

1 AN ACT relating to alternative teacher certification programs.

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, **or an educational cooperative** may
7 seek approval for a training program. The state-approved local ~~{school district}~~
8 ~~}~~ training program is an alternative to the college teacher preparation program as a
9 means of acquiring teacher certification for a teacher at any grade level. The
10 training program may be offered for all teaching certificates approved by the
11 Education Professional Standards Board, including interdisciplinary early childhood
12 education, ~~{except for specific certificates for teachers of exceptional children}~~.

13 **(a)** To participate in a state-approved local ~~{school district}~~ alternative training
14 program, the candidate shall possess:

15 **1. ~~{(a)}~~** A bachelor's degree, ~~{or}~~ a graduate degree, **or be concurrently**
16 **working toward an undergraduate or graduate program of study**
17 **which is preparatory to teacher certification; and**

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

24 **(b) Prior to seeking certification upon completion of a local training program,**
25 **the candidate shall possess:**

26 **1. A bachelor's degree; and**

27 **2. ~~{(c)}~~** A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in

1 which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the
 2 Education Professional Standards Board. To be eligible to take an
 3 academic content assessment, the applicant shall have completed a thirty
 4 (30) hour major in the academic content area or five (5) years of
 5 experience in the academic content area as approved by the Education
 6 Professional Standards Board~~]; and~~

7 ~~(d) An offer of employment in a school district which has a training program~~
 8 ~~approved by the Education Professional Standards Board].~~

9 **Candidates who hold a bachelor's degree and meet either**~~[Upon meeting]~~ the
 10 participation requirements as established in this subsection **or the local training**
 11 **program requirements as approved by the Education Professional Standards**
 12 **Board**~~[, the candidate]~~ shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by the
 13 Education Professional Standards Board. The candidate shall participate in the
 14 teacher internship program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the
 15 internship program, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall
 16 be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a
 17 professional certificate.

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

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

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

26 (c) An offer of employment in a school district which has been approved by the
 27 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 professional certificates.

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

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

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

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

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

26 Upon an offer of employment by a school district, the eligible veteran shall receive
27 a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by the Education Professional

1 Standards Board of a joint application by the veteran and the employing school
2 district. During this year, the veteran shall participate in the teacher internship
3 program under KRS 161.030. After successful completion of the internship
4 program, the veteran shall receive a professional certificate.

5 (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education
6 Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that
7 enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently
8 with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative
9 program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate and shall participate
10 in the Kentucky teacher internship program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS
11 161.030. A student may not participate in the internship program until the student
12 has successfully completed the assessments required by the board. The one (1) year
13 provisional certificate may be renewed four (4) additional years, and shall be
14 contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program
15 and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional
16 certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the
17 program, the internship program requirements, and all academic content
18 assessments in the specific teaching field of the applicant as designated by the
19 Education Professional Standards Board.

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

26 (a) The candidate shall possess:

27 1. A bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which

- 1 certification is sought or a graduate degree in a field related to the area
2 in which certification is sought;
- 3 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
4 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
5 average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours
6 of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework
7 from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution;
- 8 3. A passing score on the GRE or equivalent as designated by the
9 Education Professional Standards Board. A candidate who has a
10 terminal degree shall be exempt from the requirements of this
11 subparagraph; and
- 12 4. A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which
13 certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional
14 Standards Board.
- 15 (b) Prior to receiving the one (1) year provisional certificate or during the first
16 year of the certificate, the teacher shall complete the following:
- 17 1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete the
18 equivalent of a two hundred forty (240) hour institute, based on six (6)
19 hour days for eight (8) weeks. The providers and the content of the
20 institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards
21 Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in
22 reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge
23 of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and
24 methods of classroom management.
- 25 2. For middle and secondary teaching, the individual shall successfully
26 complete the equivalent of a one hundred eighty (180) hour institute,
27 based on six (6) hour days for six (6) weeks. The providers and the

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

6 (c) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under KRS
7 161.030. After successful completion of the internship program, the candidate
8 shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate
9 renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a professional
10 certificate.

