



EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

100 Airport Road, 3rd Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: 502-564-4606 Fax: 502-564-7080
www.kyepsb.ky.gov

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

Phillip S. Rogers, Ed.D.
Executive Director

February 21, 2011

Dear Kentucky Teacher,

As you are aware, the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) is not only responsible for certifying teachers and administrators but also for overseeing the accreditation of Kentucky's teacher preparation programs. The responsibility for preparing highly effective teachers and administrators is one the EPSB takes seriously. In 2005 the EPSB determined that many master's degree programs used for rank change did not offer the level of advanced preparation teachers need. Beginning in 2005 the EPSB—with help from teachers, administrators, and preparation programs in Kentucky—began the challenging process of redesigning our master's degree programs.

The main focus of the redesigned master's degree programs is to equip teachers to support the learning and development of all students. In collaboration with local school districts, each university has designed new classes and programs that use the teacher's classroom as a lab. Within this clinical setting, the teacher makes practical application of what is being taught and provides valuable feedback to the teacher preparation program. Each new program concludes with a capstone project that demonstrates the teacher's ability to teach at an advanced level.

On December 31, 2010, all existing education master's degree programs in Kentucky were closed by the EPSB. The teachers enrolled in those programs will have until January 31, 2013, to finish their work. The EPSB has approved 12 university proposals for new Teacher Leader master's degree programs, and the Master's Redesign Program Review Committee continues to work with four other Kentucky universities whose programs need further development and may not enroll new students at this time.

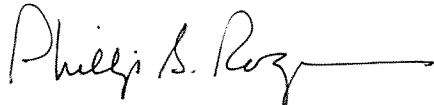


I ask your support to spread the word that the new Teacher Leader master's degree programs are the best, safest, and most certain route to rank change for Kentucky teachers. Out-of-state programs that may appear easier to teachers may lack the focus on advanced skills or teacher leadership. They also do not grant the Teacher Leader Endorsement recognized in Kentucky.

Remember, there is always a risk when a teacher chooses not to use EPSB-approved rank change programs. Multiple regulations govern the acceptance of degrees for rank changes, and only EPSB-approved programs are guaranteed to be accepted upon completion. In addition, any new certificates gained via out-of-state programs are valid in the state where they were earned but not automatically in Kentucky. Before considering an out-of-state program, please visit the EPSB website at: <http://www.epsb.ky.gov/certification/outofstate.asp>.

Please pass along this important message to teachers, and support our efforts to bring real value to Kentucky's rank change system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip S. Rogers" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Phillip S. Rogers, Ed.D.
Executive Director