
Course Access Program, Rule 0520-01-14

The Background:

The Course Access Program, originally passed into state law in 2016 and revised in 2018 and again in 2019, is a school choice program that gives students across the state the same access to certain “course access courses” that may not otherwise be available at their schools. During the 2019 legislative session, the original legislation was updated to clarify that LEAs shall pay for students to participate in two (2) course access courses per year, as opposed to two (2) courses total.

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. Home LEAs must transfer funding for the cost of the course access course to the Host LEA for each participating student. This cost was included in the fiscal note for the legislation, and the rule does not impose any additional cost.

The Recommendation:

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