

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Education Professional Standards Board

COPY: EPSB Education Partners
EPSB Staff

FROM: Phillip S. Rogers, Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2007

SUBJECT: March EPSB Update

Mission Statement

The Education Professional Standards Board promotes high levels of student achievement by establishing and enforcing rigorous professional standards for preparation, certification, and responsible and ethical behavior of all professional educators in Kentucky.

Confirmation of New Board Members

I am very pleased to announce that all five of our new EPSB members were recommended for confirmation by the Senate Education Committee. As you would expect, all five did an excellent job. I must say that in seven years of sitting in confirmation hearings I have never heard applause after a board member gave his or her opening remarks, but the room erupted in applause when Zenaida Smith related her journey from Panama to her place in a Kentucky classroom. We had several comments from Senators on the quality of the persons on the EPSB – something that I have known for some time. Thanks Cynthia, Zenaida, Frank, Becky, and Jennifer.

Updates on New Teachers and Principals

For school year 2007, 3,420 interns are in the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP). Of the total, 464 completed their internships this past December, and 502 began their internships in January, leaving 2,454 full year interns. To provide some historical context, here are the counts for the last few years:

SY 2004 – 2,692

SY 2005 – 3,156

SY 2006 – 3,492

In case you don't want to do the math, this reflects a 27% increase in new teachers since SY2004.

The number of new principals is also up, with a total of 270 new principals participating in the Kentucky Principal Internship Program (KPIP).

March Sunday Evening Study Session

Prior to our March meeting, we will again have a Sunday evening study session. The session will convene at 4:00 p.m. (EDT) and will focus on the accreditation process for Kentucky's educator preparation programs. There will be a review of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards, Specialty Organizations, the NCATE Partnership and Protocol. The state program review process will be presented along with the regulation that governs the process and the committees involved in the review of programs and the training required. Decision rules will be reviewed, and an explanation will be provided of the role of the Board of Examiners and Accreditation Audit Committee in advising the board on accreditation decisions. Staff will also discuss changes to the regulation already proposed and others that may be necessary as we move toward the review of the redesigned master's and principal preparation programs this fall.

As customary, we will retire to Johnny Carino's after our study session to top off the study material with some delicious pasta.

Redesign of Master's Programs Used for Rank Change

The Kentucky Teaching Standards and Indicators Committee held a full day meeting February 15 during which members completed a rough draft of all Kentucky Teaching Standards and Indicators. Another full day meeting is scheduled for March at which time the committee will begin editing and formatting the document for public comment. The final draft of the standards and indicators will be ready for board review at the May EPSB meeting.

The Program Review and Approval Guidelines Committee met for a full day on February 5, 2007 and completed a draft copy which was presented to the board at the EPSB Winter Retreat. Suggestions submitted by board members have now been included. The committee will have one last review of the revised draft before it is distributed for public comment. The final draft of the standards and indicators will be ready for board review at the May EPSB meeting.

Principal Redesign Task Force

The principal preparation program workgroup has developed the admission and practicum criteria and is in the process of developing the curriculum guidelines. The major issue with curriculum is deciding on standards. The Interstate School Leadership Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standards are under revision and will not be available to the public until June 2007.

During the EPSB Winter Retreat, board members advised the work group to not let available resources influence their program design proposal. The EPSB desires a clinical model of principal preparation that current funding does not support; nevertheless, the

board does not want current funding to influence the workgroup's design model. Other suggestions that will be shared with the preparation work group include focusing on evidence, rigor, qualifications, demonstration of ability to teach P-12 students, and on-site observations.

The professional development and working conditions work group is focused on three key issues: accountability and quality control for professional development for administrators, the Leadership Academy, and standards for practice/statement of eligibility. The work group plans to make recommendations regarding the EILA approval process, the alignment of PD standards to key principal competencies, and the creation of a data warehousing/tracking system to monitor/assess the relationship of professional development and its possible impact on student achievement. Some of the early work of the PD work group has focused on making recommendations for the Leadership Academy, a professional development opportunity for principals with oversight provided by the Council on Post-Secondary Education. A draft of recommendations for standards for practice/statement of eligibility has been developed and is ready for review and discussion by the PD work group. The group will convene again on March 16th, prior to the total ELR Task Force meeting.

The principal induction workgroup finalized language stipulating the importance of the **School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council** and the superintendent to work together to select effective principals for every Kentucky school. The workgroup established the required skills for full-time mentors and identified the need to use cohorts to support new principals. Additional discussion focused on the inclusion of language in the final ELR report to address the need for universities to expand the use of service in tenure and promotion decisions.

