
Standards for School Administered Child Care Programs Rule 0520-12-01-.10

The Background:

T.C.A. §§ 49-1-1101 – 1109 allows the State Board to set rules for all school-administered child care programs. This includes all public and private school-administered infant/toddler, preschool, before- and after-school programs, approved Montessori programs, school-based and community-based Lottery Education Afterschool Programs, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. These programs must comply with Standards for School Administered Child Care Programs Rule 0520-12-01 adopted by the State Board, and be certified by the Department of Education and verified through inspection by the Department's child care program evaluators.

This item revises child abuse reporting requirements to align with new state law. In 2020, the General Assembly revised T.C.A. § 49-6-1601 relative to child abuse reporting. The new law outlines procedures that LEAs and public charter schools must follow if a school official has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect a child may be a victim of child abuse. The law also requires LEAs and public charter schools to designate a child abuse coordinator for each school and requires the coordinator to receive additional training in identifying and reporting child abuse.

The proposed rule revision adds language to Section 0520-12-01-.10 to align with these new statutory requirements.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. 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.