
Literacy and Specialty Area Standards for Educator Preparation Policy 5.505

The Background:

All educator preparation providers (EPP) and the specialty area programs (SAP) that lead to licensure shall be approved by the State Board of Education (SBE). All licensure programs must ensure that candidates have opportunities to attain the knowledge and skills specified by the SBE, have clinical experiences in accordance with guidelines established by the SBE, and meet other standards, procedures, and guidelines established by the SBE.

This final read item presents a reorganization and slight revision to specialty area standards for educator preparation programs. The specialty area standards and literacy standards previously contained in the Educator Preparation Policy 5.504 have been moved into this new, standalone policy, reformatted for consistency and updated to align with effective practices in educator preparation. In addition, this item changes the specialty area program standards for Elementary Education K-5 to align with the CAEP K-6 Elementary Teacher Preparation Standards and updates the specialty area program standards for Special Education Hearing to include the CEC Initial Specialty Set for Deafblindness.

Since first reading in January, the item has changed slightly to include an opening statement that all EPPs shall align programs to the standards and to adjust the years of teaching experience requirement for candidates seeking the reading specialist endorsement.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

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

Policy Justification:

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

The Recommendation:

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