The design of the program shall reflect a consensus of the agencies involved in the development of the program. The training program for reading coaches and mentors shall complement other statewide reading initiatives, funded with state and federal funds, and shall give priority to teachers in grades four (4) through twelve (12). The program shall be implemented no later than June 1, 2006. The board shall promulgate administrative regulations required to implement the provisions of this subsection relating to reading.
- (10) *Notwithstanding any provisions of this section to the contrary, beginning June 1, 2010, through the 2015-2016 school year, priority for the use of funds from the teachers' professional growth fund shall be for the purpose of increasing the number of certified teachers with extensions or endorsements in mathematics and science as described in paragraph (g) of subsection (5) of this section.*

➔Section 3. Whereas it is urgent to promulgate administrative regulations, establish the institutes, and recruit persons to the institutes before the beginning of academic year, 2008-2009, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Signed by Governor April 24, 2008.