
Educator Licensure Policy 5.502

The Background:

Over the past eighteen months, the state board of education adopted two new rules and two new policies to address educator licensure and preparation. The previous rules, Teacher Education and Licensure (0520-02-03) and Licensure (0520-02-04) were replaced with Educator Licensure (0520-02-03) and Educator Preparation (0520-02-04). In addition, the new Educator Licensure Policy replaces the Transitional Licensure Policy. In tandem with this change, the board also adopted the Educator Preparation Policy, which replaced the Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines, as well as the Transitional Licensure Policy.

This item presents minor revisions to offer greater clarity and additional information. There are very few substantive changes to the policy approved in July 2014. Below is a brief summary of the changes (Page numbers refer to the version with tracked changes):

- **Page 1: (footnote 3):** clarifies how candidate content knowledge may be verified.
- **Page 2:** Clarifies assessments that must be submitted for initial licensure.
- **Page 2 (footnote 5):** Offers statement regarding development of specific guidelines of how to identify which endorsements out-of-state educators may receive when the endorsement is not parallel to the Tennessee endorsement structure.
- **Page 3:** Clarifies that there are some additional requirements for educators to advance or renew the occupational practitioner license.
- **Page 4:** Clarifies that educators may only renew the license in the last year of the validity period of the license. In addition, clarifies that educators may advance immediately upon meeting advancement criteria and that inactive licenses may be reactivated at any point in time.
- **Page 11:** Clarifies the procedures (and sequencing) for the review of industry certification and required experience related to qualifying for an occupational practitioner license.
- **Page 14:** Corrects “continuing education credit” to “continuing education unit.”
- **Page 14 (note 7):** Clarifies who must verify professional development points for educators working in accredited non-public schools.
- **Page 17 (Appendix B):** Reorganization to support clarity. Corrects grades spans for the Psychology and Sociology endorsements.
- **Page 20:** Clarifies how educators holding licenses that will no longer exist will transition to the new license structure.
- **Page 20:** Specifically, notes that educators working toward the middle grades 4-8 and the special education modified endorsement have an additional year to complete preparation.
- **Page 20:** Clarifies that there will be a one-time grace period to submit an application after the August 31, 2015 deadline and still have the application

processed using the previous policy. Educators who utilize the grace period must have completed all requirements before August 31, 2015. The grace period simply allows additional time to get all materials submitted to the Office of Educator Licensing.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.