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

15 (a) The candidate shall possess:

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

27 (b) The provisional certificate granted under paragraph (a) of this subsection may

1 be renewed two (2) times with a recommendation of the superintendent and
2 approval of the Education Professional Standards Board.

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

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

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

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

20 (a) The program shall:

21 1. Include a residency or paraprofessional component which employs the
22 person within the participating district for the duration of the program to
23 gain work experience to supplement the expedited program and reduced
24 coursework;

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

27 3. Be designed to meet the needs of the participating district and may

1 include an emphasis in developing a teacher pipeline for the district's
2 students, improving the numbers of underrepresented populations
3 among the district's workforce, or focusing on increasing the number of
4 teachers with certification areas that are in high demand.

5 (b) A school district entering into a cooperative partnership shall ensure the
6 availability of funding for each candidate employed within the district in the
7 residency or paraprofessional program for the duration of the candidate's
8 participation in the program. However, nothing in this subsection shall be
9 interpreted as requiring the district to continue employing the candidate
10 during the program or after the candidate has received initial certification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 ➔Section 2. KRS 161.049 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) As used in this section, "professional support team" means a school principal, an
5 experienced teacher, a college or university faculty member, and an instructional
6 supervisor. If an instructional supervisor or college or university faculty member is
7 not available, the district shall assign a member with comparable experience. The
8 school principal shall serve as the chairman of the team.

9 (2) The Education Professional Standards Board shall establish a training program for
10 professional support teams which shall be implemented by the board or contracted
11 with another agency. The training shall include content and procedures for the
12 evaluation of teacher candidates. Completion of the training shall be evidenced by
13 successfully passing the examinations prescribed by the board.

14 (3) A local school district or educational cooperative seeking to hire a teacher pursuant
15 to KRS 161.048(3) shall submit a plan for a local ~~district~~ alternative training
16 program to the Education Professional Standards Board and have it approved in
17 accordance with administrative regulations established by the Board. The district or
18 educational cooperative shall show evidence that it has sought joint sponsorship of
19 the program with a college or university. No local school district or educational
20 cooperative shall employ a teacher seeking certification in a state-approved local
21 ~~district~~ training program unless it has submitted a plan and received approval by
22 the Education Professional Standards Board.

23 (4) Each state approved local ~~district~~ alternative training program shall provide the
24 teacher candidate with essential knowledge and skills and include, but not be
25 limited to, the following components:

26 (a) A full-time seminar and practicum of no less than eight (8) weeks' duration
27 prior to the time the candidate assumes responsibility for a classroom. The

1 content of the formal instruction shall be prescribed by the Education
2 Professional Standards Board and shall include an introduction to basic
3 teaching skills through supervised teaching experiences with students, as well
4 as an orientation on the policies, organization, and curriculum of the
5 employing district;~~[-]~~

6 (b) A period of classroom supervision while the candidate assumes responsibility
7 on a one-half (1/2) time basis for a classroom and continuing for eighteen (18)
8 weeks. During this period, the candidate shall be visited and critiqued no less
9 than one (1) time per week by one (1) or more members of a professional
10 support team appointed by the local district and assigned according to the
11 administrative regulations adopted by the Education Professional Standards
12 Board. The candidate shall be formally evaluated at the end of five (5) weeks,
13 at the end of the second five (5) weeks, and at the end of the last eight (8)
14 weeks by the members of the team. During this period, the candidate shall
15 continue formal instruction which emphasizes student assessment, child
16 development, learning, curriculum, instruction of exceptional children, and
17 school and classroom organization; and~~[-]~~

18 (c) An additional period of at least eighteen (18) weeks continued supervision of
19 the teacher candidate who may be assigned full-time classroom duties. During
20 this period the teacher candidate shall be critiqued at least once per month and
21 shall be observed formally and evaluated at least twice. No more than two (2)
22 months shall pass without a formal observation. Formal instruction shall also
23 continue during this period. In addition, opportunities shall be provided for
24 the teacher candidate to observe the teaching of experienced teachers.

