

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT FORM  
2026 REGULAR SESSION

Amend printed copy of **SB 124/GA**

On page 25, after line 14, insert the following:

"➔Section 4. KRS 158.070 is amended to read as follows:

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Election" has the same meaning as in KRS 121.015;
- (b) "Minimum school term" or "school term" means not less than one hundred eighty-five (185) days composed of the student attendance days, teacher professional days, and holidays;
- (c) "School calendar" means the document adopted by a local board of education that establishes the minimum school term, student instructional year or variable student instructional year, and days that school will not be in session;
- (d) "School district calendar committee" means a committee that includes at least the following:
  1. One (1) school district principal;
  2. One (1) school district office administrator other than the superintendent;
  3. One (1) member of the local board of education;
  4. Two (2) parents of students attending a school in the district;
  5. One (1) school district elementary school teacher;
  6. One (1) school district middle or high school teacher;

Amendment No. HFA

Rep. Rep. J.T. Payne

Committee Amendment \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Amendment \_\_\_\_\_

LRD Drafter: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rejected: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Two (2) school district classified employees; and
  8. Two (2) community members from the local chamber of commerce, business community, or tourism commission;
- (e) "Student attendance day" means any day that students are scheduled to be at school to receive instruction, and encompasses the designated start and dismissal time;
- (f) "Student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062) hours of instructional time for students delivered on not less than one hundred seventy (170) student attendance days;
- (g) "Teacher professional day" means any day teachers are required to report to work as determined by a local board of education, with or without the presence of students; and
- (h) "Variable student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062) hours of instructional time delivered on the number of student attendance days adopted by a local board of education which shall be considered proportionally equivalent to one hundred seventy (170) student attendance days and calendar days for the purposes of a student instructional year, employment contracts that are based on the school term, service credit under KRS 161.500, and funding under KRS 157.350.
- (2) (a) The local board of education, upon recommendation of the local school district superintendent, shall annually appoint a school district calendar committee to review, develop, and recommend school calendar options.
- (b) The school district calendar committee, after seeking feedback from school district employees, parents, and community members, shall recommend school calendar options to the local school district superintendent for presentation to the local board of education. The committee's recommendations shall comply with state laws and

regulations and consider the economic impact of the school calendar on the community and the state.

- (c) Prior to adopting a school calendar, the local board of education shall hear for discussion the school district calendar committee's recommendations and the recommendation of the superintendent at a meeting of the local board of education.
- (d) During a subsequent meeting of the local board of education, the local board shall adopt a school calendar for the upcoming school year that establishes the opening and closing dates of the school term, beginning and ending dates of each school month, student attendance days, and days on which schools shall be dismissed. The local board may schedule days for breaks in the school calendar that shall not be counted as a part of the minimum school term.
- (e) For local board of education meetings described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this subsection, if the meeting is a regular meeting, notice shall be given to media outlets that have requests on file to be notified of special meetings stating the date of the regular meeting and that one (1) of the items to be considered in the regular meeting will be the school calendar. The notice shall be sent at least twenty-four (24) hours before the regular meeting. This requirement shall not be deemed to make any requirements or limitations relating to special meetings applicable to the regular meeting.
- (f) A local school board of education that adopts a school calendar with the first student attendance day in the school term starting no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 may use a variable student instructional year. Districts may set the length of individual student attendance days in a variable student instructional schedule, but no student attendance day shall contain more than seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and received approval from the commissioner of

education for an innovative alternative calendar.

- (3) (a) Each local board of education shall use four (4) days of the minimum school term for professional development and collegial planning activities for the professional staff without the presence of students pursuant to the requirements of KRS 156.095. At the discretion of the superintendent, one (1) day of professional development may be used for district-wide activities and for training that is mandated by federal or state law. The use of three (3) days shall be planned by each school council, except that **for any school that is identified by the Kentucky Department of Education as being in comprehensive support and improvement status as described in KRS 160.346, the superintendent may plan the use of as many of the four (4) required days of professional development as he or she deems necessary.** The district is encouraged to provide technical assistance and leadership to school councils to maximize existing resources and to encourage shared planning **when determining professional development.**
- (b) 1. A local board may approve a school's flexible professional development plan that permits teachers or other certified personnel within a school to participate in professional development activities outside the days scheduled in the school calendar or the regularly scheduled hours in the school work day and receive credit towards the four (4) day professional development requirement within the minimum one hundred eighty-five (185) days that a teacher shall be employed.
2. A flexible schedule option shall be reflected in the school's professional development component within the school improvement plan and approved by the local board. Credit for approved professional development activities may be accumulated in periods of time other than full day segments.
3. No teacher or administrator shall be permitted to count participation in a

