

1 AN ACT relating to alternative teacher certification and declaring an emergency.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:

5 (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety
6 of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in
7 Kentucky schools;

8 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in
9 Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation
10 program;

11 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public
12 schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by
13 a verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that
14 empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;

15 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools
16 to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and

17 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher
18 preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers;

19 (b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as
20 described in subsections (2) to (10) of this section;

21 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Education Professional
22 Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience,
23 and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these
24 options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and
25 recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in
26 Kentucky;

27 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any

1 candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to
2 those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs; and

3 (e) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative
4 regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative
5 certification options described in this section.

6 (2) Option 1: Certification of a person with exceptional work experience. An individual
7 who has exceptional work experience and has been offered employment in a local
8 school district shall receive a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by
9 the Education Professional Standards Board of a joint application by the individual
10 and the employing school district under the following conditions:

11 (a) The application contains documentation of all education and work experience;

12 (b) The candidate has documented exceptional work experience in the area in
13 which certification is being sought; and

14 (c) The candidate possesses:

15 1. A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;

16 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
17 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
18 average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30)
19 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate
20 coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary
21 institution; and

22 3. An academic major or a passing score on the academic content
23 assessment in the area in which certification is being sought by the
24 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

25 The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
26 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate shall
27 receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal

1 requirements the same as other teachers with a professional certificate.

2 (3) Option 2: Certification through a local school district training program. A local
3 school district or group of school districts may seek approval for a training
4 program. The state-approved local school district training program is an alternative
5 to the college teacher preparation program as a means of acquiring teacher
6 certification for a teacher at any grade level. The training program may be offered
7 for all teaching certificates approved by the Education Professional Standards
8 Board, including interdisciplinary early childhood education, except for specific
9 certificates for teachers of exceptional children. To participate in a state-approved
10 local school district alternative training program, the candidate shall possess:

11 (a) A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;

12 (b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
13 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average
14 of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit
15 completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a
16 nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;

17 (c) A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
18 certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education
19 Professional Standards Board. To be eligible to take an academic content
20 assessment, the applicant shall have completed a thirty (30) hour major in the
21 academic content area or five (5) years of experience in the academic content
22 area as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board; and

23 (d) An offer of employment in a school district which has a training program
24 approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.

25 Upon meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection, the
26 candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by the Education
27 Professional Standards Board. The candidate shall participate in the teacher

1 internship program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the
2 internship program, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall
3 be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a
4 professional certificate.

- 5 (4) Option 3: Certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution: A
6 candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive a one (1) year
7 provisional certificate for teaching at any level:
- 8 (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which
9 certification is sought;
 - 10 (b) A minimum of five (5) years of full-time teaching experience, or its
11 equivalent, in the academic content area for which certification is sought in a
12 regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education; and
 - 13 (c) An offer of employment in a school district which has been approved by the
14 Education Professional Standards Board.

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

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

- 23 (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education
24 Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5)
25 years, for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary career technical
26 education levels to a veteran of the Armed Forces who was honorably discharged
27 from active duty as evidenced by Defense Department Form 214 (DD 214) or

1 National Guard Bureau Form 22 or to a member of the Armed Services currently
2 serving with six (6) or more years of honorable service, including Reserves,
3 National Guard, or active duty. The candidate shall possess:

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

13 Upon an offer of employment by a school district, the eligible veteran shall receive
14 a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by the Education Professional
15 Standards Board of a joint application by the veteran and the employing school
16 district. During this year, the veteran shall participate in the teacher internship
17 program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship
18 program, the veteran shall receive a professional certificate.

19 (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education
20 Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that
21 enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently
22 with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative
23 program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate and shall participate
24 in the Kentucky teacher internship program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS
25 161.030. A student may not participate in the internship program until the student
26 has successfully completed the assessments required by the board. The one (1) year
27 provisional certificate may be renewed four (4)~~two (2)~~ additional years, and shall

1 be contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program
2 and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional
3 certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the
4 program, the internship program requirements, and all academic content
5 assessments in the specific teaching field of the applicant as designated by the
6 Education Professional Standards Board.

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

13 (a) The candidate shall possess:

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

1 Standards Board.

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

4 1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete the
5 equivalent of a two hundred forty (240) hour institute, based on six (6)
6 hour days for eight (8) weeks. The providers and the content of the
7 institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards
8 Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in
9 reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge
10 of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and
11 methods of classroom management.

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

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

25 (9) Option 8: Certification of a Teach for America participant to teach in elementary,
26 middle, or high schools. Nothing in this subsection shall conflict with the
27 participation criteria of the Teach for America program. An individual certified

1 under this subsection shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate.

2 (a) The candidate shall possess:

3 1. An offer of employment from a local school district;

4 2. A bachelor's degree;

5 3. A successful completion of the summer training institute and ongoing
6 professional development required by Teach for America, including
7 instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing and
8 assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery, classroom
9 management, maximizing learning for diverse students, and teaching
10 methodologies; and

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

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

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

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

24 (e) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, a
25 teacher certified under this subsection shall have ten (10) years from the date
26 that the teacher successfully completed the internship program to complete a
27 master's degree or fifth year program, or the equivalent as specified by the

1 Education Professional Standards Board in administrative regulation.

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

7 (a) The program shall:

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

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

1 (d) If a school district participating in a cooperative partnership determines to end
2 the partnership, the district shall no longer accept new candidates to the
3 program but shall continue the partnership until the district's employed
4 candidates for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer
5 employed by the district.

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

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

12 (a) An out-of-state license to teach exceptional students;

13 (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area
14 for which certification is sought; and

15 (c) Successful completion of the teacher internship program requirement required
16 under KRS 161.030.

17 ➔Section 2. Whereas recruiting and retaining certified teachers is crucial to the
18 success, health, and financial well-being of all citizens of the Commonwealth, an
19 emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by
20 the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.