

1 AN ACT relating to teachers and making an appropriation therefor.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) For the purposes of this section:*

6 *(a) "Eligible district" means a public school district eligible to participate in an*
7 *Option 9 program under subsection (10) of Section 2 of this Act;*

8 *(b) "Eligible teacher" means a public school teacher who:*

9 *1. Is a Kentucky resident, as determined by the authority using the*
10 *criteria established by the Council on Postsecondary Education for the*
11 *purposes of postsecondary admission and tuition assessment;*

12 *2. Is a citizen of the United States; and*

13 *3. Has received teacher certification through an Option 9 expedited*
14 *certification program under Section 2 of this Act; and*

15 *(c) "Year of qualified employment" means satisfying a one (1) year teacher's*
16 *contract with a school district with the majority of the classroom time*
17 *assigned to teaching.*

18 *(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a student loan forgiveness*
19 *program for eligible teachers who are employed in school districts identified as*
20 *qualifying for the expedited certification program under Option 9 of Section 2 of*
21 *this Act. The loan forgiveness program shall be administered by the Kentucky*
22 *Higher Education Assistance Authority and all costs associated with the*
23 *program, including the reimbursement of any expenses incurred by the authority*
24 *in its administration of the program, shall be funded by state appropriations and*
25 *other funds held in the Option 9 scholarship fund.*

26 *(3) To the extent funds are available, the authority shall provide eligible teachers*
27 *repayment of loans within the Federal Family Education Loan Program or the*

1 William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program up to a maximum of twenty-five
2 percent (25%) of the loan balance principal and accrued interest for a maximum
3 of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each year of qualified employment with
4 eligible districts beginning on or after July 1, 2022.

5 (4) The total amount of loan repayment shall not exceed forty thousand dollars
6 (\$40,000) for a maximum of four (4) years of qualifying employment with eligible
7 districts.

8 (5) The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with
9 KRS Chapter 13A as may be needed for the administration of the loan
10 forgiveness program.

11 (6) (a) The Option 9 scholarship fund is hereby created as a trust fund in the State
12 Treasury to be administered by the authority for the purpose of providing
13 loan repayment as described in this section.

14 (b) The trust fund shall consist of state general fund appropriations, gifts and
15 grants from public and private sources, and federal funds. All moneys
16 included in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes set forth in this
17 section.

18 (c) Any unallotted or unencumbered balances in the trust fund shall be
19 invested as provided in KRS 42.500(9). Income earned from the investments
20 shall be credited to the trust fund.

21 (d) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any fund balance at the close of the fiscal
22 year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year and
23 continuously appropriated only for the purposes specified in this section.

24 ➔Section 2. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:

26 (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety
27 of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in

- 1 Kentucky schools;
- 2 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in
- 3 Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation
- 4 program;
- 5 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public
- 6 schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by a
- 7 verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that
- 8 empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;
- 9 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools
- 10 to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and
- 11 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher
- 12 preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers;
- 13 (b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as
- 14 described in subsections (2) to ~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ of this section;
- 15 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Education Professional
- 16 Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience,
- 17 and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these
- 18 options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and
- 19 recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in
- 20 Kentucky;
- 21 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any
- 22 candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to
- 23 those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs; and
- 24 (e) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative
- 25 regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative
- 26 certification options described in this section.
- 27 (2) Option 1: Certification of a person with exceptional work experience. An individual

1 who has exceptional work experience and has been offered employment in a local
2 school district shall receive a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by
3 the Education Professional Standards Board of a joint application by the individual
4 and the employing school district under the following conditions:

- 5 (a) The application contains documentation of all education and work experience;
- 6 (b) The candidate has documented exceptional work experience in the area in
7 which certification is being sought; and
- 8 (c) The candidate possesses:
 - 9 1. A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;
 - 10 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
11 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
12 average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30)
13 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate
14 coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary
15 institution; and
 - 16 3. An academic major or a passing score on the academic content
17 assessment in the area in which certification is being sought by the
18 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

19 The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
20 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall
21 receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal
22 requirements the same as other teachers with a professional certificate.