professional development activity under the flexible schedule option unless the activity is related to the teacher's classroom assignment and content area, or the administrator's job requirements, or is required by the school improvement plan, or is tied to the teacher's or the administrator's individual growth plan. The supervisor shall give prior approval and shall monitor compliance with the requirements of this paragraph. In the case of teachers, a professional development committee or the school council by council policy may be responsible for reviewing requests for approval.

- (c) The local board of each school district may use up to a maximum of four (4) days of the minimum school term for holidays; provided, however, any holiday which occurs on Saturday may be observed on the preceding Friday.
  - (d) Each local board may use two (2) days for planning activities without the presence of students.
  - (e) Each local board may close schools for the number of days deemed necessary for:
    - 1. National or state emergency or mourning when proclaimed by the President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky;
    - 2. Local emergency which would endanger the health or safety of children; and
    - 3. Mourning when so designated by the local board of education and approved by the Kentucky Board of Education upon recommendation of the commissioner of education.
- (4) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the commissioner of education, shall adopt administrative regulations governing the use of student attendance days as a result of a local emergency, as described in subsection (3)(e)2. of this section, and regulations setting forth the guidelines and procedures to be observed for the approval of waivers from the requirements of a student instructional

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year in subsection (1)(f) of this section for districts that wish to adopt innovative instructional calendars, or for circumstances that would create extreme hardship.

- (b) If a local board of education amends its school calendar after its adoption due to an emergency, it may lengthen or shorten any remaining student attendance days by thirty (30) minutes or more, as it deems necessary, provided the amended calendar complies with the requirements of a student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section or a variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h) of this section. No student attendance day shall contain more than seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and received approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative alternative calendar.
- (5) (a) 1. In setting the school calendar, school may be closed for two (2) consecutive days for the purpose of permitting professional school employees to attend statewide professional meetings.
2. These two (2) days for statewide professional meetings may be scheduled to begin with the first Thursday after Easter, or upon request of the statewide professional education association having the largest paid membership, the commissioner of education may designate alternate dates.
3. If schools are scheduled to operate during days designated for the statewide professional meeting, the school district shall permit employees who are delegates to attend as compensated professional leave time and shall employ substitute teachers in their absence.
4. The commissioner of education shall designate one (1) additional day during the school year when schools may be closed to permit professional school employees to participate in regional or district professional meetings.
5. These three (3) days so designated for attendance at professional meetings may

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be counted as a part of the minimum school term.

- (b) If any school in a district is used as a voting place pursuant to KRS 117.065, the school district may be closed on the days of the election, and those days may be used for professional development activities, professional meetings, or parent-teacher conferences.
- (c) All schools shall be closed on the third Monday of January in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Districts may:
  - 1. Designate the day as one (1) of the four (4) holidays permitted under subsection (3)(c) of this section; or
  - 2. Not include the day in the minimum school term specified in subsection (1) of this section.
- (6) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, shall be encouraged to schedule athletic competitions outside the regularly scheduled student attendance day.
- (b) Any member of a school-sponsored interscholastic athletic team who competes in a regional tournament or state tournament sanctioned by the Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, and occurring on a regularly scheduled student attendance day may be counted present at school on the date or dates of the competition, as determined by local board policy, for a maximum of two (2) days per student per year. The student shall be expected to complete any assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.
- (c) The school attendance record of any student for whom paragraph (b) of this subsection applies shall indicate that the student was in attendance on the date or dates of competition.

