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**JROTC Course Substitution for Personal Finance**

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**The Background:**

The State Course Code document is used by educators to design course catalogs and verify preliminary report data. Currently, the State Course Code document conflicts with the SBE Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205 regarding the provision for how many courses of JROTC must be completed in order to receive credit for Personal Finance, a required graduation course for Tennessee students. The Course Code document requires three (3) years of JROTC, while the SBE Policy requires four (4) years.

In order to determine the best policy option to address this discrepancy, the Department of Education reviewed the Personal Finance course standards, researched the JROTC programs in Tennessee, and met with supervisors and teachers of multiple JROTC programs across the state. The Department found that JROTC instructors could meet all of the Personal Finance course requirements within the third year of JROTC, if they have received training on the Personal Finance course requirements. Units which are currently taught by some JROTC instructors which pertain to Personal Finance standards include the following: personal responsibility training, complex event planning skills, logistics training, schedule of event trainings, task management, and time management. In addition, some JROTC instructors include lessons provided by the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) which is a free curricular resource provided to educators. To ensure that the JROTC instructors meet all standards and objectives for the Personal Finance course by the end of the third year of JROTC, the Tennessee Department of Education recommends that JROTC instructors attend the Personal Finance training which is offered at no cost to Tennessee educators.

The Department of Education recommends changing SBE policy 3.205 to allow three (3) years of JROTC to substitute for the Personal Finance graduation requirement, if the following condition is met: JROTC instructor(s) attends the same Personal Finance Training as all other Personal Finance teachers.

**The Recommendation:**

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

## **Proposed Changes to Board Policy 3.205, Approved High School Courses**

### **8. JROTC Military Science\***

- \* Two credits of JROTC may be substituted for one credit of wellness required for graduation, provided that the local board of education has complied with the requirements of the State Board of Education.
- \* Three credits of JROTC may be substituted for one-half unit of United States Government required for graduation.
- \* Three credits of JROTC may be substituted for one-half unit of Personal Finance.