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**Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205**

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**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to “set policies governing all curricula and courses of study in the public schools.” Additionally, Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education 0520-01-03-.05(1) calls for the State Board of Education to adopt standards for each subject area, grades K-12. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system.

This final read item presents for the addition of a new elective course, *Preparing for the ACT, College, and Career*, to the High School Course List Policy 3.205, as well as standards for the new course. The proposed new course is meant to provide explicit standards for schools to guide preparation activities for the state’s main college and career readiness assessment, the ACT, while setting clear expectations for how to link preparation for this exam to other student planning and readiness activities. These standards have been developed in response to a large need communicated by districts, dozens of which have been submitting special course applications for this type of preparation course for several years. This course is not meant to be solely test-prep activities. Course standards are directly aligned to both ACT college and career readiness standards and Tennessee state standards, and they also include specific expectations for student career exploration and postsecondary planning activities.

Since first reading changes to this policy include:

- Updating the names of the Programming and Logic I, Programming and Logic II, and Programming & Software Development Practicum course to Coding I, Coding II, and Coding Practicum.
- Creating a centralized list of all permitted course substitutions at the end of the policy to improve the readability and clarity of the policy.

**The Fiscal Analysis Impact:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education 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.

**The Recommendation:**

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