Employment Standards Rule 0520-02-06-.01 and -.02

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Employment Standards Rule 0520-02-06 defines requirements for certain school and district-level positions that educators may hold without holding a specific endorsement. This item makes revisions to Section -.01 and Section -.02 to clarify the purpose of the rule and add two new employment standards for teachers.

This item proposes revisions to Section -.01 to clarify that employment standards outline the requirements for certain school and district LEA level positions that educators may hold without holding a specific endorsement.

This item also amends Section -.02 to extend flexibility for individuals to teach year one CTE courses. Currently, year one CTE courses are only taught in ninth grade. However, this employment standard would expand flexibility for individuals to teach courses offered to students in sixth through ninth grades by allowing teachers holding a valid Tennessee teacher license with an endorsement through at least grade eight to teach year one CTE Courses after successful completion of a Department-approved CTE training.

Lastly, this item also creates an employment standard to align with T.C.A. § 49-6-6006, which allows an educator holding an active teacher license to teach a course with an end-of-course examination if the educator demonstrates sufficient content knowledge in the course material by taking and passing, at the educator's own expense, a standardized or criterion-referenced test for the content area. This employment standard would allow any educator holding an active educator license to teach a course with an end-of-course examination if the educator obtains a qualifying score on the applicable assessment as found in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy 5.105 aligned to the active endorsements for that course as found in the Department's Course Code Management System (CCMS). The creation of an employment standard provides an avenue to a digital credential for the educator that will assist in annual monitoring and compliance.

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

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.

Connection to the Master Plan:

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring alignment between educator credentials and annual monitoring.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.