- (7) Schools shall provide continuing education for those students who are determined to need additional time to achieve the outcomes defined in KRS 158.6451, and schools shall not be limited to the minimum school term in providing this education. Continuing education time may include extended days, extended weeks, or extended years. A local board of education may adopt a policy requiring its students to participate in continuing education. The local policy shall set out the conditions under which attendance will be required and any exceptions which are provided. The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing criteria for the allotment of grants to local school districts and shall include criteria by which the commissioner of education may approve a district's request for a waiver under KRS 156.161 to use an alternative service delivery option, including providing services during the student attendance day on a limited basis. These grants shall be allotted to school districts to provide instructional programs for pupils who are identified as needing additional time to achieve the outcomes defined in KRS 158.6451. A school district that has a school operating a model early reading program under KRS 158.792 may use a portion of its grant money as part of the matching funds to provide individualized or small group reading instruction to qualified students outside of the regular classroom during the student attendance day.
- (8) Notwithstanding any other statute, each school term shall include no less than the equivalent of the student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section, or a variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h) of this section, except that the commissioner of education may grant up to the equivalent of ten (10) student attendance days for school districts that have a nontraditional instruction plan approved by the commissioner of education on days when the school district is closed for health or safety reasons. The district's plan shall indicate how the nontraditional instruction process shall be a continuation of learning that is occurring on regular student attendance days. Instructional

delivery methods, including the use of technology, shall be clearly delineated in the plan. Average daily attendance for purposes of Support Education Excellence in Kentucky program funding during the student attendance days granted shall be calculated in compliance with administrative regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education.

- (9) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations to prescribe the conditions and procedures for districts to be approved for the nontraditional instruction program. Administrative regulations promulgated by the board under this section shall specify:
- (a) The application, plan review, approval, and amendment process;
  - (b) Reporting requirements for districts approved for the program, which may include but are not limited to examples of student work, lesson plans, teacher work logs, and student and teacher participation on nontraditional instruction days. Documentation to support the use of nontraditional instruction days shall include clear evidence of learning continuation;
  - (c) Timelines for initial approval as a nontraditional instruction district, length of approval, the renewal process, and ongoing evaluative procedures required of the district;
  - (d) Reporting and oversight responsibilities of the district and the Kentucky Department of Education, including the documentation required to show clear evidence of learning continuation during nontraditional instruction days; and
  - (e) Other components deemed necessary to implement this section.
- (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 158.060(4) and the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, a school district shall arrange bus schedules so that all buses arrive in sufficient time to provide breakfast prior to the beginning of the student attendance day.

The superintendent of a school district that participates in the Federal School Breakfast Program may also authorize up to fifteen (15) minutes of the student attendance day to provide the opportunity for children to eat breakfast during instructional time.

(11) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, the following provisions shall apply to a school district that misses student attendance days due to emergencies, including weather-related emergencies:

(a) A certified school employee shall be considered to have fulfilled the minimum one hundred eighty-five (185) day contract with a school district under KRS 157.350 and shall be given credit for the purpose of calculating service credit for retirement under KRS 161.500 for certified school personnel if:

1. State and local requirements under this section are met regarding the equivalent of the number and length of student attendance days, teacher professional days, professional development days, holidays, and days for planning activities without the presence of students; and
2. The provisions of the district's school calendar to make up student attendance days missed due to any emergency, as approved by the Kentucky Department of Education when required, including but not limited to a provision for additional instructional time per day, are met.

(b) Additional time worked by a classified school employee shall be considered as equivalent time to be applied toward the employee's contract and calculation of service credit for classified employees under KRS 78.615 if:

1. The employee works for a school district with a school calendar approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that contains a provision that additional instructional time per day shall be used to make up full days missed due to an emergency;

2. The employee's contract requires a minimum six (6) hour work day; and
  3. The employee's job responsibilities and work day are extended when the instructional time is extended for the purposes of making up time.
- (c) Classified employees who are regularly scheduled to work less than six (6) hours per day and who do not have additional work responsibilities as a result of lengthened student attendance days shall be excluded from the provisions of this subsection. These employees may be assigned additional work responsibilities to make up service credit under KRS 78.615 that would be lost due to lengthened student attendance days.

