

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Education Professional Standards Board
COPY: EPSB Education Partners
EPSB Staff
FROM: Phillip S. Rogers, Executive Director
DATE: May 1, 2011
SUBJECT: May 2011 EPSB Update

Mission Statement

The Education Professional Standards Board, in full collaboration and cooperation with its education partners, 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.

Worth Remembering

"The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism." -- Norman Vincent Peale

Update: InTASC Model Teaching Standards

The InTASC Model Teaching Standards are slated to be publicly released at the April 28 State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness (SCEE) Summit. Originally the standards were to be released on March 29. Due to the installment of twenty new chief state school officers since the draft standards were released in July of 2010, InTASC staff stated they needed more time to brief and garner support from the new chiefs.

Once the InTASC Model Teaching Standards are officially released, EPSB division directors Kim Walters-Parker and Robert Brown will co-chair a review committee to review the current Kentucky Teacher Standards (KTS) and the InTASC Model Teaching Standards. The work will include ways to update and improve the Kentucky Teacher Standards, identifying indicators from the InTASC model that will provide additional support and clarity for teachers.

SB1 Update: Kentucky Teacher Internship Program Alignment

The fall 2011 version of the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) Handbook has been forwarded to the Kentucky Advisory Council for Internship (KACI) and the 2009 SB1 and KTIP Committee for final review. Additionally, a group of interns and resource teachers will also review the document to ensure that the guidelines are clear.

The TPA Handbook is being redesigned to align more closely with the mandates of the 2009 SB1. The handbook includes clearer directions and examples to assist new teachers in analyzing school level data as required by the performance tasks. A table of contents checklist allows for a more uniform process that all interns follow in developing the TPA notebook.

Professional Learning and Assessment staff members are creating a PowerPoint presentation to update all committee members on the changes to the handbook. The plan is to provide this training in multiple sessions via webinars which will be saved for use by KTIP District Coordinators and beginning teacher committee members.

Presentation at National Summit on Educator Effectiveness

I was honored to participate on a panel at the National Summit on Educator Effectiveness sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in Washington, DC. The panel addressed the use of tiered state certification and licensure to attract, prepare, and support effective teachers.

FYI: Reading and Literacy Specialist Endorsements

EPSB now offers both a Reading Endorsement and a Literacy Specialist endorsement to provide options for educators with different interests in addressing literacy needs in schools. The Reading Endorsement emphasizes preparation to teach reading in a classroom setting. The Literacy Specialist Endorsement addresses not only classroom instruction but also identifying and addressing reading difficulties as well as coaching skills for working with peers. The Educator Preparation Division is working collaboratively with several institutions that are developing program proposals. Other interested institutions are encouraged to contact the Director of the Division of Educator Preparation, Kim Walters-Parker, for similar guidance.

FYI: Use of Real-time Application Status Encouraged During Rush Season

Around June 1, the Division of Certification will move to its summer schedule with only two consultants available each day for phone calls. This is done to give the most uninterrupted time possible to the five consultants processing certificates. District HR staff are encouraged to use the EPSB website for the real time status of any certification paperwork sent to EPSB. This may be accessed by simply logging on at www.epsb.ky.gov and looking for the link titled "Check My Application Status." Using this tool eliminates many phone calls to the consultants, which will allow for faster processing of certificates.

NCATE and TEAC to Consolidate

The two major educator preparation accrediting bodies, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), continue their consolidation toward forming the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The EPSB is actively monitoring the implications for educator preparation in Kentucky. In March, Allison Bell and Kim Walters-Parker attended the NCATE Regional Institutional Orientation Conference to learn more about the plans for consolidation.

A primary area of interest for Kentucky educator preparation institutions is how CAEP's accreditation options will affect the state program approval and accreditation processes. The Program Accreditation and Review Committee (PARC), which is set to begin its work in late spring or early summer, will work with EPSB staff to evaluate those options and make recommendations to the board. PARC comprises representatives of Kentucky educator preparation institutions and organizations as well as other EPSB partners.

FYI: Teach For America to Begin in Eastern Kentucky Districts

Teach For America (TFA), a nationwide non-profit organization focused on closing the achievement gaps among students in low-income areas, is set to begin working in selected Eastern Kentucky counties during the 2010-11 school year. TFA hopes to recruit about 30 candidates via its screening process and prepare them for teaching via Option 8, a new alternative certification route approved by the General Assembly in the 2009 session. More information on TFA may be found at its website: www.teachforamerica.org.