- 23 (3) Option 2: Certification through a local school district training program. A local
24 school district or group of school districts may seek approval for a training program.
25 The state-approved local school district training program is an alternative to the
26 college teacher preparation program as a means of acquiring teacher certification for
27 a teacher at any grade level. The training program may be offered for all teaching

1 certificates approved by the Education Professional Standards Board, including
2 interdisciplinary early childhood education, except for specific certificates for
3 teachers of exceptional children. To participate in a state-approved local school
4 district alternative training program, the candidate shall possess:

- 5 (a) A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;
- 6 (b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
7 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average
8 of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit
9 completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a
10 nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;
- 11 (c) A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
12 certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education
13 Professional Standards Board. To be eligible to take an academic content
14 assessment, the applicant shall have completed a thirty (30) hour major in the
15 academic content area or five (5) years of experience in the academic content
16 area as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board; and
- 17 (d) An offer of employment in a school district which has a training program
18 approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.

19 Upon meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection, the
20 candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by the Education
21 Professional Standards Board. The candidate shall participate in the teacher
22 internship program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the
23 internship program, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall
24 be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a
25 professional certificate.

- 26 (4) Option 3: Certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution: A
27 candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive a one (1) year

1 provisional certificate for teaching at any level:

- 2 (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which
3 certification is sought;
- 4 (b) A minimum of five (5) years of full-time teaching experience, or its
5 equivalent, in the academic content area for which certification is sought in a
6 regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education; and
- 7 (c) An offer of employment in a school district which has been approved by the
8 Education Professional Standards Board.

9 The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
10 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall
11 receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal
12 requirements the same as other teachers with professional certificates.

13 (5) Option 4: Certification of an adjunct instructor. A person who has expertise in areas
14 such as art, music, foreign language, drama, science, computer science, and other
15 specialty areas may be employed as an adjunct instructor in a part-time position by a
16 local board of education under KRS 161.046.

17 (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education
18 Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5)
19 years, for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary career technical
20 education levels to a veteran of the Armed Forces who was honorably discharged
21 from active duty as evidenced by Defense Department Form 214 (DD 214) or
22 National Guard Bureau Form 22 or to a member of the Armed Services currently
23 serving with six (6) or more years of honorable service, including Reserves,
24 National Guard, or active duty. The candidate shall possess:

- 25 (a) A bachelor's degree or graduate degree;
- 26 (b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
27 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average

1 of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit
2 completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a
3 nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and

4 (c) An academic major or a passing score on the academic content assessment in
5 the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated
6 by the Education Professional Standards Board.

7 Upon an offer of employment by a school district, the eligible veteran shall receive
8 a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by the Education Professional
9 Standards Board of a joint application by the veteran and the employing school
10 district. During this year, the veteran shall participate in the teacher internship
11 program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship
12 program, the veteran shall receive a professional certificate.

13 (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education
14 Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that
15 enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently
16 with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative
17 program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate and shall participate
18 in the Kentucky teacher internship program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS
19 161.030. A student may not participate in the internship program until the student
20 has successfully completed the assessments required by the board. The one (1) year
21 provisional certificate may be renewed two (2) additional years, and shall be
22 contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program
23 and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional
24 certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the
25 program, the internship program requirements, and all academic content
26 assessments in the specific teaching field of the applicant as designated by the
27 Education Professional Standards Board.

1 (8) Option 7: Certification of a person in a field other than education to teach in
2 elementary, middle, or secondary programs. This option shall not be limited to
3 teaching in shortage areas. An individual certified under provisions of this
4 subsection shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate, renewable for a
5 maximum of two (2) additional years with approval of the Education Professional
6 Standards Board.

7 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 8 1. A bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which
9 certification is sought or a graduate degree in a field related to the area
10 in which certification is sought;
- 11 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
12 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
13 average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours
14 of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework
15 from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;
- 16 3. A passing score on the GRE or equivalent as designated by the
17 Education Professional Standards Board. A candidate who has a
18 terminal degree shall be exempt from the requirements of this
19 subparagraph; and
- 20 4. A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
21 certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional
22 Standards Board.

23 (b) Prior to receiving the one (1) year provisional certificate or during the first
24 year of the certificate, the teacher shall complete the following:

- 25 1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete the
26 equivalent of a two hundred forty (240) hour institute, based on six (6)
27 hour days for eight (8) weeks. The providers and the content of the

1 institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards
2 Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in
3 reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge
4 of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and
5 methods of classroom management.

