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

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Rule Section -.03 governs academic teacher licenses, Section -.04 governs occupational teacher licenses, and Section -.05 governs school services personnel licenses. Revisions to these rules were presented on first reading at the Board's July 22, 2022 meeting, however, in order to incorporate additional revisions identified by State Board staff as outlined below, these rule sections are being brought back to the Board for approval on first reading.

Revisions to these rules are proposed to create additional flexibility related to obtaining and maintaining academic, occupational, and school services personnel licenses, while continuing to hold high standards for educator licensure in Tennessee. These recommendations include:

1. The addition of a pathway by which the practitioner teacher, occupational, and school services personnel licenses can be continuously renewed, if advancement criteria are not met, with submission of Professional Development Points (PDPs).
2. Allowing an individual possessing a professional teacher, occupational, and/or school services personnel license to renew their professional license based on two (2) years of qualifying experience as an educator.
3. Allowing the reactivation of an expired professional teacher, occupational, or school services personnel license based on submission of PDPs or two (2) years of qualifying experience as an educator.

Additionally, to align with Public Chapter 1141 of the Public Acts of 2021 (PC 1141), a pathway to the practitioner occupational license has been created that will allow an individual to obtain a practitioner occupational license based on meeting work experience and industry certification requirements, in addition to being assigned a mentor, and completing coursework in specific areas of focus set forth in PC 1141. Language has also been added to the renewal and reactivation pathways clarifying that individuals who obtain a license through this new pathway would not be required to complete an approved educator preparation program.

Lastly, the following revisions were made to improve clarity and address omissions:

1. A pathway has been added to the occupational teacher license for individuals who have completed an academic teacher preparation program and hold a valid academic teacher license. Additionally, a pathway was added to the academic teacher license for individuals who have completed an occupational teacher preparation program and hold a valid occupational teacher license.
2. A pathway has been added for advancing from the practitioner teacher license to the professional teacher license using National Board Certification, to align with the National Board to professional teacher license initial licensure pathway;
3. A director of schools recommendation has been added in lieu of the Professional Development Points (PDPs) option for advancement of a school services personnel license, which aligns with current practice for all license types; and

4. Clarifications have been made to specify that for an educator to be employed on a temporary permit, they must also hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

State Board staff will conduct a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading to collect public feedback.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.