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**Trade & Industrial Education Licensure Policy & Rule Revision for Field of  
Criminal Justice**

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**The Background:**

In response to requests from local school systems, this item will adjust the qualifications of trade and industrial education teachers to accommodate a need for a larger pool of qualified applicants to work as criminal justice teachers.

The adjustment in the requirements will be made in three locations: the employment standards in *Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education*; stipulation of qualifications in *Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards*; and the *State Board of Education Teacher Licensure Standards*, which includes guidelines for program implementation.

The employment standards are found in *Rules, Regulations*, 0520-01-02-.03(9)(d). Rule 0520-02-04-.13(2)(i) and (ii), stipulates requirements for apprentice occupational education license teachers in the field of Trade & Industrial Education. There are no changes to Rule 0520-02-04-.13(2)(i), which calls for teachers to hold and maintain current industry certification where available. The changes to the requirements in Rule 0520-02-04-.13(2)(ii) provide for alternate pathways to the existing options for prospective teachers who hold a bachelor's or a master's degree in criminal justice as those degrees relate to the requisite work experience.

The proposed Rule and Policy changes apply only to individuals holding a bachelor's or a master's degree in criminal justice with an interest in teaching criminal justice. They do not apply to any other instructional areas within Trade & Industrial Education.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends adoption of the standards and rule on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

## **Policy**

The policy change will be made to the Tennessee Teacher Licensure Standards: Trade & Industrial Education Licensure (Endorsement in Trade & Industrial Education 9-12). The change will begin with the section currently entitled “Guidelines” in the Policy. The title “Guidelines” is being changed to “Program Implementation Standards.” The only content change is to item IV in the Program Implementation Standards.

Proposed Policy:

### **Program Implementation Standards**

- IV. The trade and industrial education teacher will have a minimum of five years appropriate and current work experience in the field for which application is made. A combination of technical training at the postsecondary level, industry certification, or state licensure in a specific skill area may be substituted for work experience consistent with State Board of Education requirements. In the case of Criminal Justice, a master’s degree or higher may be substituted for the work experience.

Current Policy:

### **Guidelines**

- IV. The trade and industrial education teacher will have a minimum of five years appropriate and current work experience in the field for which application is made. A combination of technical training at the postsecondary level, industry certification, or state licensure in a specific skill area may be substituted for work experience consistent with State Board of Education requirements.

## **Rule**

The revised requirements for Trade and Industrial Education, 0520-01-02-.03(9)(d), would read as follows:

### Proposed Rule:

A teacher of trade and industrial education shall be a high school graduate or the equivalent, as determined by the General Education Development (GED) test. The teacher shall have a minimum of five (5) years of appropriate and current work experience in the field for which application is made. A combination of career and technical education at the postsecondary level from a state technical institute, Tennessee Technology Center, or other accredited public or private institution may also be evaluated. The amount of credit awarded for postsecondary related education shall not exceed two (2) years with the exception of criminal justice in which case a bachelor's degree in criminal justice may count for four (4) years of paid or unpaid work experience or a master's degree or higher may be substituted for five years of paid or unpaid work experience.

### Current Rule:

A teacher of trade and industrial education shall be a high school graduate or the equivalent, as determined by the General Education Development (GED) test. The teacher shall have a minimum of five (5) years of appropriate and current work experience in the field for which application is made. A combination of career and technical education at the postsecondary level from a state technical institute, Tennessee Technology Center, or other accredited public or private institution may also be evaluated. The amount of credit awarded for postsecondary related education shall not exceed two (2) years.

The revised requirement for Trade and Industrial Education, 0520-02-04-.13(1)(a)2(ii), would read as follows:

### Proposed Rule:

Endorsements in Trade and Industrial Education can be obtained through one of five different pathways using work experience, industry certification and postsecondary training. The five possible pathways are:

- (I) Credentialed (certificate or diploma) postsecondary training in the endorsed area, or associate degree, or industry certification may substitute for two (2) years of work experience. In addition, applicant must also have at least three (3) years of work experience in the endorsed area in the last eight (8) years for a total of five (5) years; or
- (II) A combination of an associate degree related to the endorsed area and industry certification may be substituted for four (4) years of work

experience. In addition, applicant must have at least one (1) year of work experience in the endorsed area in the last eight years (8) for a total of five (5) years; or

- (III) A bachelor's degree or higher degree in the endorsed area may be substituted for four (4) years of work experience. In addition, applicant must also have at least one (1) year of work experience in the endorsed area—paid or unpaid in the field of criminal justice—in the last eight (8) years for a total of five (5) years; or
- (IV) Five (5) years of full-time work experience accrued in the occupational area of endorsement within the last eight (8) years.
- (V) A master's degree or higher in criminal justice may be substituted for the five (5) years of work experience in criminal justice.

Current Rule:

Endorsements in Trade and Industrial Education can be obtained through one of four different pathways using work experience, industry certification and postsecondary training. The four possible pathways are:

- (I) Credentialed (certificate or diploma) post-secondary training in the endorsed area, or associate degree, or industry certification may substitute for two (2) years of work experience. In addition, applicant must also have at least three (3) years of work experience in the endorsed area in the last eight (8) years for a total of five (5) years; or
- (II) A combination of an associate degree related to the endorsed area and industry certification may be substituted for four (4) years of work experience. In addition, applicant must have at least one (1) year of work experience in the endorsed area in the last eight years (8) for a total of five (5) years; or
- (III) A bachelor's degree or higher degree in the endorsed area may be substituted for four (4) years of work experience. In addition, applicant must also have at least one (1) year of work experience in the endorsed area in the last eight (8) years for a total of five (5) years; or
- (IV) Five (5) years of full-time work experience accrued in the occupational area of endorsement within the last eight (8) years.