FYI: Pilot of On-line Certification of Emergency Substitute Teachers

The EPSB Division of Certification will begin piloting an online certification system for emergency substitute teachers in May. Human resource staff from Jefferson and Fayette counties will come to Frankfort on May 20 to meet with EPSB staff members who will create the new online process. This system will mandate that TC-4 (emergency substitute teacher) applicants create an account with the EPSB and work with districts to enter their applications online each year. It will ensure that each candidate is checked against the NASDTEC Clearinghouse, which holds information on previous teacher certification problems in other states.

It is hoped that these first two districts will begin entering their TC-4 applications into the system in late May. Once the pilot project is deemed successful, all districts will be converted to this process in the coming months. Districts will be notified when that time comes. The EPSB IT branch has spent many months perfecting this system, so a successful launch is anticipated in May with the state's two largest districts. Many thanks to our IT Branch manager Scott Smith and his staff Mihir Pathak, Darren Stewart, Phillip Mills, Rashi Sivaraman, and Thomas Allen for their work on this project.

FYI: New Praxis II Elementary Education Assessment

Kentucky has joined several other states to collaborate with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) in the development of a new elementary content knowledge test -- the Praxis II Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Assessment (EE:MS). The computer-delivered assessment consists of four separately timed subtests: reading and language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition to an overall composite score, ETS will provide separate scores for each of the four subject areas.

A multistate standard setting study (SSS) is scheduled for this summer. Participants in the multistate SSS will review the assessment, provide independent judgments, and engage in panel-wide discussions regarding the minimum scores needed to be considered qualified to enter the profession. After the multistate SSS panel, each state will decide for itself whether to adopt the test and, if so, the corresponding passing score requirements. ETS is seeking representatives from Kentucky to serve on the multistate SSS team to determine whether to hold a state-specific review of the test. The state-specific review panel will then make a recommendation whether to adopt the test for Kentucky teacher certification.

FYI: Renewal Time for Certificates

Superintendents are asked to check with their human resources office to ensure that all certified personnel are receiving timely notification concerning any certificates that expire on June 30, 2011. This is the best time of year for renewals to be processed by EPSB staff as there is very little wait time right now. Thanks to districts who are already informing their personnel about expirations, thereby avoiding the summer rush.

The End of Emergency Certificate Re-issuance

Please remember that next school year will be the first in which no teacher who has previously held a full-time Emergency Certificate may receive another such certificate. Districts should be planning for this new regulation and identifying those teachers within the district who are working on emergency certificates. If the district wishes to employ these teachers during 2011-12, plans must be made this spring to get them into an alternative certification program or add the additional area via the TC-HQ route. Information on this change in the regulation has been sent to superintendents and HR personnel since the regulation was passed in the spring of 2010; however, the implementation date for this provision was set for this June to allow districts to prepare for the change.

FYI: EPSB Staff Member to Serve on Panel

Jaime Rice, testing consultant in the division of Professional Learning and Assessment, has been invited to serve as a panelist at the ETS Client Conference on May 4. She will be joined by representatives from three other states to discuss the process of working with ETS in designing state-specific tests or in migrating state-designed tests to ETS. Since ETS has worked closely with the EPSB in the migration of both the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) assessment and the Kentucky Specialty Test of Instructional and Administrative Practices (KYPT), ETS would like to highlight our experience at the conference.

Update: EPSB Going Green

We continue to move forward with drastically reducing the amount of paper we use in printing the board agenda book and the educator misconduct docket for each of the six EPSB regular meetings per year. With an average printing cost of about \$900 and average mailing costs of \$75, we should realize an annual savings of about \$5,850 (as well as a few trees). We hope to be fully electronic by the fall.

FYI: State Employee Furlough Period: May 16-30

Please note that the EPSB will be closed on Friday, May 27, in observance of a statewide furlough day as a budget balancing measure. The offices will also be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

FYI: Meetings, Conferences, Etc.

- May 5 – Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative Teacher Recruitment Fair
- May 10 – Principal Program Redesign Committee meeting
- May 10 – Southeast/South Central Educational Cooperative meeting
- May 11 – Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services
- May 13 – Agency-wide staff meeting
- May 13 – Committee for Mathematics Achievement

May 13 – Ethics presentation at Morehead State University
May 15 – EPSB orientation for new members (no business conducted)
May 16 – Regular meeting of the EPSB
May 17 – Committee for the Review of Cut Scores on Assessments meeting
May 17/20 – NCATE annual state partner meeting
May 18 – Kentucky Educational Development Corporation meeting
May 19 – EPSB leadership staff meeting
May 20 – Meeting with pilot districts for online TC-4 applications
May 25 – Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative meeting
May 25 – Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative meeting
May 25 – Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative meeting
May 28 – State-wide furlough day (EPSB closed)
May 30 – Memorial Day (EPSB closed)
May 31 – EPSB staff leadership meeting