

CHAPTER 14

(SB 117)

AN ACT relating to alternative certification.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 161.010 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 161.020 to ~~161.134~~~~{161.120}~~:

- (1) ***"College or university work of graduate grade" means academic preparation which extends beyond the usual four (4) year program of undergraduate studies leading to a bachelor's degree and which is completed at a college or university accredited for the graduate level.***
- (2) "Continuing education" means study or other activities to provide professional improvement and personal growth for certified teachers throughout their career. It may include, but shall not be limited to, university courses, an advanced degree, or a combination of ~~{university courses,}~~ field-based experience, individual research, and approved professional development activities, pursuant to KRS 156.095.
- (3) ***"Professional certificate" means the document issued to an applicant upon completion of an approved program of preparation, recommendation by the educator preparation provider, and successful completion of the assessments in the area in which certification is being sought, and if applicable, successful completion of any internship requirements, unless otherwise waived under KRS 161.030 based on preparation and experience completed outside of Kentucky.***
- (4) ***"Provisional certificate" means the document issued to an individual prior to the issuance of a professional certificate.***
- ~~(5){(2)}~~ "Standard college or university" means an institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or by one of the other recognized regional accrediting agencies or by the Education Professional Standards Board.
- ~~{(3) "College or university work of graduate grade" means academic preparation which extends beyond the usual four (4) year program of undergraduate studies leading to a bachelor's degree and which is completed at a college or university accredited for the graduate level.}~~
- ~~(6){(4)}~~ "Student teacher" means an adult who has completed the prerequisite teacher preparation as prescribed by the accredited teacher education institution in which he or she is enrolled, and who is jointly assigned by the institution and a local school district to engage in a period of practice teaching under the direction and supervision of the administrative and teaching staff of the school district and the institution.
- ~~(7){(5)}~~ "Teacher's aide" means an adult school employee who works under the direction of the professional administrative and teaching staff in performing, within the limitations of his or her training and competency, certain instructional and noninstructional functions in the school program including, but not limited to, clerical duties, tutoring individual pupils, leading pupils in recreational activities, conducting pupils from place to place, assisting with classroom instruction as directed by the teacher, aiding the school librarian, and preparing and organizing instructional materials and equipment.

➔Section 2. 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) to (9) 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 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.***
 - (e)~~(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 ***or 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; or~~
 2. ~~[b.] A~~ ***minimum*** ~~graduate degree with a~~ cumulative grade point average of two and ***seventy-five hundredths (2.75)*** ~~five tenths (2.5)~~ on a four (4) point scale or a ***minimum*** grade point average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last ***thirty (30)*** ~~sixty (60)~~ hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and
 3. ~~[2.]~~ An academic major or a passing score on the academic content assessment ***in the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as*** 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 ***program***, the candidate shall receive a ~~regular~~ professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as ~~any~~ other ***teachers*** ~~teacher~~ with a ~~regular~~ professional certificate.
 - (3) Option 2: Certification through a local ***school*** district training program. A local ***school*** district or group of ***school*** districts may seek approval for a training program. The state-approved local ***school*** 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 ***the*** 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 ***school*** district alternative training program, the candidate shall ***possess***:
 - (a) ~~[Possess]~~ A bachelor's degree ***or a graduate 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) *A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;*
- (c) *A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board* [~~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 *an academic content assessment* [~~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; *and* [~~]~~
- (d) [~~(c)~~] *An offer of* [~~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 candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a professional certificate* [~~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 *a one (1) year provisional certificate* [~~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) *An offer of employment in a school district which has been approved by the Education Professional Standards Board* [~~Successful completion of the teacher internship requirement imposed under KRS 161.030.~~].

The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with professional certificates.

