

**Occupational Educator Scholarship Program Rules  
0520-02-05-.03 through -.05**

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**The Background:**

The State Board of Education Occupational Educator Scholarship Program Rule outlines the eligibility requirements, selection criteria, and terms for the occupational educator scholarship program.

Sections -.03 and -.04 require participants to sign a written agreement agreeing to teach occupational career and technical education courses in a Tennessee public school for a minimum of four (4) consecutive academic years or repay the scholarship if requirements are not met. Section -.05 requires participants to maintain an active and valid Occupational Teacher License for the required four (4) years of employment.

This item clarifies that the written agreement is with the state of Tennessee and changes the four (4) year requirement to a three (3) year requirement to teach and maintain an active and valid Occupational Teacher License. This revision coincides with the EPP's accreditation requirement of tracking candidates for three (3) years. This item also defines timelines signifying a repayment delinquency and account default and associated consequences.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading to collect 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 alleviating financial costs for individuals to enter the teaching profession.

**The Recommendation:**

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