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### Graduation Substitutions Policy 3.103

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#### **The Background:**

The State Board's Graduation Substitutions Policy 3.103 outlines allowable course substitutions for graduation requirement credits.

This item is on first and final reading to clarify the ability of students to substitute one full-credit course for two half-credit courses.

Specifically, this revision allows students to substitute JROTC III for one-half (1/2) credit of Personal Finance and one-half (1/2) credit of U.S. Government and Civics. This substitution has historically been permitted and is listed as allowable in the Course Code Management System that districts use to create student schedules.

In addition, there is an added footnote to indicate the ability for English learners to count two (2) English as a Second Language courses for high school English credits pursuant to State Board English as a Second Language Programs Rule 0520-01-19-.03.

#### **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.

#### **Policy Justification:**

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

#### **Connection to the [Master Plan](#):**

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Postsecondary and Career outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring policy language regarding graduation credits and substitutions is clear for districts and schools.

#### **The Recommendation:**

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