25 (5) At least two hundred fifty (250) hours of formal instruction shall be provided in all
26 three (3) phases of the program combined.

27 (6) At the conclusion of the alternative training program, the chair of the support team

1 shall prepare a comprehensive evaluation report on the teacher candidate's
2 performance. This report shall be submitted to the Education Professional Standards
3 Board and shall contain a recommendation as to whether the teacher candidate shall
4 be issued a one (1) year certificate of eligibility to complete the internship pursuant
5 to KRS 161.030. The support team shall make one (1) of the following
6 recommendations:

7 (a) Approved: recommends issuance of certificate to complete the internship;

8 (b) Insufficient: recommends the candidate be allowed to seek reentry into a
9 teacher preparation program; or

10 (c) Disapproved: recommends the candidate not be allowed to enter a teacher
11 preparation program.

12 ➔Section 3. KRS 156.101 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) The purpose of this section is to encourage and require the maintenance and
14 development of effective instructional leadership in the public schools of the
15 Commonwealth and to recognize that principals, with the assistance of assistant
16 principals, supervisors of instruction, guidance counselors, and directors of special
17 education, have the primary responsibility for instructional leadership in the schools
18 to which they are assigned.

19 (2) For the purpose of this section, "instructional leader" shall be defined as an
20 employee of the public schools of the Commonwealth employed as a principal,
21 assistant principal, supervisor of instruction, guidance counselor, director of special
22 education, or other administrative position deemed by the Education Professional
23 Standards Board to require an administrative certificate.

24 (3) In order to carry out the purpose of this section, the Kentucky Board of Education
25 shall establish a statewide program to improve and maintain the quality and
26 effectiveness of instructional leadership in the public schools of the
27 Commonwealth.

- 1 (4) The instructional leader improvement program shall contain the following
2 provisions:
- 3 (a) Each instructional leader employed by the public schools of the
4 Commonwealth shall participate in a continuing intensive training program
5 designed especially for instructional leaders;
- 6 (b) ~~[1. Effective until June 30, 2006, every two (2) years each instructional~~
7 ~~leader shall complete an intensive training program approved by the Kentucky~~
8 ~~Board of Education to include no fewer than forty two (42) participant hours~~
9 ~~of instruction;~~
- 10 ~~2. Effective July 1, 2006,]~~Each instructional leader shall annually
11 complete an intensive training program approved by the Kentucky
12 Board of Education to include no fewer than twenty-one (21) participant
13 hours of instruction;
- 14 (c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall prescribe specific criteria for the
15 training program, which shall include a provision to allow an instructional
16 leader to annually receive three (3) participant hours credit for duties
17 performed as part of a beginning teacher committee pursuant to KRS
18 161.030(6). A maximum of six (6) participant hours credit shall be awarded
19 annually for serving on multiple beginning teacher committees. The Kentucky
20 Department of Education may contract for specific training with qualified
21 agencies or institutions or approve programs offered by training providers,
22 including local ~~district]~~training programs, except that the department shall
23 ensure the requirements of paragraph (d) of this subsection are met; and
- 24 (d) Annually, each local district superintendent shall report to the Kentucky
25 Department of Education any instructional leader who fails to complete the
26 training requirements of paragraph (b) of this subsection and shall place the
27 leader on probation for one (1) year. The Department of Education shall

1 verify completion of the required training. If the required training for the prior
2 year and the current year is not completed during the probationary period, the
3 Department of Education shall forward the information to the Education
4 Professional Standards Board, which shall revoke the instructional leader's
5 certificate.

6 (5) The Kentucky Department of Education shall ensure that training options in human
7 resource management and conflict resolution techniques are available to education
8 leaders throughout the state.

9 (6) This section shall be known as the "Effective Instructional Leadership Act."