

Certification: *Subtle Changes, Major Implications*

KASA Annual Institute

July 18, 2013

Louisville, KY



We try to keep it the same, but...

- Increasing national emphasis continues regarding teacher quality
- Proliferation of easily accessible on-line options available to every educator
- Need for some central agency to assure the quality of these on-line programs
- Continuing emphasis on teacher-student accountability links (and usage of LEAD report to provide that linkage)
- Ongoing budget cuts which affect all of us

TC-4 process has been useful

- Major change in Certification has been the TC-4 process
- TC 4 applications went on-line for the first time statewide
- Over 8500 new people in KY became certified via EPSB

Lessons Learned from TC-4s

- We learned that some districts had not been:
 - Completing the paper forms annually
 - Looking at the GPA of the applicant
 - Realizing that a Bachelors' degree negated the need to look at the GPA
 - Giving the applicants the instruction sheet to create an EPSB account and complete TC-4
 - Anyone who has EVER held a regular teaching certificate/SOE should NOT use the TC-4
 - Applicant should submit a TC-2, copy of cert, along with \$15 fee (receive 5-year sub certificate)

Lessons Learned from TC-4s

- Please include the EPSB applicant instruction sheet in any mailings throughout the year
- Realize that the only way a candidate can stop those incessant e-mails is to notify YOU that they are no longer interested in being an emergency sub (we have added this to the e-mail sent to applicants when approved)
- Edit the applicant's demographics locally via the Reports tab...this includes e-mail addresses

Changes to “out-of-state” reg

16 KAR 4:030 now clarifies that applicants for KY TEACHER certification MUST:

- (a) Possess a teacher license or certificate equivalent to the Kentucky statement of eligibility from the state, territory, or province where the applicant completed his or her preparation program;
- (b) Satisfy the degree, academic preparation, and grade point requirements established in 16 KAR 2:010;
- (c) Provide evidence that the out-of-state license or certificate was obtained by completion of an approved educator preparation program and *not based on the completion of a written or verbal assessment*;

Changes to “out-of-state” reg

16 KAR 4:030 now clarifies that applicants for KY PRINCIPAL certification MUST:

- a) Possess an administrative license or certificate equivalent to the Kentucky corresponding statement of eligibility or administrative certificate from the state, territory, or province where the applicant completed his or her preparation program;
- (b) Satisfy the degree, academic preparation, and grade point requirements for the administrative certificate established in 16 KAR Chapter 3;
- (c) Provide evidence that the out-of-state license or certificate was obtained by completion of an approved educator preparation program consisting of a minimum of thirty (30) post Masters’ graduate-level hours in school administration **(There is a two-year exemption here for veteran out-of-state principals.)**

Those admitted to a principal prep program prior to January 1, 2012 and who complete the program prior to January 31, 2014 are exempt from subsection (1)(c) of this section.

Use of out-of-state on-line programs

- The noose continues to tighten on them in KY
- Think about the implications just presented in the previous regulation change
 - Certificate is gained in another state
 - Praxis (or other) tests will be different
 - NO guarantee for a rank change (unique concept to KY)
- EPSB won't "pre-approve" them
- My best advice...just don't!

Renewal vs. Reissuance

Renewal of a certificate only occurs with those certs that are continuing in nature, i.e., Professional certificates

- Educators have until September 1 of the expiration year to complete renewal requirements

Reissuance occurs with one year certificates and there is no guarantee that the certificate will be issued from year to year

- This concept covers all certificates EXCEPT the Professional

This distinction clearly has implications for districts when issuing “assurance” types of letters each spring

Changes to Principal Programs

- All KY principal preparation programs ceased to exist on December 31, 2011 (Master's level)
- Everyone entering after January 1, 2012 is in a 30-hour POST-Master's preparation program
- You likely will see plenty of candidates for next couple of years; then it may tail off a bit
- Everyone in old programs must complete those programs by January 30, 2014
- **All who only hold LEVEL I Principal certificates MUST complete Level II before above date**
 - We sent letters to all Level I holders in Feb & Dec 2012 w/final letter going out this fall

“Who’s talking to OEA?”

