

Option 9 FAQ

The Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approved an administrative regulation [16 KAR 9:110](#) for a new expedited alternative teaching certification pathway – referred to as Option 9 – at its July 11, 2022, special meeting.

[House Bill \(HB\) 277](#), sponsored by Rep. Walker Thomas, amended [KRS 161.048](#) to create Option 9, an expedited certification program for a person to teach at any grade level after completing the cooperative program.

What is Option 9?

Option 9 is a newer alternative route to certification created by legislature that allows a person to complete a bachelor's degree and initial teacher certification in a three-year period while working in a non-teaching position in a school district. This is the only alternative route that does not require a bachelor's degree for admission.

Will candidates be eligible to teach while enrolled in an Option 9 program?

No. Option 9 candidates must be employed by a district in a classified position while completing the Option 9 program. Candidates will receive initial teacher certification upon completion of their bachelor's degree and the assessment requirements.

Will candidates receive a temporary provisional teaching certificate while completing an Option 9 program?

No. Temporary provisional certificates require a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Candidates will serve in a classified position and are not permitted to be a teacher of record.

How can I enroll in an Option 9 program?

School districts and/or education cooperatives will need to partner with an EPSB approved educator preparation provider to develop a plan and submit to the EPSB for approval.

The program must:

- Include a residency or paraprofessional component that employs the person within the participating district to gain work experience.
- Use experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and mentorship; and
- Be designed to meet the needs of the participating district and may include an emphasis on 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.

Additionally, the partnering district will assist the candidate in meeting the field experience hours during the first two years of employment. In the third year of employment, the candidate is required to be placed in a setting that is consistent with the certification sought.

What are the requirements for a candidate to enroll in an Option 9 program?

Candidates will have to enroll in the partnering institution and meet the minimum requirements for admission to an undergraduate, initial certification educator preparation program. [[16 KAR 5:020, Section 1\(2\)](#)]:

- A cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale; or a grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.0 scale on the last 30 hours of credit completed.
 - Successful completion of one or a combination of the following assessments of basic knowledge:
 - ACT with a composite score of 22 or the corresponding minimum scores:
 - Reading: 20
 - Writing: 18
 - Math: 19
 - Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (CASE):
 - Reading (5713): 150
 - Writing (5723): 148
 - Mathematics (5733): 144
- *Praxis CASE scores reflect a newly implemented -1 SEM*
- Receive an offer of employment and remain in a classified position throughout the program.

Will experienced teachers serving as coaches/mentors to Option 9 candidates receive additional pay?

Payment for experienced teachers will be handled at the district level.

Who currently offers an approved Option 9 program?

Please visit the [EPSB Approved Program Search](#) for all currently approved Option 9 programs. Those interested can search by choosing the “Route” dropdown and “Get Report”.

Who can I contact if I want more information on Option 9?

If you have additional questions related to Option 9, please contact Todd Davis in the Kentucky Department of Education’s Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness at todd.davis@education.ky.gov.