
Non-Public Schools Administrative Rule 0520-07-01

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-6-3001 requires every child residing in Tennessee between the ages of six and seventeen to attend a public or non-public school. Non-public schools are defined in law as including private schools, church-related schools, and independent home schools. T.C.A § 49-1-302(i) provides that the State Board of Education, through the Department of Education, shall “enforce standards for... programs operated by private schools as defined by § 49-6-3001(c)(3).” Furthermore, T.C.A. § 49-50-801 provides requirements for church-related schools and grants the State Board limited authority regarding approval of these schools. State Board of Education rule 0520-07-01 currently establishes administrative requirements for non-public schools in Tennessee.

These rules have not been updated since 2017. The revisions proposed here remove outdated language and provide greater clarity regarding the maintenance of student records, transfers of students between and among public and non-public schools, and include the addition of a new section regarding reporting and monitoring requirements.

The revisions to this rule chapter were made in consultation with the Tennessee Non-Public Advisory Council and the Department of Education.

The Recommendation:

The State Board staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.