

1 AN ACT relating to the establishment of the Kentucky Early Entry Initiative pilot
2 program and declaring an emergency.

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

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

6 *(1) As used in this section:*

7 *(a) "Early career teacher" means a Kentucky public school teacher with zero*
8 *(0) to three (3) years of experience teaching grades one (1) through three (3)*
9 *in the areas of English, reading, language arts, or mathematics; and*

10 *(b) "National board" means the National Board for Professional Teaching*
11 *Standards.*

12 *(2) The General Assembly does hereby establish the Kentucky Early Entry Initiative*
13 *pilot program to begin with the 2022-2023 school year and continue until the end*
14 *of the 2024-2025 school year. The pilot program shall be administered by the*
15 *Kentucky Department of Education to:*

16 *(a) Give Kentucky public school teachers the opportunity to begin the process*
17 *of certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*
18 *within their first three (3) years in the classroom and to achieve certification*
19 *early in their careers;*

20 *(b) Create awareness of national board certification specifically among early*
21 *career teachers, teachers of color, and teachers in high-need schools and*
22 *rural schools through awareness campaigns;*

23 *(c) Increase the number of teachers earning national board certification in the*
24 *state; and*

25 *(d) Embed national board certification as an assumed and achievable part of*
26 *the professional pathway for all teachers.*

27 *(3) The Kentucky Early Entry Initiative pilot program shall pursue a comprehensive*

1 set of objectives that shall include:

2 (a) Founding and implementing a system that supports expanded candidate
3 eligibility;

4 (b) Developing and launching awareness campaigns targeting early career
5 teachers and the educational professionals who provide them support or
6 supervision;

7 (c) Reinforcing structures that ensure early career teachers have the resources
8 and assistance they need to realistically pursue and achieve national board
9 certification;

10 (d) Establishing and conducting a robust research and learning agenda to
11 ensure that the pilot program results in useful data to inform Kentucky
12 education leaders on the benefits, challenges, and impact of investing in
13 early career teachers' national board certifications; and

14 (e) Contributing to long-term state goals with measurable results in:

15 1. Increased numbers of national board certification candidates;

16 2. Improved teacher retention;

17 3. Increased diversity and numbers of teachers of color;

18 4. Improved student learning outcomes in reading and mathematics due
19 to better early support programs for early career teachers;

20 5. Increased diversity of teachers with national board certification due to
21 growing the pool of candidates; and

22 6. Increased numbers of teachers with national board certification.

23 (4) The Kentucky Early Entry Initiative shall be structured and grown over the three
24 (3) year pilot program. The Kentucky Department of Education shall appoint a
25 statewide national board coordinator to direct the pilot program and to
26 coordinate with local national board coordinators and national board facilitators.
27 The Kentucky Department of Education and the statewide national board

1 coordinator, in partnership with the national board, shall:

2 (a) Before the start of the 2022-2023 school year:

3 1. Implement the foundational systems and awareness campaigns to
4 recruit a first cohort of one hundred (100) early career teachers in a
5 manner that promotes a broad geographic and racial representation of
6 the state; and

7 2. Develop resources for postsecondary institutions and educator
8 preparation programs to promote national board certification;

9 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year:

10 1. Oversee the first cohort of teachers throughout the year as they begin
11 professional learning, engage with the national board standards and
12 resources, and reflect on their practice, culminating in the completion
13 of the national board's Components 2 and 3;

14 2. Recruit a second cohort of two hundred (200) early career teachers in
15 a manner that promotes a broad geographic and racial representation
16 of the state;

17 3. Introduce resources to postsecondary institutions and educator
18 preparation programs; and

19 4. Conduct ongoing implementation evaluation;

20 (c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year:

21 1. Continue the professional learning and candidacy of the first cohort
22 of teachers as they develop and submit the national board's
23 Component 4 and the Component 1 assessment;

24 2. Oversee the second cohort of teachers throughout the year as they
25 begin professional learning, engage with the national board standards
26 and resources, and reflect on their practice, culminating in the
27 completion of the national board's Components 2 and 3;

- 1 3. Promote and encourage the ongoing use of resources by
- 2 postsecondary institutions and educator preparation programs; and
- 3 4. Conduct ongoing implementation evaluation; and
- 4 (d) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year:
- 5 1. Continue the professional learning and candidacy of the second
- 6 cohort of teachers as they develop and submit the national board's
- 7 Component 4 and the Component 1 assessment;
- 8 2. Promote and encourage the ongoing use of resources by
- 9 postsecondary institutions and educator preparation programs;
- 10 3. Conduct summative research and evaluation; and
- 11 4. Submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission by December
- 12 1, 2025, that includes:
- 13 a. An evaluation of the implementation of the pilot components;
- 14 b. An evaluation of the impact of the pilot program on objectives
- 15 identified in subsection (3)(e) of this section; and
- 16 c. A plan for nationwide dissemination of the project results.

17 ➔Section 2. Section 1 of this Act shall be known and may be cited as the
 18 Kentucky Early Career Teachers Act.

19 ➔Section 3. Whereas schools across the state need access to highly qualified
 20 education professionals and additional resources for retaining early career teachers, an
 21 emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by
 22 the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.