➔Section 5. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:

- (a)
  1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in Kentucky schools;
  2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation program;
  3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by a verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;
  4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and
  5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers;
- (b) There are hereby established alternative certification routes~~[program options]~~ as described in subsections (2) to (10) of this section;

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- (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Education Professional Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience, and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these alternative routes~~[options]~~ and assist local boards of education in implementing these alternative routes~~[options]~~ and recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in Kentucky;
- (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs; and
- (e) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative routes~~[certification options]~~ described in this section~~[- If the certification option requires employment prior to certification, the procedures shall establish a process for candidates to obtain an eligible for hire letter from the Education Professional Standards Board].~~
- (2) **The following are the established alternative routes to certification:**
- (a)** ~~[Option 1: Certification of a person with ]~~Exceptional work experience. An individual who has exceptional work experience shall receive a one (1) year provisional certificate with approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of an application by the individual under the following conditions:
- 1.**~~[(a)]~~ The application contains documentation of all education and work experience;
- 2.**~~[(b)]~~ The candidate has documented exceptional work experience in the area in which certification is being sought; and
- 3.**~~[(c)]~~ The candidate possesses:

- a.~~[1.]~~ A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;
- b.~~[2.]~~ A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and
- c.~~[3.]~~ *At least one (1) of the following in the area in which certification is sought:*
- i. An academic major *or minor of a bachelor's degree;*
  - ii. *An academic content area of a graduate degree;* or
  - iii. A passing score on the academic content assessment~~[ in the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board].~~

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

~~(b)(3) [Option 2: certification through a local school district training program. A local school district or group of school districts may seek approval for a training program. The state approved local school district training program is an alternative to the college teacher preparation program as a means of acquiring teacher certification for a teacher at any grade level. The training program may be offered for all teaching certificates approved by the Education Professional Standards Board, including interdisciplinary early childhood education, except for specific certificates for~~

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~~teachers of exceptional children. To participate in a state approved local school district alternative training program, the candidate shall possess:~~

- ~~(a) A bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;~~
- ~~(b) A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy five hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and~~
- ~~(c) A passing score on the academic content assessment in the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board. To be eligible to take an academic content assessment, the applicant shall have completed a thirty (30) hour major in the academic content area or five (5) years of experience in the academic content area as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.~~

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

- ~~(4) College faculty. [Option 3: certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution:] A candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive a~~

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one (1) year provisional certificate for teaching at any level:

1.~~[(a)]~~ A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which certification is sought; and

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

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

(c)~~[(5)]~~ **Adjunct instructor**~~[Option 4: certification of an adjunct instructor]~~. A person who has expertise in areas such as art, music, foreign language, drama, science, computer science, and other specialty areas may be employed as an adjunct instructor in a part-time position by a local board of education under KRS 161.046. **A person may submit experience as an adjunct instructor to be considered toward the necessary exceptional experience required under paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

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

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- ~~1.(a)~~ A bachelor's degree or graduate degree;
- ~~2.(b)~~ A minimum cumulative grade point average of two and seventy-five hundredths (2.75) on a four (4) point scale or a minimum grade point average of three (3) on a four (4) point scale on the last thirty (30) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and
- ~~3.(c)~~ *At least one (1) of the following in the area in which certification is sought:*
  - a.* An academic major *or minor of a bachelor's degree;*
  - b.* *An academic content area of a graduate degree;* or
  - c.* A passing score on the academic content assessment~~[in the area in which certification is being sought by the applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board].~~

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

- ~~(e)(7)~~ ~~{Option 6: }~~University-based ~~{alternative }~~program. With approval of the Education Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative program shall be granted a one (1) year provisional certificate. The one (1) year provisional certificate may be renewed four (4) additional years, and shall be contingent upon the candidate's continued enrollment in the preparation program and

compliance with all requirements established by the board. A professional certificate shall be issued upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the program and all academic content assessments in the specific teaching field of the applicant as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board, and upon the recommendation of the employing school district. **The academic content assessment required in this paragraph may be substituted with an academic major or minor of a bachelor's degree or an academic content area of a graduate degree in the area in which certification is sought.**

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

**1.**~~(a)~~ The candidate shall possess:

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

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

**c. At least one (1) of the following in the area in which certification is sought:**

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- i. An academic major or minor of a bachelor's degree;*
- ii. An academic content area of a graduate degree; or*
- iii. A passing score on the academic content assessment.*

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

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

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

3. [(e)] The candidate shall receive a professional certificate and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as other teachers with a

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professional certificate:

a.[1.] After meeting the requirements of this route[~~option~~];

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

3.—] After successfully completing one (1) year of teaching; and

c.[4.] Upon the recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional Standards Board.

