



Educator Preparation Branch Updates: Spring 2026

February 2026

So, what's this newsletter all about?

Welcome to the Kentucky Department of Education's official Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness EPP newsletter!

We are pleased to introduce this biannual newsletter, developed to inform and share important updates with our educator preparation partners (EPPs). This publication will serve as a consistent source of timely information, resources and announcements from our office.

As we progress throughout the year, we ask that all EPPs continue to track, evaluate and analyze their education program data as normal. These insights play a vital role in strengthening educator preparation across our Commonwealth.

Our new Ed Prep Survey will be sent to each institution's EPP contact one month before every newsletter release. This survey is an invitation for EPPs to share updates about their programs, offer feedback for our team and raise any questions or concerns related to our Educator Preparation Branch. We look forward to hearing from you and staying connected through your input.

We appreciate your ongoing partnership and encourage you to **subscribe below** to receive future updates from our branch.

Fall Edition coming August 2026!

Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness: Educator Preparation

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Announcements

Upcoming Events

Educators Rising Kentucky State Conference

- March 5 in Louisville, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. ET

You're invited! The Educators Rising Kentucky State Conference is a dynamic event that connects middle and high school students, EPP students and education leaders to inspire Kentucky's future educators. [EPP students are invited to serve as competition judges](#) for hands-on experience and statewide networking.

If you are interested in attending, please contact [Bree Massie](#), Educators Rising state coordinator.

The KDE Division of Educator Recruitment and Development team would really appreciate the extra help, and they are excited for the impact this collaboration will have on this event.

Newly Accredited Programs

Each program is approved through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)*

- Northern Kentucky University (NKU) - Approved by CAEP
- Western Kentucky University (WKU) - Approved by CAEP

Congratulations to NKU and WKU for passing with no areas for improvement!

Annual Verification and Reporting

Each year, educator preparation providers (EPPs) must verify the accuracy of their institutional and program information to ensure compliance and program quality.

Required verifications include:

- Faculty and staff rosters and qualifications
- Accreditation status and upcoming review timelines
- Student admissions and exit data for the current year
- Program completers for the past three years (by program)
- Pass rates on required assessments
- A verified list of qualified content review experts
- Compliance with applicable state statutes and regulations

Annual Report:

EPPs must submit an annual report documenting updates, data practices, analyses and innovations across six areas:

1. Candidate Admission and Progression
2. Standards and Coursework
3. Pedagogy
4. Clinical Practice
5. Program Assessments
6. Continuous Improvement

KDE staff will review all reports and may take action if findings indicate concerns with program quality or capacity.

New Program Approvals

Approved fall 2025 teacher education programs:

- **Boyce College:** English as a Second Language
- **Campbellsville University:** Moderate to Severe Disabilities
 - Option 9 Schools: Meade County and Warren County
- **Continuing Education Option Plan II Proposals:**
 - Schools: Ballard County, Carlisle County, Graves County, Hickman County, Marshall County, Murray Independent and Paducah Independent.
- **Kentucky Christian University:** Master of Arts in Teaching, Learning and Behavior Disorders
- **Midway University:** Master of Arts in Teaching
- **Morehead State University:** Updated Proficiency Plan
- **Northern Kentucky University:** Learning and Behavior Disorders

- **Thomas More University:** School Principal
- **Union Commonwealth University:** Principal
- **University of the Cumberlands:**
 - *Option 9 Schools:* Bourbon County, Clinton County, Henderson County, Hopkins County, Jackson County, Jefferson County, Leslie County, Mayfield Independent, Meade County, Covington Independent, Russell Independent, Southeast South-Central Educational Cooperative and Woodford County
- **University of Pikeville:** Master of Arts in Teaching
- **Western Kentucky University:** English as a Second Language

Program Review Committee

The Program Review Committee (PRC) is composed of individuals recommended by OELE and appointed by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB).

Approved Program Review members independently review and examine all new program proposals. This includes documentation from the staff reviews and content reviews from our Content Review Committee.

The PRC comes together as one to determine if the institutional proposal, content reviews and institutional responses require further review or if all questions about the program have been resolved.

The PRC meets virtually six times a year to discuss and review the institutional programs that have been submitted and complete their initial reviews. Based on their review and discussion, programs are recommended to go before the EPSB for approval or are recommended for further review.

If you are interested in serving in this role, please fill out and submit the Google Form indicating your area(s) of expertise. Thank you!

Program Review Committee Member Interest Form

Content Review Committee

The Content Review Committee is comprised of content review professionals with expertise in various teacher preparation program content areas.