The doctoral program review workgroup of the Education Leadership Redesign Task Force has finished collecting surveys for both prospective candidates and employers. At the subcommittee's most recent meeting, these data were analyzed and a draft report was completed. The survey yielded a strong response rate, with nearly 1,300 potential candidates and approximately 400 persons from the potential employer e-mail lists responding. The subcommittee's report will use survey results to address topics such as potential need for doctoral programs, general guidelines for such programs, and recommendations for how state resources can best be used for establishing new doctoral programs.

SREB District and University Partnerships Training

The common thread woven throughout the redesign of both the master's degree programs for rank change and the principal preparation programs is the real collaboration of districts and the universities. As I told you during the winter retreat, I believe passionately that this collaboration will bring about the type of change you are seeking in Kentucky's advanced rank change programs and in principal preparation. Such a shared approach to preparation holds promise because it brings relevancy to the preparation experience. Our preparation programs and districts will become partners: for the

university that means the courses will be relevant and applicable to the real work of educators; for the districts, it means the insertion of best practices and research-based practice—a real win-win relationship.

As I commented during the winter retreat, this type of redesign will not come without push back. I anticipate that some districts and universities will resist the necessary adjustments to reach this clinical approach to preparing teacher leaders and school administrators. I believe that my conversation with you confirmed your resolve toward this sharing of the responsibilities for preparing educators.

Our first step is to help districts and universities learn how this collaboration works. On March 8 and 9 the EPSB is sponsoring the SREB training for district and university partnerships. As of this date, we have 53 district and university staff coming to Lexington for this important – indeed groundbreaking – training. I will have an update for you at the March EPSB meeting.

STEM Task Force Meeting

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Task Force met again on February 28 at the Council on Postsecondary Education offices in Frankfort. Currently seven draft recommendations have been circulated among the members for review, as well as a draft of a concurrent resolution to submit to the General Assembly for adoption.

As you know, this task force is being led by University of Kentucky President Dr. Lee Todd. Dr. Todd recently testified before the Senate Education Committee and did a great job of reminding the legislature that we must all take responsibility for preparing Kentucky's young people for the jobs of the 21st Century.

I will keep you informed of the progress of the task force and, once the recommendations are ready for circulation, I will forward those to you.

Update on EPSB Technology

Social Security Numbers will no longer be printed on certificates. Each individual entered into EPSB data systems is assigned a nine-digit person identifier which is linked to all data about the applicant. We are working with KDE and school districts to begin to use the EPSB ID rather than a Social Security Number in other applications.

New online security features are being implemented to include password validation and questions with hint answers on the EPSB system. The questions/hint answers will enable users to recover their passwords in a more efficient manner. The current method sends an e-mail after an applicant makes a request. Because SPAM e-mails have caused a burden on school districts' e-mail systems, an e-mail could take anywhere from 4-5 days to be delivered. Such a delay usually results in our clients' having to contact EPSB to reset their passwords.

Automation of data sharing with the Kentucky Virtual Campus (formerly the KY Virtual University) is being developed by EPSB Information Systems Branch personnel. As most of you know, KYVC is home to our KyEducators website. Very soon we will eliminate the manual process of moving data from KyEducators to the EPSB data system. This will save many hours of staff time and provide more timely data within the EPSB system.

VAAM Conference

Since the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), federal efforts in the P-12 arena have emphasized objective measures of educational system performance. This has increasingly meant federal pressure on states to adopt longitudinal models that measure the performance of education system components – schools, district, teachers, and teacher training programs – in terms of the academic gains of P-12 students. It has become clear to the various partners in the education enterprise in Kentucky – EPSB, KDE, CPE, and the universities – that we will need to develop and adopt a longitudinal system in the near future. How to organize such a system and what methodologies to use remain unclear. For this reason, the EPSB has joined the University of Kentucky in a project to evaluate the various approaches to the problem and to educate significant policymakers and other interested parties about the nature of these value-added assessment models (VAAM). This project will:

1. Consult with national experts on VAA methodology.
2. Test various methodologies, using a common data set created for this purpose.
3. Conduct an informational conference in June 2007 for various parties with an interest in the technology.

I will keep you informed as the specifics of the conference are confirmed.

