
Continuous Learning Plans (CLP) Permanent Rule 0520-01-17

The Background:

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.

At the June 22, 2020 State Board meeting, the Board approved the Continuous Learning Plans Emergency Rule 0520-01-17, which established the expectation for local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to develop Continuous Learning Plans (CLPs) for the 2020-21 school year. CLPs address how the LEA or public charter school will continue to provide quality instruction to students in the event of COVID-19 related disruptions to traditional school operations during the 2020-21 school year. LEAs and public charter schools were required to develop and submit a CLP to the Department for approval utilizing a template created by the Department of Education.

This permanent rule establishes a pathway for LEAs and public charter schools to maintain CLPs for the purpose of addressing disruptions to traditional school operations in the 2021-22 school year and beyond, in response to a Governor-declared state of emergency. The rule also refines expectations for CLPs, particularly in the areas of attendance procedures and access to licensed Tennessee educators. It requires LEAs and public charter schools to submit a request to the department of education to implement the CLP, along with any necessary revisions to the CLP. The LEA or public charter school must provide a justification for use of the CLP in response to the state of emergency.

The State Board held a rulemaking hearing on March 25, 2021 to seek public input on these rules prior to final reading. No comments were offered at the rulemaking hearing, however, State Board staff did receive stakeholder feedback from Directors of Schools, the Department of Education, and the Governor's office as part of stakeholder engagement relating to this rule.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.