These members help KDE's OELE team review new programs to ensure the program content adequacy of preparation and alignment of programs to Specialized Professional Association Standards, Kentucky Academic Standards, Kentucky Teacher Performance Standards, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation Standards.

If you are interested in serving on the Content Review Committee for Educator Preparation Programs, please fill out the Google form below.

Content Reviewer Interest Form

Continued Programs

Congratulations to the following institutions whose continuing programs were approved by the Accreditation Audit Committee and EPSB in October 2025.

- Spalding University
- Berea College
- Bellarmine University
- Campbellsville University
- Franklin University

Continued Program Review Process

Step 1: KDE/EPSB Compliance Review to see if program meets current regulations (16 KAR 5.010, 16 KAR 5.020 and 16 KAR 5040).

Step 2: Complete the "continued program" section in the [KECS Program Manager System](#).

Step 3: Demonstrate Mastery in the Six Domains to be approved for Step 4.

- a. Candidate Admissions & Progressions (16 KAR 5:020)
- b. Coursework (16 KAR 5:010)
- c. Pedagogy (16 KAR 5:020)
- d. Clinical Practice (16 KAR 5:040)
- e. Performance Assessment (16 KAR 5:010)
- f. Continuous Improvement (16 KAR 5:010)

Step 4: Select a peer reviewing institution from the KDE-approved list.

Step 5: KDE/EPSB Scoring Report based on Peer Institution Feedback

- a. Exemplary
- b. Meets
- c. Insufficient

Step 6: Presentation: Provide an overview of the ed prep programs using feedback on the Six Domains.

Step 7: KDE collects any additional information before issuing a "conditional approval letter" to the institution.

Kentucky Administrative Regulations

Assessments

The **Praxis Elementary Education** assessments are transitioning from the **5000 series** to the new **7000 series**.

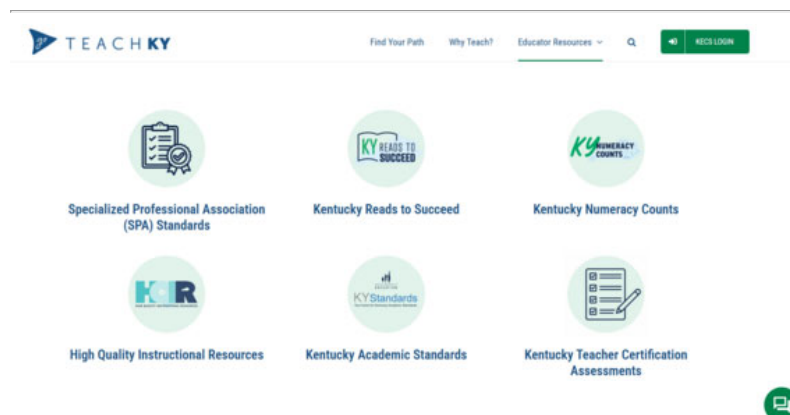
This update reflects current national standards and research, with a stronger focus on depth of understanding, classroom application and readiness for day-one teaching.

While the core content areas remain the same, the new exams – reading/language arts, math, social studies and science – place greater emphasis on analyzing student thinking and applying instructional strategies.

Scores from the Praxis 5000 series will integrate with the 7000 series, meaning previously passed subtests may count toward new requirements depending on state policy.

Please note, the 5000 series does require the additional 5205 Teaching Reading Exam.

Students are encouraged to check with their academic advisor and all candidates should confirm [which exams are required for licensure in Kentucky](#), as the transition is already in effect.



Website Updates

The Kentucky Department of Education has recently updated the GoTeachKY website

to provide the most up to date Specialized Professional Association standards, Kentucky Academic Standards, information concerning implementation of Read to Succeed and Numeracy Counts legislation, and details on [high-quality instructional resources for our EPPs](#) to utilize as needed.

Contact Us!

- **Accredited Programs and Annual Reporting:** [Melissa Diebel](#), KDE/KBE Academic Program Manager
 - **New Programs and Content Reviews:** [Kimberly Arington](#), Education Administration Program Consultant II
 - **Continuing Program Evaluation:** [Mike Nelson](#), Education Program Manager
 - **Assessment, Field Placement and Cooperating Teacher Information:** [Brandon Harrod](#), Program Coordinator
 - **Website Updates:** [Alexis Bigard](#), Administrative Assistant Senior
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If you would like to **unsubscribe**, please contact, [Alexis Bigard](#), thank you!