

1 AN ACT relating to teacher certification.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.030 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Notwithstanding the age of the pupil, the certification of all teachers and other  
5 school personnel, in public schools only, is vested in the Education Professional  
6 Standards Board. When so certified, teachers and other school personnel shall not  
7 be required to have licensure, certification, or other forms of approval from any  
8 other state agency for the performance of their respective assignments within the  
9 common schools, except as provided for by law. All certificates authorized under  
10 KRS 161.010 to 161.126 shall be issued in accordance with the administrative  
11 regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board. After July 15, 1994, all  
12 certificate applications and other data collection instruments of the board shall  
13 include a request for voluntary information about the applicant's ethnic background.  
14 This information shall be available to help local school districts locate minority  
15 candidates. A person who holds a certificate prior to this requirement may request  
16 that ethnic information be added to his or her file. Nothing in this section shall  
17 preclude the right of an individual in a nonpublic school from seeking voluntary  
18 certification by the Education Professional Standards Board.

19 (2) Certificates shall be issued upon written application and in accordance with statutes  
20 and regulations in effect at the time of application to persons who have completed,  
21 at colleges, universities, or local school district programs approved by the Education  
22 Professional Standards Board for the preparation of teachers and other school  
23 personnel, the curricula prescribed by the administrative regulations of the  
24 Education Professional Standards Board.

25 (3) (a) Certification of all new teachers and teachers seeking additional certification  
26 shall require the successful completion of appropriate assessments prior to  
27 certification. The assessments shall be selected by the Education Professional

1 Standards Board and shall measure knowledge in the specific teaching field of  
2 the applicant, including content of the field and teaching of that content. The  
3 Education Professional Standards Board shall determine the minimum  
4 acceptable level of achievement on each assessment. The assessments shall  
5 measure those concepts, ideas, and facts which are being taught in teacher  
6 education programs in Kentucky. Upon successful completion of the  
7 assessments and the approved teacher preparation program, a certificate valid  
8 for one (1) year shall be issued.

9 (b) If an applicant for teacher certification has completed the approved teacher  
10 preparation program and has taken but failed to successfully complete the  
11 appropriate assessments selected by the Education Professional Standards  
12 Board, a conditional certificate may be issued for a period not to exceed one  
13 (1) year, if the employing school district, in collaboration with the teacher  
14 education institution, agrees to provide technical assistance and mentoring  
15 support to the conditionally certified teacher. The teacher shall retake the  
16 assessments during the validity period of the conditional certificate. The  
17 conditional certificate shall not be reissued. Upon successful completion of  
18 the required assessments, a certificate valid for one (1) year shall be issued  
19 and the teacher shall be eligible to participate in the internship program as  
20 provided in subsection (5) of this section. The teacher shall not be eligible to  
21 participate in the internship program while teaching on the conditional  
22 certificate. The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate  
23 administrative regulations to establish the standards and procedures for  
24 issuance of the conditional certificate.

25 (c) If an out-of-state teacher with less than two (2) years' experience comes to  
26 Kentucky after the deadline for taking the assessments, a temporary certificate  
27 may be issued for a period up to six (6) months provided the local board

1 cannot fill the vacant position with a certified teacher. The teacher shall take  
2 the assessments if they are administered during the period of the temporary  
3 certificate. The certificate shall be extended for the remainder of the year if the  
4 teacher successfully completes the assessments. If the teacher fails the  
5 assessments, the temporary certificate shall be valid only for the current  
6 semester.

7 (4) A reasonable fee to be paid by the teacher and directly related to the actual cost of  
8 the administration of the assessments shall be established by the Education  
9 Professional Standards Board. Provisions shall be made for persons having less than  
10 minimum levels of performance on any assessment to repeat that assessment, and  
11 candidates shall be informed of their strengths and weaknesses in the specific  
12 performance areas. The Education Professional Standards Board shall provide for  
13 confidentiality of the individual assessment scores. Scores shall be available only to  
14 the candidate and to the education officials who are responsible for determining  
15 whether established certification standards have been met. Scores shall be used only  
16 in the assessment for certification of new teachers and of out-of-state teachers with  
17 less than two (2) years of teaching experience who are seeking initial certification in  
18 Kentucky.

19 (5) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section, all new teachers and out-of-  
20 state teachers with less than two (2) years of successful teaching experience who are  
21 seeking initial certification in Kentucky shall serve a one (1) year internship. The  
22 teacher shall be a full-time employee or shall have an annual contract and serve on  
23 at least a half-time basis and shall have supervision, assistance, and assessment  
24 during the one (1) year internship. The internship may be served in a public school  
25 or a nonpublic school which meets the state performance standards as established in  
26 KRS 156.160 or which has been accredited by a regional or national accrediting  
27 association. Successful completion shall be determined by a majority vote of the

1 beginning teacher committee. The internship period shall be counted as experience  
2 for the purpose of continuing contract status, retirement eligibility, and benefits for  
3 single salary experience increments. Upon successful completion of the beginning  
4 teacher program, the one (1) year initial teaching certificate shall be extended for  
5 the remainder of the usual duration period established for that particular certificate  
6 by Education Professional Standards Board administrative regulations.

7 (6) The beginning teacher committee shall be composed of three (3) persons who have  
8 successfully completed special training in the supervision and assessment of the  
9 performance of beginning teachers as provided in subsection (8) of this section,  
10 except as provided in paragraph (g) of this subsection. The committee shall consist  
11 of a resource teacher, the school principal of the school where the internship is  
12 served, and a teacher educator appointed by a state-approved teacher training  
13 institution.

14 (a) If more than two (2) teacher interns are employed in the same school, the  
15 principal's responsibility may be shared with an assistant principal who holds  
16 certification as a principal.