K-ITEP Update

One of the efforts that came out of the recent EPSB Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant was the Kentucky – Information Technology in Educator Preparation (K-ITEP) group. Led by our own Dr. Melissa Miracle, this group continues to meet and move along a very active agenda for the shared use and benefit of technology between EPSB and our education partners. Here are a couple of the recent activities of this important committee:

1. American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) technology conference (July 15- 17 in Minneapolis, MN): K-ITEP will submit a proposal to present at this conference. The group also discussed presenting at the spring KACTE meeting and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Kennesaw State University conference and presented as a group at the February AACTE conference in New York City.

2. The national Data Quality Campaign (DQC) initiative will be used to help create Value Added Assessment Systems for both P-12 and college/department of education assessment. K-ITEP tries to maintain an awareness of what is going on nationally with groups like DQC so the group can continue to educate the teacher preparation leadership concerning these initiatives and their implications.

Kentucky Technology and Learning Conference

Once again EPSB staff will be displaying our booth at the annual Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference. EPSB staff will be there to answer questions for teachers and administrators during the March 7-9 conference.

Bowling for Kids Sake

EPSB staff members are gearing up and securing sponsors for the 2007 Bowl for Kids' Sake to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Bluegrass. EPSB teams will bowl on Friday, March 9 during their lunch hour and enjoy complimentary pizza and sandwiches from area businesses. The teams are set and our agency staff members are looking forward to once again supporting the Big Brothers and Big Sisters by Bowling for Kids. While I was a "pity pick", I am now a member of Sharon Salsman's team. Our goal is to raise more than the \$2,130 we raised last year. We always have a lot of fun for a very worthy cause.

Meetings, Conferences, Etc.

March 1 – Senate Education Committee meeting
March 1 – Ethics Seminar at Kentucky Christian University
March 2 – March agenda books mailed to EPSB
March 2 – SAPEC meeting
March 2 – Midway College accreditation visit
March 5 – St. Catharine's pre-visit
March 6 – House Education Committee meeting
March 7 – EPSB Leadership meeting
March 7 – GRREC meeting
March 7 – Ethics Seminar at Centre College
March 8/9 – SREB District and Universities Collaboration training
March 8/9 – KTLC
March 8 – NBPTS Hill Day
March 8 – Senate Education Committee meeting
March 9 – BB/BS Bowling for Kid's Sake
March 9/10 – NASDTEC Regional meeting
March 14 – NKCES meeting
March 15 – SAELP work group meeting
March 16 – ELR Task Force meeting

March 16 – Math Committee meeting
March 16 – World Language Task Force meeting
March 18 – EPSB Sunday Evening Study Session
March 19 – EPSB meeting
March 20 – EPSB Leadership meeting
March 20 – SE/SC meeting
March 20 – Education Coalition meeting
March 21 – P-16 meeting
March 21 -- Kentucky Eligibility Guidelines for Speech and Language Taskforce
March 21 – CKEC meeting
March 21 – KEDC meeting
March 22 – Kentucky Teacher Standards and Indicators meeting
March 26 – CARC meeting
March 27 – Reading Committee meeting
March 27 – 2007 General Assembly Sine Die Day 30
March 28 – OVEC meeting
March 28 – WKEC meeting

FYI: Acronyms and abbreviations:

AACTE – American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
AIKCU – Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities
CCSLP – Commonwealth Collaborative for School Leadership Programs
CEO – Continuing Education Option
CKEC – Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative
CPE – Council on Post-Secondary Education
DEP – Division of Educator Preparation
EAARS – Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee
ECS -- Education Commission of the States
ELDC – Education Leadership Development Cooperative
ELR – Educational Leader Redesign Task Force
GRREC – Green River Region Educational Cooperative
IECE – Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education
KACTE – Kentucky Association of Colleges for Teacher Educators
KASA – Kentucky Association of School Administrators
KASC – Kentucky Association of School Councils
KATC - Kentucky Academy of Technology Education
KBE – Kentucky Board of Education
KECC – Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign
KEDC – Kentucky Education Development Cooperative
KEN – Kentucky Education Network
K-ITEP -- Kentucky – Information Technology in Educator Preparation
KPIP – Kentucky Principal Internship Program
KySTE - Kentucky Society for Technology in Education
KEDC – Kentucky Education Development Cooperative
LEAD – Local Educator Assignment Data
NASDTEC – National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification
NBPTS – National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
NCATE – National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
NCTAF – National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future

NKCES – Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services

OVEC – Ohio Valley Education Cooperative

SAELP – State Action for Education Leadership Project

SAPEC -- State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children

SESC – Southeast South Central Education Cooperative

SREB – Southern Region Education Board

TPA – Teacher Performance Assessments

TQEG – Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant

WKEC – Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative