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**Occupational Related Employment Standards, Rules**

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**The Background:**

The Department of Education's Division of Career and Technical Education proposes revisions to State Board of Education Rules 5020-01-02-.03 and 0520-02-04-.13 that will allow for the addition of endorsements aligned to the new CTE courses that are being presented on first and second reading at the January 31, 2014 meeting of the State Board of Education. These revisions require that applicants for the occupational license be, at minimum, high school graduates and allows for a more flexible system to account for higher education degrees to count for industry experience. This change also allows for our alignment with current industry practices to happen in real time and correlates to the revisions being made to CTE courses.

Please note that the changes to State Board of Education Rules 5020-01-02-.03(9)(d) (Employment Standards) and 0520-02-04-.13 (Requirements for the Occupational Education License) are based on the rules approved by the board on final reading in April 2013 and *approved* by the Joint Government Operations Committee on Dec. 18, 2013, and scheduled to become effective on February 28, 2014.

The impact of the proposed rule changes will not affect the teachers currently in the system; it will impact those who are applying for a Tennessee Apprentice Occupational License. We believe that these changes will allow for a higher quality of content knowledge in the related industry for the specific endorsements on the occupational license, and they will allow for a more seamless entry into the required postsecondary courses required for license advancement.

The item proposed for final reading today is unchanged from the item approved by the board in October.

**The Recommendation:**

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

## Proposed Changes to State Board Rules 5020-01-02.03 and 0520-02-04.13

0520-01-02-.03

(9) Career and Technical Education.

- (d) ~~A teacher of trade and industrial education~~Other occupational educators shall be a high school graduate or ~~the equivalent, as determined by the General Education Development (GED) test~~higher. The teacher shall have a minimum of five (5) years of appropriate and current work experience in the field for which application is made. A combination of career and technical education at the postsecondary level from a state ~~technical institute~~approved institution, ~~Tennessee Technology Center~~, or other accredited public or private institution, may also be evaluated. The amount of credit awarded for work experience through postsecondary ~~related~~ education shall ~~not exceed two (2) years with the exception of criminal justice in which case a bachelor's degree in criminal justice may count for four (4) years of paid or unpaid work experience or a master's degree or higher may be substituted for five (5) years of paid or unpaid work experience~~ depend on the endorsement and related industry.

0520-02-04-.13 (1) (a) 2(ii)

Endorsements for Other Occupational Teachers can be obtained through one of ~~five~~four pathways using work experience, industry certification and postsecondary training. The ~~five~~four possible pathways are:

- (I) Credentialed (certificate or diploma) postsecondary training in the endorsed area, or associate degree, or industry certification may substitute for two (2) years of work experience. In addition, applicant must also have at least three (3) years of work experience in the endorsed area in the last eight (8) years for a total of five (5) years; or
- (II) A combination of an associate degree related to the endorsed area and industry certification may be substituted for four (4) years of work experience. In addition, applicant must have at least one (1) year of work experience in the endorsed area in the last eight years (8) for a total of five (5) years; or
- (III) A bachelor's degree or higher degree in the endorsed area may be substituted for ~~four (4) years~~partial or full credit of ~~work experience depending on the endorsement and related industry.~~ ~~In addition, applicant must also have at least one (1) year of work experience in the endorsed area paid or unpaid in the field of criminal justice in the last eight (8) years for a total of five (5) years; or~~
- (IV) Five (5) years of full-time work experience accrued in the occupational area of endorsement within the last eight (8) years.
- ~~(V) A master's degree or higher in criminal justice may be substituted for the five (5) years of work experience in criminal justice.~~

~~(iii) A trade and industry teacher shall be a high school graduate or the equivalent, as determined by the General Education Development (GED) test.~~