
Academic Program Requirements Emergency Rule 0520-01-03-.03

The Background:

It is the duty of the State Board to set requirements for academic programming, including instructional requirements and grading systems for high school students to ensure they are prepared for success in postsecondary and career. End-of-Course exams (EOCs) assess student knowledge in several high school course areas. Students' EOC scores typically account for 15 – 25% of their grade in the course, with local boards of education determining the exact percentage.

Pursuant to Public Chapter 652 of 2020, the State Board of Education was authorized to approve emergency rules to address special circumstances created by school closures due to the infectious disease COVID-19. Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and disruptions to regular instruction, this item proposes to allow local boards the flexibility to set a percentage between zero (0) – 25% for which EOCs count toward student grades for the 2020-21 school year only.

This rule was developed by State Board staff in close consultation with the Tennessee Department of Education. Feedback was solicited from numerous stakeholder organizations including the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, Tennessee School Boards Association, and others.

If approved by the State Board, this rule will be sent to the Attorney General for approval and filed with the Secretary of State's office. This rule will go into effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State's office and will remain in effect for 180 days; in effect, for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

The Recommendation:

The State Board staff recommends approval of this item on first and final reading.