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**Middle Grades Policy 2.102**

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**The Background:**

The Middle Grades Policy is designed to strengthen the supports provided to middle grades students as they prepare for high school and postsecondary opportunities.

This first read item proposes changes to clarify that high school coursework completed prior to ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) grade must be counted as credit towards graduation (page 1).

**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 acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.