

Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03-.03 through -.05

The Background:

Tennessee State Board Education (SBE) Rule sections 0520-02-03-.03 through -.05 govern the issuance, renewal, advancement, and reactivation of educator licenses, including occupational and school services personnel licenses.

This first read item brings several revisions to this rule section, including:

- Revisions to allow educators to use specific, nationally recognized credentials to reactivate an inactive Tennessee educator license, including occupational and school services personnel licenses.
- To align with a pathway for teacher licenses, this item recommends a pathway for school counselors to obtain a professional license if they hold National Board Certification in School Counseling.
- Revisions to create a licensure pathway for speech-language pathologist assistants (SLPAs). Local education agencies (LEAs) have long employed support personnel to assist in the provision of services to students on a speech-language pathologist's (SLP) caseload under the direction of an SLP. Speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) are nationally recognized specialized support personnel but do not currently have a licensure pathway in Tennessee. The proposed revisions will serve to provide clarity among professionals that are providing educational support services to students with disabilities, ensure that professionals serving students with communication disabilities meet the minimum licensure requirements, and align the role to a nationally accepted nomenclature.

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.