High School Policy 2.103

The Background:

High School Policy 2.103 outlines the graduation and other instructional requirements for high school students to ensure they are prepared for success in postsecondary and career. This item presents for approval a new alternate academic diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the alternate assessment. Additionally, this item presents updates to the graduation with distinction section of the policy.

Below is a brief description of the proposed changes approved on first reading in October:

- **Page 2:** Adds a new alternate academic diploma that can be awarded to students with significant cognitive disabilities, who participate in the alternate assessment and meet other graduation requirements outlined in the policy.
- **Page 7:** Updates the requirements for graduation with distinction to include the completion of an industry certification.
- **Page 7:** Adds the Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar recognition as outlined by Chapter 207 of the Public Acts of 2017.
- **Page 8:** Establishes the Tennessee Seal of Biliteracy for students who attain a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.
- **Page 8:** Requires that students who earn a gold or platinum medal on National Career Readiness Certificate (WorkKeys) be recognized at graduation.

Since first reading there were a few minor clarifying edits to the alternate academic diploma policy made based on public feedback. There has also been an addition to the Graduation with Distinction opportunities to include top finishers at the state speech and forensics tournament (page 8).

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.