- (5) Option 4: Certification of an adjunct instructor. A person who has expertise in areas such as art, music, foreign language, drama, science, *computer 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 *career technical* [~~vocational~~] education levels *to a veteran of the Armed Forces who was honorably* [~~with the following qualifications:~~
 - (a) 1.] discharged [~~or released~~] from active duty *as evidenced by Defense Department Form 214 (DD 214) or National Guard Bureau Form 22 or to a member of the Armed Services currently serving with* [~~under~~

~~honorable conditions after~~ six (6) or more years of *honorable service, including Reserves, National Guard, or* ~~continuous~~ active duty. *The candidate shall possess:* ~~[immediately before the discharge or release; or]~~

- (a) *A bachelor's degree or graduate degree;*
- (b) *A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and*
- (c) *An academic major or a passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.*†

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;~~

~~(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. ~~After~~ ~~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 *one (1) year* ~~temporary~~ provisional certificate and shall *participate* ~~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 *one (1) year* ~~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 *program* requirements, and all *academic content* assessments *in the specific teaching field of the applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board* ~~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:]~~

(a) *The candidate shall possess:*

- 1. ~~[Possesses]~~ A bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which certification is sought *or a graduate degree in a field related to 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. *A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;* ~~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.~~

3. ***A passing score on the GRE or equivalent as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.*** A candidate who has a *terminal*~~professional~~ degree shall be exempt from the requirements of this subparagraph; and
 - 4.~~3.~~ ***A passing score on the academic content assessment***~~[Passes written tests designated by the Education Professional Standards Board for content knowledge]~~ in the *area in which certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board*~~[specific teaching field of the applicant with minimum scores in each test as set by the board]~~.
- (b) Prior to receiving the *one (1) year*~~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 ***and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a professional certificate.***
- (9) Option 8: Certification of a Teach for America participant to teach in elementary, middle, or high schools. Nothing in this subsection shall conflict with the participation criteria of the Teach for America program.
- ~~{a}~~ An individual certified under this subsection shall be issued a one (1) year~~temporary~~ provisional~~teaching~~ certificate.~~{if}~~
- (a) The candidate ***shall possess:***
1. ~~{Has}~~ An offer of employment from a local school district;
 2. ~~{Possesses}~~ A bachelor's degree;
 3. ***A successful completion of***~~[Successfully completes]~~ the summer training institute and ongoing professional development required by Teach for America, including instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing and assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery, classroom management, maximizing learning for diverse students, and teaching methodologies; and
 4. ***A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board***~~[Successfully passes written tests designated by the Education Professional Standards Board for content knowledge in the specific teaching field of the candidate with minimum scores in each test as set by the board]~~.
- (b) The~~temporary~~ provisional certificate granted under paragraph (a) of this subsection may be renewed two (2) times with a recommendation of the superintendent and approval of the Education Professional Standards Board.
- (c) A Teach for America participant who is approved for a second renewal of his or her~~temporary~~ provisional certificate under paragraph (b) of this subsection may participate in the ***teacher*** internship program under KRS 161.030.

- (d) A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate upon the participant's successful completion of the internship program and assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the Education Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030.
- (e) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, a teacher certified under this subsection shall have ten (10) years from the date that the teacher successfully completed the internship program to complete a master's degree or fifth year program, or the equivalent as specified by the Education Professional Standards Board in administrative regulation.†
- ~~(f) Alternative certification under this subsection shall be considered a pilot program and shall be an option from July 15, 2010, until the federal Race to the Top funding program under Sections 14005 and 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, is completed, except that the Education Professional Standards Board may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to make this a permanent option.†~~
- (10) A public school teacher certified under subsections (2) to (9) of this section shall be placed on the local district salary schedule for the rank corresponding to the degree held by the teacher.†
- ~~(11) 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)~~~~(12)~~ 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 *program* requirement required under KRS 161.030.†
- ~~(13) 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.†~~
- ~~(14) Under KRS 161.030(5), a candidate for alternative certification may serve his or her internship in a nonpublic school.†~~

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

~~†By July 1, 1997, †~~The Education Professional Standards Board, with the advice of the Kentucky Board of Education, shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish procedures for a teacher to maintain his *or her* certificate by successfully completing meaningful continuing education. The Education Professional Standards Board shall develop standards for continuing education related to maintaining a certificate, including university courses, an advanced degree, or a combination of~~† university courses, †~~ field-based experience, individual research, and approved professional development. The Education Professional Standards Board shall establish a system of quality assurance related to continuing education activities and certification requirements.~~† The requirements shall become effective January 1, 1998. †~~

Signed by Governor March 16, 2017.