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

1.[a] The candidate shall possess:

a.[1.] A bachelor's degree or graduate degree;

b.[2.] A successful completion of the summer training institute and ongoing professional development required by Teach for America, including instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing and assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery, classroom management, maximizing learning for diverse students, and teaching methodologies; and

c.[3.] At least one (1) of the following in the area in which certification is sought:

i. An academic major or minor of a bachelor's degree;

ii. An academic content area of a graduate degree; or

iii. A passing score on the academic content assessment [~~in the area in~~

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~~which certification is being sought as designated by the Education Professional Standards Board}.~~

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

3.}{(e)} A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate upon the participant's successful completion of one (1) year of teaching~~{and the assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the Education Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030,}~~ and upon the recommendation of the employing school district to the Education Professional Standards Board~~[-~~

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

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

1.}{(a)} The program shall:

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

b.~~[2.]~~ Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and to mentor the candidates; and

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

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

3.~~[(e)]~~ A person who has begun a traditional path or another route~~[option]~~ for certification shall be eligible to transfer into this route~~[option]~~ if the person meets the program's requirements.

4.~~[(d)]~~ If a school district participating in a cooperative partnership determines to end the partnership, the district shall no longer accept new candidates to the program but shall continue the partnership until the district's employed candidates under this paragraph~~[for Option 9 certification]~~ complete the program or are no longer employed by the district.

(3)~~[(11)]~~ ***In addition to the alternative routes to certification established under subsection (2) of this section, there shall be a route to expand certification for a person who currently holds a professional certificate that was earned through completion of an approved college or university-based preparation program and has at least two (2) years of***

teaching experience as defined in KRS 157.320. However, a person who holds a professional certificate issued under subsection (2)(a), (b), (d), or (g) of this section shall only be eligible to expand certification under this subsection after the first renewal of the professional certificate. A person who already holds a professional certificate may expand certification:

(a) To an additional area of certification in the same grade band by possessing at least one (1) of the following in the area in which certification is sought:

1. An academic major or minor of a bachelor's degree;
2. An academic content area of a graduate degree; or
3. A passing score on the academic content assessment; and

(b) To an additional grade band in the same content area by possessing:

1. At least one (1) of the following to demonstrate content knowledge for the area in which certification is sought:
  - a. A certificate for a higher grade band;
  - b. An academic major or minor of a bachelor's degree;
  - c. An academic content area of a graduate degree; or
  - d. A passing score on the academic content assessment; and
2. At least one (1) of the following to demonstrate instructional skills:
  - a. A certificate that includes the grade band being sought; or
  - b. A passing score in any professional skill assessment for the grade band being sought.

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

(5)~~(12)~~ Subsections (1) to (3) of this section notwithstanding, a candidate who possesses the

following qualifications may receive certification for teaching programs for exceptional students:

- (a) An out-of-state license to teach exceptional students; and
- (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area for which certification is sought.

**(6) The Education Professional Standards Board shall develop and maintain a list of academic majors, academic minors, and graduate degree academic content areas and the corresponding areas for which they shall satisfy certification requirements. The list shall be published on the board's website.**

**(7) A person shall not be disqualified from seeking additional certifications through any alternative route established under subsection (2) of this section on the basis of the person already holding a professional certificate.**

**(8) For the first renewal of a professional certificate issued under subsection (2)(a), (b), (d), or (g) of this section, the Education Professional Standards Board shall require the certificate holder to submit evidence indicating the completion of trainings established or approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that train the certificate holder on items specifically mandated by statute on postsecondary institutions offering teacher preparation programs for the certificate's area. The Education Professional Standards Board shall compile a list of the specific statutory mandates and publish the list on the board's website.**

