

# KEA President's Points

August 22, 2018



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We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Dear Member,  
In an effort to clear up any miscommunication on KEA's part regarding the recent waiver decision by the EPSB, I want to share an email message that was sent to me directly from Cassie Trueblood, KDE Legal Counsel. Please read her statement carefully below:

*"Our certification department was forwarded the President's Points email, with their attention drawn to the first paragraph under "Significant Action Taken." Please note that KRS 161.1211(1) defines a Rank II as "Those holding regular certificates and who have a master's degree in a subject field approved by the Education Professional Standards Board or equivalent continuing education." The pathways to obtain Rank II are contained in 16 KAR 8:020 and 8:030. What constitutes a Rank II has not changed, and educators will not be able to increase their rank based on six semester hours of graduate school, or three years of successful teaching experience. Below is the office's official communication regarding yesterday's decision:*

*At the August 20, 2018 meeting, the Education Professional Standards Board waived the mandatory requirement for an educator to obtain a Rank II. KRS 161.1211 defines Rank II as "Those holding regular certificates and who have a master's degree in a subject field approved by the Education Professional Standards Board or equivalent continuing education." That definition has not changed. Educators are still able to pursue and obtain Rank II to advance in the profession.*

*The waiver of the mandatory requirement that educators obtain their Rank II, is a waiver of the renewal requirements established in 16 KAR 2:010, Section 3, for the first and second renewal of the professional certificate. Going forward, professional certificates can be renewed using the requirements of 16 KAR 4:060, Section 1. If an educator has three years of teaching experience during the five-year period of the certificate, or six semester hours of credit, they will be able to renew their professional certificate.*

*KRS 161.020(3) states, "The validity and terms for the renewal of any certificate shall be determined by the laws and regulations in effect at the time the certificate was issued." Therefore, the current waiver does not allow the Board to retroactively renew certificates that previously lapsed due to the requirements of 16 KAR 2:010 not being met. All educators whose professional certificate expired*

*prior to June 30, 2018, will need to meet the requirements of 16 KAR 4:090, Section 1(2), for reissuance. Upon application, and proof of an additional six hours of graduate credit, the educator's certificate will be reissued for five years.*

*Those educators whose professional certificate expired June 30, 2018, can renew using 16 KAR 4:060, Section 1. If the educator has three years of teaching experience within the last five years, or six semester hours of credit, they can renew their professional certificate with an effective date of July 1, 2018 in accordance with 16 KAR 4:050, Section 3(1).*

*It is important to note that this decision was narrow in scope. The Board did not waive program admission requirements or program completion requirements. If a program for certification requires completion of a master's degree, the educator will still need to obtain the master's and complete the program for issuance of a certificate. If a master's or Rank II is required for admission to a preparation program, that requirement is also still in effect.*

*We would like to get this cleared up so that educators are not submitting rank change applications and fees that cannot be processed."*

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Winkler**

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