

1 AN ACT relating to educators.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 160.160 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Each school district shall be under the management and control of a board of
5 education consisting of five (5) members, except in counties containing a city of the
6 first class wherein a merger pursuant to KRS 160.041 shall have been accomplished
7 which shall have seven (7) members elected from the divisions and in the manner
8 prescribed by KRS 160.210(5), to be known as the "Board of Education of ...,
9 Kentucky." Each board of education shall be a body politic and corporate with
10 perpetual succession. It may sue and be sued; make contracts; expend funds
11 necessary for liability insurance premiums and for the defense of any civil action
12 brought against an individual board member in his official or individual capacity, or
13 both, on account of an act made in the scope and course of his performance of legal
14 duties as a board member; purchase, receive, hold, and sell property; issue its bonds
15 to build and construct improvements; and do all things necessary to accomplish the
16 purposes for which it is created. Each board of education shall elect a chairman and
17 vice chairman from its membership in a manner and for a term prescribed by the
18 board not to exceed two (2) years.

19 (2) No board of education shall participate in any financing of school buildings, school
20 improvements, appurtenances thereto, or furnishing and equipment, including
21 education technology equipment without:

22 (a) First establishing the cost of the project in advance of financing, based on the
23 receipt of advertised, public, and competitive bids for such project, in
24 accordance with KRS Chapter 424; and

25 (b) Establishing the cost of financing in advance of the sale of any bonds,
26 certificates of participation in any leases, or other evidences of financial
27 commitments issued by or on behalf of such board. Any bonds, leases,

1 participations, or other financial arrangements shall not involve a final
2 commitment of the board until the purchaser or lender involved shall have
3 been determined by public advertising in accordance with KRS Chapter 424.

4 (3) No board of education shall make a mortgage, lien, or other encumbrance upon any
5 school building owned by the board, or transfer title to any such school building as
6 part of any financing arrangement, without the specific approval of the Department
7 of Education, and without the transaction being entered into pursuant to a detailed
8 plan or procedure specifically authorized by Kentucky statute.

9 (4) Without the approval of the Department of Education, no board may lease, as
10 lessee, a building or public facility that has been or is to be financed at the request
11 of the board or on its behalf through the issuance of bonds by another public body
12 or by a nonprofit corporation serving as an agency and instrumentality of the board,
13 or by a leasing corporation. Any lease, participation, or other financial arrangement
14 shall not involve a final commitment of the board unless and until the purchaser or
15 lender involved in same shall have been determined by public advertising in
16 accordance with KRS Chapter 424. No transaction shall be entered into by the
17 board except upon the basis of public advertising and competitive bidding in
18 accordance with KRS Chapter 424.

19 (5) A school district may issue general obligation bonds in accordance with KRS
20 Chapter 66.

21 (6) Rental payments due by a board under a lease approved by the Department of
22 Education in accordance with subsection (4) of this section, and debt service
23 payments under a general obligation bond issued in accordance with this section,
24 shall be due and payable not less than ten (10) days prior to the interest due date for
25 the bonds, notes, or other debt obligations issued to finance the building or public
26 facility. If a board fails to make a rental payment when due under a lease or a debt
27 service payment when due for a general obligation bond issue, upon notification to

1 the Department of Education by the paying agent, bond registrar, or trustee for the
2 bonds not less than three (3) days prior to the interest due date, the Department of
3 Education shall withhold or intercept any funds then due the board to the extent of
4 the amount of the required payment on the bonds and remit the amount to the
5 paying agent, bond registrar, or trustee as appropriate. Thereafter, the Department
6 of Education shall resolve the matter with the board and adjust remittances to the
7 board to the extent of the amount paid by the Department of Education on the
8 board's behalf.

9 (7) Bonds, notes, or leases negotiated to provide education technology shall not be sold
10 for longer than seven (7) years or the useful life of the equipment as established by
11 the state technology master plan, whichever is less.