**(9) This section shall not negate the Education Professional Standards Board's authority to require a passing score on a professional skills assessment as a condition for receiving a professional certificate upon completion of an alternative route under subsection (2) of this section.**

**(10) Any academic content assessment for a certification area required under this section**

**shall be the same assessment otherwise required by the Education Professional Standards Board for initial certification in that area.**

➔Section 6. KRS 161.032 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) There is hereby created a certification incentive fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Education Professional Standards Board. The fund shall provide grants to eligible recipients for conducting institutes as described in KRS 161.048~~(2)(f)(8)~~, including the costs of salaries of institute instructors, consultants, materials, stipends and loans to participants, other costs associated with the institutes, and costs of assistance to teachers throughout their first year of teaching.
- (b) Eligible recipients of grant funds may be nonprofit organizations, institutions, and agencies, including but not limited to postsecondary education institutions, school districts, education cooperatives, and consortia of school districts.
- (c) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing standards and procedures for the grant program, including minimal participation levels and maximum grant awards.
- (2) (a) The Education Professional Standards Board shall determine priority for specific institutes.
- (b) The board shall request proposals and approve at least one (1) summer institute for the purpose described in paragraph (a) of this subsection each academic year. The institute shall be a minimum of ninety (90) clock hours, based on six (6) hour days for a three (3) week period.
- (c) Each individual who completes a summer institute shall have additional hours of formal instruction or assistance during the first year of teaching to reach the minimum number of clock hours as required in KRS 161.048~~(2)(f)2(8)(b)~~.
- (d) The candidate shall be assigned a teacher mentor by the grant recipient the first year

of teaching. Payment of the teacher mentor shall be from the grant provided under subsection (1) of this section.

- (3) (a) Individuals who are accepted into an institute shall be provided a forgivable loan incentive at the beginning of the institute to encourage their participation. The amount of the forgivable loan shall be determined by the Education Professional Standards Board. The loan shall be forgiven if the participant teaches in a Kentucky public or Kentucky Board of Education certified nonpublic school for one (1) year within the three (3) years following the awarding of the loan.
- (b) If an individual does not successfully complete the institute or teach in a qualifying Kentucky school, the loan must be repaid according to procedures promulgated in administrative regulation by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.
- (c) The Education Professional Standards Board shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to administer the forgivable loan incentive under this section. Based on the memorandum of understanding, the authority may retain a portion of the funds for administering the forgivable loan incentive. Funds recovered under provisions of this section, minus the administrative costs, shall be returned to the State Treasury.
- (4) Each individual who successfully completes a summer institute shall be awarded a stipend equal to the amount of the forgivable loan as described in subsection (3) of this section. The stipend shall be awarded at the end of the institute without restrictions.
- (5) Grant recipients and local school districts may offer financial incentives to potential participants and individuals who complete an institute from fund sources other than the grant funds.

➔Section 7. KRS 164.757 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For purposes of this section unless the context requires otherwise:

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- (a) "Critical shortage area" means an area in which there are insufficient numbers of fully certified staff in a particular subject, school, or geographic location;
  - (b) "Emergency certified teacher" means an individual who has not completed certification requirements but has been awarded a temporary certificate for a certification area in which no fully qualified teacher was available;
  - (c) "Qualified teacher" means a teacher who holds the appropriate certification for a position unless the superintendent of the employing local school district has documented evidence that the teacher is unsuitable for appointment;
  - (d) "Qualified teaching service" means teaching for at least seventy (70) days each semester or the equivalent in the certification area for which an individual received a forgivable loan in the Kentucky school district that recommended the individual for a loan or in another Kentucky private or public school district in the certification area for which an individual received a forgivable loan if no position was available in the recommending school district at the time when the individual completed his or her certification;
  - (e) "Semester" means a period which usually makes up one-half (1/2) of a school year or one-half (1/2) of a postsecondary institution's academic year; and
  - (f) "Summer term" means an academic period consisting of one (1) or more sessions of instruction between a spring and a fall semester at a postsecondary education institution.
- (2) To increase the number of qualified teachers in local school districts and to reduce the number of emergency certified teachers, there is hereby created the district teacher certification loan fund in the State Treasury. The loans shall be used to provide forgivable loans to emergency certified personnel, fully certified teachers who are willing to seek additional certification in hard-to-fill or critical shortage areas, and paraprofessionals in

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local school districts to become fully certified teachers and to continue service within the local district.

