

1 AN ACT relating to teacher certification.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.048 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. If the certification option  
6 requires employment prior to certification, the procedures shall establish a  
7 process for candidates to obtain an eligible for hire letter from the Education  
8 Professional Standards Board.

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

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

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

17 (c) The candidate possesses:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       Upon meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection, the  
2       candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by the Education  
3       Professional Standards Board. The candidate shall participate in the teacher  
4       internship program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the  
5       internship program, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall  
6       be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a  
7       professional certificate.

8       (4) Option 3: Certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution: A  
9       candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive a one (1) year  
10      provisional certificate for teaching at any level:

11      (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which  
12      certification is sought;

13      (b) A minimum of five (5) years of full-time teaching experience, or its  
14      equivalent, in the academic content area for which certification is sought in a  
15      regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education; and

16      (c) An offer of employment in a school district which has been approved by the  
17      Education Professional Standards Board.

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

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

26      (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education  
27      Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5)

1 years, for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary career technical  
2 education levels to a veteran of the Armed Forces who was honorably discharged  
3 from active duty as evidenced by Defense Department Form 214 (DD 214) or  
4 National Guard Bureau Form 22 or to a member of the Armed Services currently  
5 serving with six (6) or more years of honorable service, including Reserves,  
6 National Guard, or active duty. The candidate shall possess:

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

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

- 22 (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education  
23 Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that  
24 enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently  
25 with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative  
26 program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate and shall participate  
27 in the Kentucky teacher internship program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS

1        161.030. A student may not participate in the internship program until the student  
2        has successfully completed the assessments required by the board. The one (1) year  
3        provisional certificate may be renewed four (4) additional years, and shall be  
4        contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program  
5        and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional  
6        certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the  
7        program, the internship program requirements, and all academic content  
8        assessments in the specific teaching field of the applicant as designated by the  
9        Education Professional Standards Board.

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

16    (a) The candidate shall possess:

17        1. A bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which  
18        certification is sought or a graduate degree in a field related to the area  
19        in which certification is sought; *and*

20        2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five  
21        hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point  
22        average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours  
23        of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework  
24        from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;

25        ~~3. A passing score on the GRE or equivalent as designated by the~~  
26        ~~Education Professional Standards Board. A candidate who has a~~  
27        ~~terminal degree shall be exempt from the requirements of this~~

1                   subparagraph; and

2                   4. ~~A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which~~  
3                   ~~certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional~~  
4                   ~~Standards Board].~~

5                   (b) Upon meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection and  
6                   enrolling in an approved institute, the Education Professional Standards  
7                   Board shall issue the candidate a~~[Prior to receiving the]~~ one (1) year  
8                   provisional certificate.~~[or]~~ During the first year of the certificate, the teacher  
9                   shall complete the following:

10                   1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete ~~the~~  
11                   ~~equivalent of~~ a two hundred forty (240) hour institute that is an  
12                   equivalent of~~[, based on]~~ six (6) hour days for eight (8) weeks. The  
13                   providers and the content of the institute shall be approved by the  
14                   Education Professional Standards Board. The content shall include  
15                   research-based teaching strategies in reading and math, research on child  
16                   and adolescent growth, knowledge of individual differences, including  
17                   teaching exceptional children, and methods of classroom management.

18                   2. For middle and secondary teaching, the individual shall successfully  
19                   complete ~~the equivalent of~~ a one hundred eighty (180) hour institute  
20                   that is an equivalent of~~[, based on]~~ six (6) hour days for six (6) weeks.  
21                   The providers and the content of the institute shall be approved by the  
22                   Education Professional Standards Board and shall include research-  
23                   based teaching strategies, research on child and adolescent growth,  
24                   knowledge of individual differences, including teaching exceptional  
25                   children, and methods of classroom management.

26                   (c) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS  
27                   161.030. After successful completion of the internship program and obtaining

1                   *a passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which*  
2                   *certification is being sought*, the candidate shall receive a professional  
3                   certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as  
4                   other teachers with a professional certificate.

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

9 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 10                   1. An offer of employment from a local school district;
- 11                   2. A bachelor's degree;
- 12                   3. A successful completion of the summer training institute and ongoing  
13                   professional development required by Teach for America, including  
14                   instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing and  
15                   assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery, classroom  
16                   management, maximizing learning for diverse students, and teaching  
17                   methodologies; and
- 18                   4. A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which  
19                   certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional  
20                   Standards Board.

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

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

27 (d) A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate



1           upon the participant's successful completion of the internship program and  
2           assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the Education  
3           Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030.

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

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

14          (a) The program shall:

15                 1. Include a residency or paraprofessional component which employs the  
16                 person within the participating district for the duration of the program to  
17                 gain work experience to supplement the expedited program and reduced  
18                 coursework;

19                 2. Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide  
20                 coaching and to mentor the candidates; and

21                 3. Be designed to meet the needs of the participating district and may  
22                 include an emphasis in developing a teacher pipeline for the district's  
23                 students, improving the numbers of underrepresented populations  
24                 among the district's workforce, or focusing on increasing the number of  
25                 teachers with certification areas that are in high demand.

26          (b) A school district entering into a cooperative partnership shall ensure the  
27          availability of funding for each candidate employed within the district in the

1           residency or paraprofessional program for the duration of the candidate's  
2           participation in the program. However, nothing in this subsection shall be  
3           interpreted as requiring the district to continue employing the candidate  
4           during the program or after the candidate has received initial certification.

5           (c) A person who has begun a traditional path or another option for certification  
6           shall be eligible to transfer into this option if the person meets the program's  
7           requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24       ➔Section 2. Whereas additional certified teachers are needed in Kentucky's  
25       classrooms and alternate pathways will increase the numbers of certified teachers, an  
26       emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by  
27       the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.