
Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 -.05 and - .11

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Rule section 0520-02-03-.05 governs the issuance, renewal, advancement, and reactivation of school services personnel licenses. Section -.11 governs endorsements issued on educator licenses.

This rule addresses revisions necessary to implement statutory changes to educator licensure stemming from Public Chapter Number 3 of 2021, referred to as the “Tennessee Literacy Success Act” of the First Extraordinary Session of the 112th General Assembly.

As a means to ensuring all educators are adequately trained in foundational literacy skills, beginning on August 1, 2023, the Tennessee Literacy Success Act mandates a literacy assessment or professional development requirements that are tied to licensure issuance, renewal, and advancement for teachers endorsed to teach K-3 and instructional leaders. In alignment with the Act, revisions to this rule include adding the requirement that individuals who wish to seek or maintain licensure and endorsement in an applicable area demonstrate adequate knowledge and skills in foundational literacy by submitting qualifying scores on an approved literacy assessment or proof of completion of approved professional development activities within one year of applying to acquire, renew, or advance a license.

These revisions also provide clarity regarding how these new requirements will be implemented, including how requirements apply to individuals who hold multiple endorsements on their educator license.

This rule change is accompanied by recommendations to the Educator Licensure Policy that will support implementation of this rule, including identification of applicable endorsements as well as processes for educators to submit documentation demonstrating completion of this requirement.

Lastly, this rule addresses clerical errors with respect to Speech Language Pathology licensure pathways.

State Board staff conducted a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading to collect public feedback on March 31, 2022. No public comments were received.

Since first reading, edits were made to align with Public Chapter 932 of 2022 allowing endorsement exemptions and temporary permits to be issued to select educators to teach courses with an associated end-of-course exam for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Additionally, minor edits were made throughout to enhance clarity.

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 approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.