- (3) The fund shall be administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations to specify the terms and conditions of the award, cancellation, and repayment of loans, including but not limited to the maximum amount that may be loaned per term and the maximum aggregate amount per applicant, the selection process, eligibility for renewal, the specific administrative procedures for utilizing the funds, and the rate of repayment.
- (4) To qualify for a forgivable loan, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:
  - (a) Be employed by a specific local district as a certified teacher, an emergency full-time or part-time teacher, an emergency substitute teacher, or a paraprofessional at the time he or she makes application for the loan;
  - (b) Be recommended by the superintendent as an individual that he or she would recommend to be employed in a teaching position for which the applicant is pursuing certification if the applicant fulfills all credentialing requirements;
  - (c) Be endorsed by the school-based decision making council of the school in which he or she serves to receive a loan for the purposes of obtaining teacher certification in a specific certification area; except that the endorsement shall not be construed as a commitment of securing a position in the particular school in the future;
  - (d) Be admitted and enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student in a Kentucky private or public postsecondary institution that offers a teacher certification program in the area for which he or she is seeking certification; and
  - (e) Be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours and not more than nine (9) credit hours during each semester of an academic term while employed concurrently in the school district and in not less than six (6) credit hours during the summer term. If a

school district recommends an applicant for a loan under provisions of this section and grants a leave of absence to the employee to pursue certification, the employee shall be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student as defined by the institution in which he or she is enrolled.

~~(5) [A participant in a local district alternative certification program as defined in KRS 161.048(2) may be eligible for a loan under provisions of this section to offset costs associated with the program. The authority shall establish by administrative regulation the specific requirements, notwithstanding requirements in subsection (4) of this section.~~

~~(6)~~ A loan shall not be awarded or a promissory note cancellation shall not be granted to any person who is in default on any obligation to the authority under any program administered pursuant to KRS 164.740 to 164.785 until financial obligations to the authority are satisfied, except that ineligibility for this reason may be waived by the authority for cause.

~~(6)~~~~(7)~~ Recipients shall render one (1) semester of qualified teaching service for each semester or summer term for which a loan was received. Upon completion of each semester of qualified teacher service, the authority shall cancel the appropriate portion of the promissory notes.

~~(7)~~~~(8)~~ If the recipient of a loan fails to complete the certification at a participating institution or fails to render qualified teaching service in any semester following certification, unless the failure is temporarily waived for cause by the authority, the recipient shall immediately become liable to the authority for repayment of the sum of all outstanding promissory notes and accrued interest. Persons liable for repayment of loans under this subsection shall be liable for interest accruing from the dates on which the loans were disbursed.

~~(8)~~~~(9)~~ Failure to meet repayment obligations imposed by this section shall be cause for the revocation of a person's certification, subject to the procedures set forth in KRS 161.120.

~~(9)~~~~(10)~~ All moneys repaid to the authority under this section shall be added to the fund in this

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section. Any fund balance at the close of a fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year and continuously appropriated for the purposes specified in this section.

~~(10)~~~~(11)~~ The authority may execute appropriate contracts and promissory notes for administering this section.

~~(11)~~~~(12)~~ If available funds are insufficient for all requested loans for eligible applicants during any fiscal year, the authority shall give priority consideration to eligible applicants who previously received loans. If funds are insufficient to make all requested renewal loans to eligible applicants, the authority shall reduce all loans to the extent necessary to provide loans to all qualified renewal applicants. If, after awarding all eligible renewal applicants, funds are not depleted, priority shall be given to loans for those applicants who are seeking certification in critical shortage areas.

➔Section 8. The following KRS section is repealed:

161.049 Professional support teams -- Training program -- Alternate training program. "