
State Agency Evaluations

The Background:

The Tennessee Board of Education Teacher and Principal Evaluation Policy 5.201 and Tennessee Code Annotated §49-1-302 require teachers and principals to be evaluated annually based on both quantitative and qualitative data: 35% student growth data, based on TVAAS or comparable measures; 15% student achievement data; and 50% qualitative data.

State Board Policy 0520-02-04.13 states that in order for a teacher to advance from an apprentice license to a professional license, the teacher must receive “a positive recommendation from the local education agency based on evaluation under a model approved by the State Board of Education”. State agency schools (e.g. Department of Corrections), however, do not fall under statute TCA §49-1-302 since employees of state agency schools are not employed by LEAs. Additionally, state agency schools are not required to and do not administer state assessments (TCAP and End of Course examinations). Thus, it is not possible to generate student growth data. However, for the purpose of licensure, all employees must be evaluated.

The Recommendation:

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

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State agency schools are not required to abide by TCA §49-1-302. The Department of Education recommends revising Policy 5.201 to add the following language:

“Any charter or state agency school interested in proposing its own evaluation model may submit an application for approval to the Department of Education. The Commissioner of Education shall have the authority to approve the use of the evaluation model.”