12 (8) Notwithstanding any requirements of public advertising, competitive bidding, or
13 approval by the Department of Education, or any administrative regulation
14 promulgated pursuant to KRS 156.160(1)(o), a local board may authorize the
15 transfer or sale of the district's real or personal property to another governmental or
16 quasi-governmental agency in exchange for money or a similar type of property that
17 equals or exceeds the fair market value of the district property as determined by an
18 independent appraisal conducted by:

19 (a) An individual or organization not affiliated with the district or its officers or
20 employees, using a generally accepted national or professional standard; or

21 (b) A district's officers or employees using a nationally published valuation of
22 property based on the most recent edition of the publication.

23 **(9) A local board may adopt a policy establishing requirements that applicants for**
24 **specified certified positions within the district successfully meet score**
25 **requirements on appropriate assessments to measure content knowledge,**
26 **competency in educational practices, or both. A local board establishing score**
27 **requirements shall identify any assessment that is required for a specified**

1 *certified position and the minimum score the district will require of applicants.*
2 *This information shall be included in any of the district's posts or notices*
3 *regarding the related vacancy. Any minimum score shall be for an assessment*
4 *that is valid and reasonably related to the certified position for which the local*
5 *board establishes the requirement.*

6 ➔Section 2. KRS 161.030 is amended to read as follows:

- 7 (1) Notwithstanding the age of the pupil, the certification of all teachers and other
8 school personnel, in public schools only, is vested in the Education Professional
9 Standards Board. When so certified, teachers and other school personnel shall not
10 be required to have licensure, certification, or other forms of approval from any
11 other state agency for the performance of their respective assignments within the
12 system of public schools, except as provided for by law. All certificates authorized
13 under KRS 161.010 to 161.126 shall be issued in accordance with the
14 administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board. After
15 July 15, 1994, all certificate applications and other data collection instruments of
16 the board shall include a request for voluntary information about the applicant's
17 ethnic background. This information shall be available to help local school districts
18 locate minority candidates. A person who holds a certificate prior to this
19 requirement may request that ethnic information be added to his or her file. Nothing
20 in this section shall preclude the right of an individual in a nonpublic school from
21 seeking voluntary certification by the Education Professional Standards Board.
- 22 (2) Certificates shall be issued upon written application and in accordance with statutes
23 and regulations in effect at the time of application to persons who have completed,
24 at colleges, universities, or local school district programs approved by the
25 Education Professional Standards Board for the preparation of teachers and other
26 school personnel, the curricula prescribed by the administrative regulations of the
27 Education Professional Standards Board. *An approved applicant shall receive a*

1 *five (5) year professional certificate.*

2 ~~(3) (a) Certification of all new teachers and teachers seeking additional certification~~
3 ~~shall require the successful completion of appropriate assessments prior to~~
4 ~~certification. The assessments shall be selected by the Education Professional~~
5 ~~Standards Board and shall measure knowledge in the specific teaching field of the~~
6 ~~applicant, including content of the field and teaching of that content. The Education~~
7 ~~Professional Standards Board shall determine the minimum acceptable level of~~
8 ~~achievement on each assessment. The assessments shall measure those concepts,~~
9 ~~ideas, and facts which are being taught in teacher education programs in Kentucky.~~
10 ~~Upon successful completion of the assessments and the approved teacher~~
11 ~~preparation program, a professional certificate valid for five (5) years shall be~~
12 ~~issued.~~

13 ~~(b) If an applicant for teacher certification has completed the approved teacher~~
14 ~~preparation program and has taken but failed to successfully complete the~~
15 ~~appropriate assessments selected by the Education Professional Standards Board, a~~
16 ~~conditional certificate may be issued for a period not to exceed one (1) year. The~~
17 ~~employing school district, in collaboration with the teacher education institution,~~
18 ~~shall provide technical assistance and mentoring support to the conditionally~~
19 ~~certified teacher. The teacher shall retake the assessments during the validity period~~
20 ~~of the conditional certificate. The conditional certificate shall not be reissued. Upon~~
21 ~~successful completion of the required assessments, a professional certificate valid~~
22 ~~for five (5) years shall be issued. The Education Professional Standards Board shall~~
23 ~~promulgate administrative regulations to establish the standards and procedures for~~
24 ~~issuance of a conditional certificate.~~

25 ~~(c) If an out of state teacher with less than two (2) years' experience comes to~~
26 ~~Kentucky after the deadline for taking the assessments, a temporary certificate may~~
27 ~~be issued for a period up to six (6) months. The teacher shall take the assessments~~

1 during the period of the temporary certificate. If the teacher fails the assessments,
2 the temporary certificate shall be valid only for the current semester. If the teacher
3 passes the assessments, a professional certificate valid for five (5) years shall be
4 issued.

