

CHAPTER 113

(SB 174)

AN ACT relating to elementary and secondary teachers and principals.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 161.1211 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The Education Professional Standards Board shall rank teachers as follows:

(a) Rank I. Those holding regular certificates ~~and who have a master's degree in a subject field approved by the Education Professional Standards Board or equivalent continuing education and who have earned thirty (30) semester hours of approved graduate work or equivalent continuing education; or those teachers~~ who have met the requirements for Rank II and *have additionally* earned:

1. *A master's degree in a subject field approved by the Education Professional Standards Board or equivalent continuing education;*
2. Initial certification of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; *or*
3. *Thirty (30) additional semester hours of approved graduate work or equivalent continuing education.*

The board shall not allow a teacher who qualified for Rank I status on the basis of his or her national board certification to maintain that classification if the national board certificate is revoked for misconduct or voided for other reasons.

(b) Rank II. Those holding regular certificates and who:

1. Have a master's degree in a subject field approved by the Education Professional Standards Board;
2. *Have earned initial certification of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;*
or
3. *Have completed* equivalent continuing education.

The board shall not allow a teacher who qualified for Rank II status on the basis of his or her national board certification to maintain that classification if the national board certificate is revoked for misconduct or voided for other reasons.

(c) Rank III. Those holding regular certificates and who have an approved four (4) year college degree or the equivalent.

(d) Rank IV. Those holding emergency certificates and who have ninety-six (96) to one hundred twenty-eight (128) semester hours of approved college training or the equivalent.

(e) Rank V. Those holding emergency certificates and who have sixty-four (64) to ninety-five (95) semester hours of approved college training or the equivalent.

(2) In determining ranks, the Education Professional Standards Board shall classify teachers who hold valid certificates in the respective ranks according to approved college semester hours of credit or equivalent continuing education. The board, in defining preparation for certain types of vocational teachers as equivalent to college training, shall give consideration to apprenticeship training and industrial experience.

(3) For purposes of the state salary schedule only as referenced in KRS 158.070, rank shall be determined on September 15 of each year.

(4) Nothing in this section shall allow the Education Professional Standards Board by regulation to reclassify downward any teachers in Ranks II or I.

➔Section 2. KRS 161.027 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The Education Professional Standards Board, pursuant to KRS 161.028, shall by administrative regulation establish requirements for a preparation program in institutions of higher education for all new applicants for principal certification and establish criteria for admission to the program.

- (2) The Education Professional Standards Board and the Council on Postsecondary Education shall evaluate the preparation programs for principals and maintain only those institutional programs that can demonstrate both the quality and the capability to enroll adequate numbers of students to justify the resources necessary for maintenance of a quality program.
- (3) The Education Professional Standards Board shall develop or select appropriate assessments for applicants seeking certification as principals, including ~~the~~
 - (a) ~~an assessment of the ability to apply knowledge, instructional leadership, management, and supervision skills; and~~
 - (b) ~~A specialized assessment on the current instructional and administrative practices in Kentucky public education.~~
- (4) The Education Professional Standards Board shall establish the minimum score for successful completion of assessments and shall establish a reasonable fee to be charged applicants for the actual cost of administration of the assessments. The Education Professional Standards Board shall provide for confidentiality of assessment scores.
- (5) The Education Professional Standards Board shall develop an internship program which shall provide for the supervision, assistance, and assessment of beginning principals and assistant principals. The internship shall not be required of applicants who have completed, within a ten (10) year period prior to making application, at least two (2) years of successful experience as a principal in a school situation. The Education Professional Standards Board, by administrative regulation, shall establish the internship program.
- (6) The certification of principals shall require the successful completion of the examinations required by subsection (3) of this section. A one (1) year certificate may be given to a person who has:
 - (a) A comparable certificate from another state; or
 - (b) All other qualifications except the assessments and is selected as a principal or assistant principal in a district where the superintendent certifies to the Education Professional Standards Board that there is a limited number of applicants to meet the requirements.

Upon successful completion of the assessments, a certificate shall be issued for an additional four (4) years. A person employed in Kentucky as a principal or assistant principal who was certified in another state and practiced in that state for two (2) or more years is exempt from taking the assessment described in subsection (3)(a) of this section.

- (7) Upon successful completion of the approved preparation program and the assessments, the Education Professional Standards Board shall issue to the applicant a statement of eligibility for internship valid for five (5) years. If the applicant does not participate in an internship program within the five (5) year period, the applicant shall reestablish eligibility by repeating and passing the assessments in effect at that time or by completing a minimum of six (6) graduate hours, directly related to instructional leadership, management, or supervision, at a regionally or nationally accredited institution. The option for renewal through completion of graduate hours shall be available only for the first reestablishment of eligibility. Upon obtaining employment for an internship position as principal or assistant principal within the period of eligibility, the applicant shall be issued the appropriate one (1) year certificate for the position.
- (8) All applicants for principal certification, after successfully completing the assessments, shall successfully complete the internship program described in subsection (5) of this section for principal certification. If the principal's or assistant principal's internship performance is judged to be less than satisfactory pursuant to administrative regulations developed by the Education Professional Standards Board, the applicant for principal certification shall be provided with an opportunity to repeat the internship one (1) time if the applicant is employed by a school district as a principal or assistant principal.
- (9) Following successful completion of the internship program, the principal certificate shall be extended for four (4) years. Renewal of the certificate shall require the completion of a continuing education requirement as prescribed by the Education Professional Standards Board.

➔Section 3. KRS 157.395 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, a public school teacher, or a secondary teacher employed in a Kentucky Tech school or career and technical education program operated by the Department of Education, who has attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as of July 14, 2000, **through July 1, 2020**,~~for thereafter~~ shall receive an annual national board certification salary

supplement of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the life of the certificate. *A teacher who attains certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards after July 1, 2020, shall receive an annual national board certification salary supplement for the life of the certificate in accordance with the amount appropriated for this purpose by the General Assembly. If an annual supplement amount appropriated by the General Assembly is less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000), the local board may provide an additional supplement up to the amount required for the total annual supplement to equal two thousand dollars (\$2,000).* The supplement shall be added to:

- (a) The teacher's base salary on the local board's single salary schedule and shall be considered in the calculation for contributions to the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System; or
- (b) The state-employed teacher's base salary and shall be considered in the calculation for contributions to the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System.

If a nationally certified teacher becomes no longer employed as a classroom teacher or a teacher mentor in the field of his or her national certification, the supplement shall cease.

- (2) A local board of education or the Department of Education shall request reimbursement for these purposes from the fund to support education excellence described in KRS 157.330.

Signed by Governor April 24, 2020.