17 (b) In unusual situations, the Education Professional Standards Board may permit  
18 the assistant principal to serve in lieu of the principal on a beginning teacher  
19 committee.

20 (c) If the teacher training institution is unable to provide a member, the district  
21 superintendent shall appoint an instructional supervisor from the school  
22 district.

23 (d) If the intern is teaching in a regionally or nationally accredited nonpublic  
24 school without a principal, the person filling the principal member position  
25 may have other appropriate qualifications as required by administrative  
26 regulations promulgated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

27 (e) If the teacher training institution is unable to provide a member to serve on the

1 beginning teacher committee in a nonpublic school, the chief officer of the  
2 school shall appoint an instructional supervisor or a teacher with like  
3 qualifications and responsibilities to serve on the beginning teacher committee  
4 in lieu of the teacher educator.

5 (f) The resource teacher shall be appointed by the Education Professional  
6 Standards Board with recommendations from the local school district from a  
7 pool of qualified resource teachers, and, any statutes to the contrary  
8 notwithstanding and to the extent of available appropriations, shall be entitled  
9 to be paid a reasonable stipend by the Education Professional Standards Board  
10 for work done outside normal working hours. In the case of a resource teacher  
11 in a nonpublic school, payment shall be made directly to the resource teacher  
12 by the Education Professional Standards Board. Priority shall be given to  
13 resource teachers in the following order, except as provided in paragraph (g)  
14 of this subsection:

- 15 1. Teachers with the same certification in the same school;
- 16 2. Teachers with the same certification in the same district;
- 17 3. Teachers in the same school;
- 18 4. Teachers in the same district; and
- 19 5. Teachers in an adjacent school district.

20 (g) 1. The resource teacher for an individual pursuing initial certification as a  
21 baccalaureate level teacher of exceptional children/communication  
22 disorders shall be a master's level teacher of exceptional  
23 children/communication disorders, if one is available.

- 24 2. If a master's level teacher of exceptional children/communication  
25 disorders is not available, the Education Professional Standards Board  
26 may allow a licensed speech-language pathologist to serve on the  
27 beginning teacher committee in lieu of a resource teacher.

- 1 (h) The committee shall meet with the beginning teacher a minimum of three (3)  
2 times per year for evaluation and recommendation with all committee  
3 members present. In addition, each member of the committee shall observe  
4 the beginning teacher in the classroom a minimum of three (3) times per year.  
5 If the teacher's first year performance is judged by the committee to be less  
6 than satisfactory, the teacher shall be provided with an opportunity to repeat  
7 the internship one (1) time if the teacher is employed by a school district.
- 8 (7) The resource teacher shall spend a minimum of seventy (70) hours working with the  
9 beginning teacher. Twenty (20) of these hours shall be in the classroom setting, and  
10 fifty (50) of these hours shall be in consultation other than class time or attending  
11 assessment meetings. The resource teacher shall have completed at least four (4)  
12 years of successful teaching experience as attested to by his or her immediate  
13 supervisor or by having achieved tenure and be able to show evidence of continuing  
14 professional development by having achieved a master's degree or its equivalent or  
15 the accumulation of two thousand (2,000) hours of continuing professional  
16 activities.
- 17 (8) By contract with teacher education institutions in the Commonwealth, the  
18 Education Professional Standards Board shall provide special training for persons  
19 who will be serving on the beginning teacher committees. Completion of special  
20 training shall be evidenced by successfully passing the assessments as prescribed by  
21 the Education Professional Standards Board. A principal hired after July 15, 1996,  
22 shall be required to complete the beginning teacher committee training program  
23 within one (1) year after his or her appointment.
- 24 (9) If an applicant establishes eligibility for a one (1) year certificate under the  
25 provisions of subsection (3)(a) of this section, but does not become employed on the  
26 basis needed to satisfy the one (1) year internship requirement, the applicant shall be  
27 eligible for the issuance of a certificate for substitute teaching as provided by the

1 administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board. The  
2 applicant shall remain eligible for the one (1) year certificate, as provided in  
3 subsection (3)(a) of this section, and for the opportunity to serve the internship for a  
4 period of five (5) years after establishing eligibility. If the internship is not  
5 completed within the five (5) year period, the applicant must reestablish eligibility  
6 by repeating and passing the assessment program in effect for new teachers at that  
7 time or by completing a minimum of six (6) graduate hours toward completion of a  
8 graduate program required by administrative regulations promulgated by the  
9 Education Professional Standards Board. The option for renewal through  
10 completion of graduate hours shall be available only for the first reestablishment of  
11 eligibility.

12 (10) Notwithstanding KRS 161.020(3), the Education Professional Standards Board  
13 shall renew the certificate of a retired teacher holding a five (5) year professional  
14 certificate for subsequent five (5) year periods if the certificate holder has  
15 completed the required application, is not subject to denial of a certificate under  
16 KRS 161.120(1), and has provided proof of completion of six (6) hours of  
17 professional development within the six (6) month period immediately prior to  
18 application for renewal.

19 (11) The Education Professional Standards Board shall approve the curricula of any  
20 college or university, or of any department thereof, for the training of teachers, and  
21 any nontraditional or alternative teacher preparation program offered in a public or  
22 private postsecondary education institution, private contractor, or state agency, and  
23 shall also approve the curricula of any local district alternative certification  
24 program, when the curricula comply with the administrative regulations of the  
25 Education Professional Standards Board for the issuance of certificates and when  
26 the institution has met the terms and conditions provided in KRS 161.010 to  
27 161.120. Any student who has completed any of these curricula, as approved by the

1 Education Professional Standards Board, and who has completed the prescribed  
2 requirements for the issuance of certificates shall be granted a certificate  
3 corresponding to the curricula completed.