

**Administrative Rules – State Special Schools Rule 0520-04-03**

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**The Background:**

State Special Schools Administrative Rule 0520-04-03 governs eligibility for admission to the Tennessee School for the Blind (TSB) and the Tennessee School for the Deaf (TSD) and states that the director of schools for each school may admit students who meet eligibility criteria.

This first read item proposes the following:

- Change admittance from permissive to mandatory if the student meets the eligibility criteria.
- Add eligibility requirement that students must also meet the school policy for admissions and enrollment.
- Require the student's district of origin (i.e., district referring the student to TSB or TSD) to sign a placement agreement each year that outlines the responsibilities of the district of origin and TSB/TSD.
- Require admittance to the residential program be based on the school's residential program policy.

**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 a potential fiscal impact on LEAs if more students are guaranteed admission to TSB or TSD as a result of this rule.

**The Recommendation:**

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