6 2. For middle and secondary teaching, the individual shall successfully
7 complete the equivalent of a one hundred eighty (180) hour institute,
8 based on six (6) hour days for six (6) weeks. The providers and the
9 content of the institute shall be approved by the Education Professional
10 Standards Board and shall include research-based teaching strategies,
11 research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge of individual
12 differences, including teaching exceptional children, and methods of
13 classroom management.

14 (c) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
15 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate
16 shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate
17 renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a professional
18 certificate.

19 (9) Option 8: Certification of a Teach for America participant to teach in elementary,
20 middle, or high schools. Nothing in this subsection shall conflict with the
21 participation criteria of the Teach for America program. An individual certified
22 under this subsection shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate.

23 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 24 1. An offer of employment from a local school district;
- 25 2. A bachelor's degree;
- 26 3. A successful completion of the summer training institute and ongoing
27 professional development required by Teach for America, including

1 instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing and
2 assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery, classroom
3 management, maximizing learning for diverse students, and teaching
4 methodologies; and

5 4. A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
6 certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional
7 Standards Board.

8 (b) The provisional certificate granted under paragraph (a) of this subsection may
9 be renewed two (2) times with a recommendation of the superintendent and
10 approval of the Education Professional Standards Board.

11 (c) A Teach for America participant who is approved for a second renewal of his
12 or her provisional certificate under paragraph (b) of this subsection may
13 participate in the teacher internship program under KRS 161.030.

14 (d) A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate upon
15 the participant's successful completion of the internship program and
16 assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the Education
17 Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030.

18 (e) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, a
19 teacher certified under this subsection shall have ten (10) years from the date
20 that the teacher successfully completed the internship program to complete a
21 master's degree or fifth year program, or the equivalent as specified by the
22 Education Professional Standards Board in administrative regulation.

23 (10) **Option 9: Expedited certification of a person to teach at any grade level through**
24 **a cooperative program. With approval of the Education Professional Standards**
25 **Board, a college or university may partner with an eligible district to develop an**
26 **expedited certification program that results in a bachelor's degree and initial**
27 **certification within three (3) school years.**

1 (a) The program shall:

- 2 1. Include a residency or paraprofessional component which employs the
3 person within the eligible district for the duration of the program to
4 gain work experience to supplement the expedited program and
5 reduced coursework;
6 2. Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide
7 coaching and to mentor the candidates; and
8 3. Be designed to meet the needs of the eligible district and may include
9 an emphasis in developing a teacher pipeline for the district's
10 students, improving the numbers of underrepresented populations
11 among the district's workforce, or focusing on increasing the number
12 of teachers with certification areas that are in high demand.

13 (b) In order to be eligible, a district shall:

- 14 1. Be a public school district with a student free and reduced-price lunch
15 population of at least sixty-five percent (65%); and
16 2. Have the sum of the district's teachers holding emergency
17 certifications and teachers holding provisional certification be at least
18 five percent (5%) of the total number of teachers.

19 (c) An eligible district entering into a cooperative partnership shall ensure the
20 availability of funding for each candidate employed within the district in the
21 residency or paraprofessional program for the duration of the candidate's
22 participation in the program. However, nothing in this subsection shall be
23 interpreted as requiring the district to continue employing the candidate
24 during the program or after the candidate has received initial certification.

25 (d) A person who has begun a traditional path or another option for
26 certification shall be eligible to transfer into this option if the person meets
27 the program's requirements.

1 (e) If an eligible district participating in a cooperative partnership becomes
 2 ineligible due to changes within the district, the district shall no longer
 3 accept new candidates to the program but shall be deemed an eligible
 4 district for the purposes of Option 9 certification and for student loan
 5 forgiveness under Section 1 of this Act for the district's employed candidates
 6 until the candidate is no longer employed by the district.

7 (11) A public school teacher certified under subsections (2) to ~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ of this section
 8 shall be placed on the local district salary schedule for the rank corresponding to the
 9 degree held by the teacher.

10 ~~(12)~~~~(11)~~ Subsections (1) to (3) of this section notwithstanding, a candidate who
 11 possesses the following qualifications may receive certification for teaching
 12 programs for exceptional students:

- 13 (a) An out-of-state license to teach exceptional students;
- 14 (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area
 15 for which certification is sought; and
- 16 (c) Successful completion of the teacher internship program requirement required
 17 under KRS 161.030.