

**Eastern Kentucky University
College of Education
Teacher Education Services**

Background Check Policy

The College of Education (COE) requires all EKU students seeking admission to professional education programs to undergo a criminal background check. The background check, which includes an investigation of national and state criminal databases, is conducted by Verified Credentials, Inc. under contract with EKU College of Education. Each student must pay a \$40 fee for the processing.

The two most compelling reasons why this policy has been established are:

1. school districts are now beginning to require such checks as a pre-condition for placing EKU students in their schools, and
2. it is important that the College of Education and the University are protected from liability should the college place a student with a criminal record in a field setting without running a background check.

Any record of convictions or other crimes--especially those involving drugs, sex or violence--may result in a decision to withhold recommendation for placement in a school or field setting involving children or youth. This might prevent a student from completing the program of study. Students will be advised of this requirement at the orientation session, in general literature about COE professional education requirements, on the COE web site, at initial advising sessions, and in class presentations. Background checks for students currently in professional education programs will begin in Fall 2008 semester.

Dr. Norman Powell
Director, Teacher Education Services