- Clearly this year it has been those who were not hired, especially for principal positions
- Principal candidates without assessments are troublesome
 - Can be hired on a “Temporary” 1-year certificate if certain conditions are met, but should they be sent in the hiring pool?
- **HR managers should control the applicant pool centrally**
- Allowing school-based applicant searches is the **#1** ROOT reason we get inquiries from our friends at OEA
- **#2** reason is hiring teachers who do not yet have a certificate for the position
 - Do not overcommit with contract offers w/o certification
 - Put cert requirements in job descriptions and follow them

Let's see what you know...

and where to find it

- **How do I apply for a Kentucky teaching certificate?**
- **I was trained out-of-state. How do I apply for a Kentucky teaching certificate?**
- **I was trained out-of-country. How do I apply for a Kentucky teaching certificate?**
- **Does Kentucky have full reciprocity regarding teaching certification?**

Let's see what you know...

and where to find it

- How do I renew my certificate?
- My Statement of Eligibility has expired, and I have not completed an internship. What should I do?
- How do I request a copy of my current certificate?
- What do I need to do to add areas to my certificate?
- Are these fabulous presentations on-line anywhere?

HELP US HELP YOU BY USING....
<http://www.epsb.ky.gov/certification/index.asp>
(Certification Q&A on our website)

What are ways to “hang on” to a certificate?

- **What is an extension, and how can teachers get them?**
 - Must have 1/3 of the renewal requirement
 - Cannot be used on a one-year type of certificate
 - Only get these ONE time in a career
- **What is re-issuance?**
 - Similar to above except cannot be done without a “break” in certification
- **What is recency?**
 - Initial KY applicants must have prepared as a teacher within the past five years
 - EPSB can issue a ONE-year certification pending completion of 6 new graduate hours at end of that year

Finally, a word about rank changes...

- Governed by KRS 161.1211
- Many more questions when September 15 falls on weekends
- To our office, we ensure that every case we can work IS worked by end of day on September 15
- BUT, we begin working any others just the same on September 16, i.e., if the course work was completed before September 1, the rank change WILL BE EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1
- Statute states that “...rank shall be **determined** on September 15 of each year”

Just a few more words about rank changes...

- The issue to consider is that the new certificate with the rank change will be dated on July 1
- What approach would your district have IF that same person had been teaching since August 1, but just got the paperwork to complete the KY certificate (*effective back to July 1*) on September 18?
- It seems to me that the situation is the same...for what that is worth
- What about local board mid-year rank change policies?
- Disclaimer!!--I am not an attorney (But they call me for an opinion on this statute)

What is “approved” for Rank I?

Section 1. The preparation program for a Rank I classification shall require the completion of the following:

(1) Completion of the requirements for a Rank II classification as established in 16 KAR 8:020; **and**

(2) The completion of one (1) of the plans described in this subsection:

(a) Plan I. Thirty (30) semester hours of **approved** graduate level credit or approved equivalent;

(b) Plan II. Sixty (60) semester hours of **approved** graduate level credit or approved equivalent including a master's degree;

(c) Plan III. National Board Certification issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; or

(d) Plan IV. Equivalent continuing education with evidence of continuous progress as required by the continuing education option for certificate renewal and rank change established in 16 KAR 8:030.

What is “approved” for Rank I?

- “Approved” must be approved by the EPSB (this is the only entity in KY which may approve IHE programs for rank change)
- The EPSB only can approve in-state programs
- “Approved” programs (by EPSB) are constituted by “approved” hours
- “Approved” hours are only approved IF they result in the completion of an COMPLETE “approved” program

Happening this summer...

- Changes in teacher preparation requirements both regular and alternative routes
 - Raised standards for ENTRY GPA (2.5 to 2.75), and Praxis I tests for basic skills for ENTRY into teacher education programs
 - **This may slow down availability time for alternative route candidates in the summer**
 - 200 contact hours within schools for teacher education students (need for more placements in your schools)
 - Increase in mentoring requirement for alternative route teachers to 15 hours per year (vs. 15 hours over two years), and this has payment implications for universities
 - Written plan for universities and districts on these teachers re: how mentoring will take place, who pays, etc.
 - Co-teaching models being implemented statewide for student teaching experiences (3-hour trainings required for cooperating teachers)

On the horizon in the future...

- Special Education Certificate and Preparation Changes
 - Looking at types of current special education certificates and how/if they should be modified
 - How to make more LBD teachers meet HQT requirements upon graduation
- Literacy Instruction for all new teachers
- Preparation programs for delivering on-line instruction

Call or e-mail anytime

Cindy Godsey: 502-782-2133 / cindy.godsey@ky.gov

Certification (Classical Music) Help Line: 502-564-5846

Certification General E-mail: dcert@epsb.ky.gov

TC-4 Inquiries: EPSBTC4@epsb.ky.gov

HQ Questions: EPSBHQ@epsb.ky.gov

