
State Enrollment and Attendance Guidelines Rule 0520-01-02-.17

The Background:

State Board Rule 0520-01-02-.17 State Enrollment and Attendance Guidelines outlines a number of requirements for school attendance in Tennessee. Revisions are proposed to this rule to address recent legislation and to move requirements for excused absences and for counting students as present out of State Board Attendance Policy 4.100 and into rule, allowing for Policy 4.100 to be repealed.

In addition to moving existing language regarding excused absences and situations where students can be counted as present out of policy, the following revisions have been made:

- Authorizing the student member of the State Board to be counted as present for time spent in the performance of official duties as a member of the State Board, in accordance with Chapter 549 of the Public Acts of 2024.
- Clarifying that students cannot be counted as present for postsecondary school visits that occur during the TCAP testing window.
- Clarifying that students who receive an excused absence or who are counted as present shall be allowed the opportunity to make up all work missed, and that it is up to LEA discretion whether or not students with unexcused absences will be allowed the opportunity to make up missed assignments.
- Allowing schools to post the LEA's attendance policy on the local board of education's website, rather than "at each school" and allowing copies of school handbooks to be provided to teachers, administrative staff, and parents/guardians electronically or in writing.
- Adding additional language from the law regarding the requirements for LEA attendance policies.
- Clarifying that LEAs who authorize charter schools must ensure that charter schools have adopted an attendance policy in compliance with this Rule, or that the charter school follows the LEA's attendance policy.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing before final reading to collect public feedback.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring that the Board's rules are regularly reviewed for accuracy, to maintain consistency with recent legislation, and to ensure that all rules comply with existing law.

The Recommendation:

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