

AN ACT relating to teachers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 161.740 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Teachers eligible for continuing service status in any school district shall be those teachers who meet qualifications listed in this section:

(a) Hold a standard or college certificate as defined in KRS 161.720 or meet the certification standards for vocational education teachers established by the Education Professional Standards Board.

(b) When a currently employed teacher is reemployed by the superintendent after teaching four (4) consecutive years in the same district, or after teaching four (4) years which shall fall within a period not to exceed six (6) years in the same district, the year of present employment included, the superintendent shall issue a written continuing contract if the teacher assumes his duties, and the superintendent shall notify the board of the action taken. A limited status employee on approved military leave shall be awarded service credit for each year of military service or each year of combined military and school service within a school year toward continuing contract status. If the leave time will qualify the teacher for continuing contract status, the local district may require the teacher to complete a one (1) year probationary period upon return. If required, the local district shall notify the teacher in writing within fourteen (14) days following receipt of the military leave request. Each day served in the General Assembly by a board of education employee during a regular or extraordinary session shall be included in the computation of a year as defined in KRS 161.720(2).

(c) ***Notwithstanding provisions to the contrary in paragraph (b) of this subsection, upon offering a newly hired teacher a limited contract, a superintendent may recognize up to four (4) years of the teacher's prior***

service credit from outside the district toward the four (4) years required for continuing contract status, and the superintendent shall notify the board of the action taken.

(d) When a teacher has attained continuing contract status in one district and becomes employed in another district, the teacher shall retain that status. However, a district may require a one (1) year probationary period of service in that district before granting that status. For purposes of this subsection, the continuing contract of a teacher shall not be terminated when the teacher leaves employment, all provisions of KRS 161.720 to 161.810 to the contrary notwithstanding, and the continuing service contract shall be transferred to the next school district, under conditions set forth in this section, for a period of up to seven (7) months from the time employment in the first school district has terminated. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to give a teacher a right to reemployment in the first school district during the seven (7) month period following termination.

(e)~~(d)~~ Service credit toward a continuing contract shall begin only when a teacher is properly certified as defined in KRS 161.720(6) or, in the case of a vocational education teacher, when the required certification standards established by the Education Professional Standards Board have been met.

(2) Vocational education teachers fulfilling the requirements in subsection (1) of this section as of July 15, 1982, shall be eligible for continuing service status.

(3) Whether employed under a limited contract or continuing service contract status, any teacher or superintendent who has been or may be hereafter inducted into the Armed Forces of this country, shall at the expiration of service be reemployed or reinstated in a comparable position as of the beginning of the next school year, provided application is made at least thirty (30) days before the opening of school, unless physically or mentally incapacitated according to medical notations on

official discharge papers. Vacancies created by military leaves shall be filled by teachers or superintendents employed by the board of education under a limited contract of one (1) year or less.

➔Section 2. KRS 156.844 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A local board of education may submit a request to the commissioner of education to assume authority for the management and control of a state-operated secondary vocational education and technology center. Upon agreement between the commissioner of education and the local board of education for the transfer of a state-operated secondary vocational education and technology center, all personnel, equipment, and supplies shall be transferred to the local board of education and shall be utilized for the operation of the locally operated vocational center.
- (2) A certified employee who is affected by a transfer to the local board of education under subsection (1) of this section shall be granted a one (1) year limited contract by the local board of education and shall be employed on the local district salary schedule. A classified employee shall be guaranteed employment equal to his or her present status for at least one (1) complete school term. A transferred employee shall be provided the benefits of comparable employees in the district and shall be subject to all rules and policies of the local board of education, including but not limited to disciplinary and personnel actions that are the same as those that may be exercised by the district for any other employee in the district during a contract period.
- (3) A transferred employee who has accrued annual leave and compensatory time shall be paid a lump sum for the accrued time at the effective date of the transfer by the Department of Education. The employee shall be granted credit for accrued sick leave up to the maximum allowed for transfers of teachers between school districts. Sick leave credit shall be awarded to a classified employee based on the local board policy. Any excess sick leave that a classified or certified employee has earned that

the district will not accept in the transfer may be requested to be held in escrow by the appropriate state personnel system under KRS Chapter 18A or KRS 156.800 to 156.860, and the sick leave balance shall be restored to the employee if the employee returns to a state government position.

- (4) An employee who is to be transferred to a local board of education under provisions of this section but who chooses not to accept a one (1) year limited contract with the board shall be separated from the state system and the employee's position shall be abolished. The employee may apply for any state position for which the employee is qualified but shall not be granted priority over other applicants for a position because the employee's position was abolished due to a transfer of the vocational education and technology center. An employee who refuses a contract with the local board shall be provided a lump-sum payment for accrued annual leave and compensatory time, and the employee's sick leave balance shall be placed in escrow by the appropriate state personnel system under KRS Chapter 18A or KRS 156.800 to 156.860. The sick leave balance shall be restored to the employee if the employee returns to a state government position.
- (5) A certified employee, other than a principal, who has earned continuing status in the state certified personnel system under KRS 156.800 to 156.860 may be granted tenure under the provisions of KRS 161.740(1)(~~d~~)(~~e~~). A principal may be granted tenure as a teacher, but the provisions relating to demotion of the principal under KRS 161.765 shall apply.
- (6) An employee of the Office of Career and Technical Education who is transferred to the local school district and who occupies a position covered by the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System shall remain in the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System.
- (7) After the effective date of the transfer, the local board of education shall receive funding for the support of the local board of education center operations pursuant to

KRS 157.069. In addition, the local board of education shall receive one hundred percent (100%) of the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky program funds from the Department of Education that are generated from students enrolled in the center.