5 ~~(4)~~ A reasonable fee to be paid by the teacher and directly related to the actual cost of
6 the administration of the assessments shall be established by the Education
7 Professional Standards Board. Provisions shall be made for persons having less than
8 minimum levels of performance on any assessment to repeat that assessment, and
9 candidates shall be informed of their strengths and weaknesses in the specific
10 performance areas. The Education Professional Standards Board shall provide for
11 confidentiality of the individual assessment scores. Scores shall be available only to
12 the candidate and to the education officials who are responsible for determining
13 whether established certification standards have been met. Scores shall be used only
14 in the assessment for certification of new teachers and of out of state teachers with
15 less than two (2) years of teaching experience who are seeking initial certification
16 in Kentucky.

17 ~~(5)~~ If an applicant establishes eligibility for a five (5) year professional certificate~~{~~
18 ~~under the provisions of subsection (3)(a) of this section}~~, **then** the applicant shall
19 also be eligible for the issuance of a certificate for substitute teaching as provided
20 by the administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board.

21 ~~(4)~~~~(6)~~ (a) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a ten (10) year
22 emeritus certificate to an applicant who has:

- 23 1. Retired or will retire not more than one (1) year prior to the expiration
24 date of the certificate;
- 25 2. Met the requirements to receive an emeritus certificate as set forth in
26 administrative regulation promulgated by the Education Professional
27 Standards Board; and

1 3. Completed the required application unless the provisions of KRS
2 161.120 apply.

3 (b) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue a one (1) time five (5)
4 year exception certificate to an individual:

5 1. Whose certificate has expired;

6 2. Whose rank upon expiration was Rank I or Rank II;

7 3. Who has met the requirements to receive an exception certificate as set
8 forth in administrative regulation promulgated by the Education
9 Professional Standards Board;

10 4. Who completed three (3) years of classroom instruction prior to the
11 certificate's expiration; and

12 5. Who has completed the required application unless the provisions of
13 KRS 161.120 apply.

14 ~~(5)~~~~(7)~~ The Education Professional Standards Board shall approve the curricula of
15 any college or university, or of any department thereof, for the training of teachers,
16 and any nontraditional or alternative teacher preparation program offered in a
17 public or private postsecondary education institution, private contractor, or state
18 agency, and shall also approve the curricula of any local district alternative
19 certification program, when the curricula comply with the administrative
20 regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board for the issuance of
21 certificates and when the institution has met the terms and conditions provided in
22 KRS 161.010 to 161.120. Any student who has completed any of these curricula, as
23 approved by the Education Professional Standards Board, and who has completed
24 the prescribed requirements for the issuance of certificates shall be granted a
25 certificate corresponding to the curricula completed.

26 ~~(6)~~~~(8)~~ The issuance of any certificate, except emergency certificates issued pursuant
27 to KRS 161.100, by the Education Professional Standards Board shall not be

1 dependent upon an offer of employment. The certification process, except for
2 emergency certificates, is independent of any job prospects and certification shall
3 be awarded on the basis of completing a teacher preparation program or an
4 alternative certification pathway~~[-and passing required assessments].~~

5 ➔Section 3. KRS 161.010 is amended to read as follows:

6 As used in KRS 161.020 to 161.134:

- 7 (1) "College or university work of graduate grade" means academic preparation which
8 extends beyond the usual four (4) year program of undergraduate studies leading to
9 a bachelor's degree and which is completed at a college or university accredited for
10 the graduate level;
- 11 (2) "Continuing education" means study or other activities to provide professional
12 improvement and personal growth for certified teachers throughout their career. It
13 may include, but shall not be limited to, university courses, an advanced degree, or
14 a combination of field-based experience, individual research, and approved
15 professional development activities, pursuant to KRS 156.095;
- 16 (3) "Professional certificate" means the document issued to an applicant upon
17 completion of an approved program of preparation~~[-and successful completion of
18 the assessments in the area in which certification is being sought];~~
- 19 (4) "Provisional certificate" means the document issued to an individual prior to the
20 issuance of a professional certificate;
- 21 (5) "Standard college or university" means an institution accredited by the Southern
22 Association of Colleges and Schools or by one of the other recognized regional
23 accrediting agencies or by the Education Professional Standards Board;
- 24 (6) "Student teacher" means an adult who has completed the prerequisite teacher
25 preparation as prescribed by the accredited teacher education institution in which he
26 or she is enrolled, and who is jointly assigned by the institution and a local school
27 district to engage in a period of practice teaching under the direction and

1 supervision of the administrative and teaching staff of the school district and the
2 institution; and

3 (7) "Teacher's aide" means an adult school employee who works under the direction of
4 the professional administrative and teaching staff in performing, within the
5 limitations of his or her training and competency, certain instructional and
6 noninstructional functions in the school program including, but not limited to,
7 clerical duties, tutoring individual pupils, leading pupils in recreational activities,
8 conducting pupils from place to place, assisting with classroom instruction as
9 directed by the teacher, aiding the school librarian, and preparing and organizing
10 instructional materials and equipment.

11 ➔Section 4. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

12 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:

- 13 (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety
14 of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in
15 Kentucky schools;
- 16 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in
17 Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation
18 program;
- 19 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public
20 schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by
21 a verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that
22 empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;
- 23 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools
24 to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and
- 25 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher
26 preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers;

27 (b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as

1 described in subsections (2) to (10) of this section;

2 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Education Professional
3 Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience,
4 and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these
5 options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and
6 recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in
7 Kentucky;

8 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any
9 candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to
10 those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs; and

11 (e) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative
12 regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative
13 certification options described in this section. If the certification option
14 requires employment prior to certification, the procedures shall establish a
15 process for candidates to obtain an eligible for hire letter from the Education
16 Professional Standards Board.

17 (2) Option 1: Certification of a person with exceptional work experience. An individual
18 who has exceptional work experience shall receive a one (1) year provisional
19 certificate with approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an
20 application by the individual under the following conditions:

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

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

24 (c) The candidate possesses:

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

26 2. 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

1 average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30)
 2 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate
 3 coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary
 4 institution; and

5 3. An academic major ~~for a passing score on the academic content~~
 6 ~~assessment~~ in the area in which certification is being sought by the
 7 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

8 After successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and upon the
 9 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional
 10 Standards Board, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be
 11 subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a
 12 professional certificate.

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

22 (a) A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree; ***and***

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

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

7 An individual may participate in a local school district training program upon
8 meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection and
9 approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an application by the
10 individual. The candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by
11 the Education Professional Standards Board. After successful completion of the
12 local school district training program, one (1) year of teaching, and upon the
13 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional
14 Standards Board, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be
15 subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a
16 professional certificate.

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

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

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

25 After successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and upon the
26 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional
27 Standards Board, the candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be

1 subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with
2 professional certificates.

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

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

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

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

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

24 The eligible veteran shall receive a one (1) year provisional certificate with
25 approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an application by the
26 veteran. After successful completion of one (1) year of teaching and upon the
27 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional

1 Standards Board, the veteran shall receive a professional certificate.

2 (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education
3 Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that
4 enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently
5 with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative
6 program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate. The one (1) year
7 provisional certificate may be renewed four (4) additional years, and shall be
8 contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program
9 and compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional
10 certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the
11 program ~~and all academic content assessments~~ in the specific teaching field of the
12 applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board, and upon
13 the recommendation of the employing school district.

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

20 (a) The candidate shall possess:

- 21 1. A bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area in which
22 certification is sought or a graduate degree in a field related to the area
23 in which certification is sought; and
- 24 2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five
25 hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point
26 average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours
27 of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework

1 from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution.

2 (b) Upon meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection and
3 enrolling in an approved institute, the Education Professional Standards Board
4 shall issue the candidate a one (1) year provisional certificate or during the
5 first year of the certificate, the teacher shall complete the following:

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

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

22 (c) The candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to
23 certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a professional
24 certificate:

25 1. After meeting the requirements of this option;

26 2. ~~After obtaining a passing score on the academic content assessment in~~
27 ~~the area in which certification is being sought;~~

1 ~~3.—~~After successfully completing one (1) year of teaching; and
 2 ~~3.~~~~[4.]~~ Upon the recommendation of the employing school district to the
 3 Education Professional Standards Board.

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

8 (a) The candidate shall possess:

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

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

22 (c) A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate
 23 upon the participant's successful completion of one (1) year of teaching ~~and~~
 24 ~~the assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the~~
 25 ~~Education Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030,] and upon the~~
 26 recommendation of the employing school district to the Education
 27 Professional Standards Board.

1 (d) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, a
2 teacher certified under this subsection shall have ten (10) years to complete a
3 master's degree or fifth year program, or the equivalent as specified by the
4 Education Professional Standards Board in administrative regulation.

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

10 (a) The program shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area
17 for which certification is sought.

18 ➔Section 5. KRS 161.053 is amended to read as follows:

19 (1) The Education Professional Standards Board shall have the authority and
20 responsibility to certify as a teacher of exceptional children/communication
21 disorders, an individual who has:

22 (a) Completed an approved program of preparation that corresponds to the
23 certificate;

24 (b) ~~[Achieved a passing score on an appropriate assessment as determined by the~~
25 ~~Education Professional Standards Board;~~

26 (c) ~~]~~Fulfilled other requirements for teacher certification as determined by the
27 Education Professional Standards Board, in accordance with KRS Chapter

- 1 161 and administrative regulations promulgated thereunder; and
- 2 ~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ Completed the requirements set forth in subsection (2) of this section.
- 3 (2) The Education Professional Standards Board shall issue two (2) levels of
- 4 certification for teachers of exceptional children/communication disorders:
- 5 (a) Baccalaureate level certification shall be issued to a person who has:
- 6 1. Completed an approved program of preparation leading to a bachelor's
- 7 degree in speech-language pathology;
- 8 2. Been granted licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant from
- 9 the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology,
- 10 under KRS Chapter 334A; and
- 11 3. Completed the other requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this
- 12 section; and
- 13 (b) Master's level certification shall be issued to a person who has:
- 14 1. Completed an approved program of preparation leading to a master's
- 15 degree in speech-language pathology; and
- 16 2. Completed the other requirements specified in subsection (1) of this
- 17 section.
- 18 (3) A person holding licensure through the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language
- 19 Pathology and Audiology as a speech-language pathology assistant, but not
- 20 certified as a teacher of exceptional children/communication disorders, may:
- 21 (a) Continue to work in the public schools as a classified employee under the
- 22 provisions of KRS Chapter 334A and administrative regulations promulgated
- 23 by the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; or
- 24 (b) Pursue certification as a baccalaureate level teacher of exceptional
- 25 children/communication disorders while working as a speech-language
- 26 pathology assistant.
- 27 (4) A bachelor's level teacher of exceptional children/communication disorders shall

1 work under requirements for speech-language pathology assistants set forth in KRS
2 Chapter 334A.

3 (5) The Education Professional Standards Board shall develop a policy through the
4 promulgation of administrative regulations by June 30, 2001, to permit a speech-
5 language pathology assistant with two (2) years or more of successful professional
6 experience pursuing certification as a baccalaureate level teacher of exceptional
7 children to:

8 (a) Substitute prior professional experience for student teaching requirements;
9 and

10 (b) Substitute prior professional experience for beginning teacher internship
11 requirements.

12 (6) A teacher of exceptional children/communication disorders shall receive salary and
13 benefits, including membership in the Teachers' Retirement System, commensurate
14 with his or her education, certification, and experience as prescribed by law. Years
15 of experience as a speech-language pathology assistant shall be included in the
16 calculation of all benefits, including membership in the Teachers' Retirement
17 System, for individuals with baccalaureate level certification as a teacher of
18 exceptional children/communication disorders.