

**RULES  
OF  
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-01-03  
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPROVAL  
OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

AMEND Chapter 0520-01-03, Minimum Requirements for the Approval of Public Schools, by adding the a new rule .11 and FURTHER AMEND the table of contents for Chapter 0520-01-03 to add a new section .11, so that, as amended the new table of contents and rule shall read:

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**0520-01-03-.11 REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

- (1) A Local Education Agency (“LEA”) may request that the Commissioner waive a State Board rule or state statute for one (1) or more of the LEA’s schools that inhibits or hinders the LEA’s ability to meet the LEA’s goals or comply with the LEA’s mission due solely to the outbreak of COVID-19 during the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year. No waiver shall be effective until approved by the State Board. Waiver requests shall be submitted to the Commissioner by June 30, 2020.
- (2) For students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2019-2020 school year, the following shall apply:
  - (a) A student in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2019-20 school year shall receive as their spring semester grade no grade lower than the grade they earned in the course as of March 20, 2020; however, LEAs and public charter schools may provide remote learning opportunities to students as an opportunity to improve the student’s grade.
  - (b) LEAs and public charter schools who allow students to complete additional work to improve their spring semester grade should support students who lack home internet access by providing printed materials to complete necessary coursework to obtain a passing grade.
  - (c) LEAs and public charter schools may provide remote credit recovery opportunities for students who failed their first attempt at a course in spring 2020 in order to obtain a passing score.
  - (d) LEAs that have adopted a locally approved grading system may continue to calculate grades and graduation distinctions under a locally approved grading system as determined by the local board of education.

- (e) In order to graduate in the 2019-20 school year, students must earn a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours which shall include the following subjects:
  - 1. Four (4) credits of mathematics as described in the State Board's High School Policy 2.103;
  - 2. Four (4) credits of English language arts as described in the State Board's High School Policy 2.103;
  - 3. Three (3) credits of science as described in the State Board's High School Policy 2.103; and
  - 4. Two (2) credits of social studies as described in the State Board's High School Policy 2.103.
- (f) A student in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2019-20 school year shall not have End-of-Course exams scheduled to occur in the spring semester of the 2019-20 school year count as a percentage of a student's final grade in a course with an associated End-of-Course exam.
- (g) A student scheduled to graduate in the 2019-20 school year is not required to take and pass the civics test required by T.C.A. § 49-6-408 to meet the social studies course credit requirements to earn a regular high school diploma
- (h) Students receiving the occupational diploma in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year may receive the occupational diploma if they can demonstrate work experience of at least one (1) year.
- (i) Students in the 12th grade during the 2019-20 school year who were enrolled in a Tennessee public school during their 11th grade year and who did not take the ACT or SAT shall not be required to take the ACT or SAT for graduation purposes.
- (3) Students in the 11th grade during the 2019-20 school year shall not be required to take the ACT or SAT to assess post-secondary readiness during the 2019-20 school year.
- (4) Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests, which include, but are not limited to, TNReady assessments, English learner assessments, alternate TCAP assessments, and end-of-course examinations, shall not be required in the spring of the 2019-20 school year. This does not prohibit an LEA or public charter school from voluntarily administering TCAP tests to students in the 2019-20 school year.
- (4) Students taking courses for high school credit who were not scheduled to graduate in the 2019-20 school year shall receive no grade lower than the grade they earned in the course as of March 20, 2020; however, LEAs and public charter schools may provide remote learning opportunities to students as an opportunity to improve the student's grade.
- (5) LEAs and public charter schools shall not be required to complete required professional development trainings or required safety drills or that a school was unable to conduct due to school closures in the spring semester of the 2019-20 school year.
- (6) Student performance and student growth data from the TCAP tests, which include, but are not limited to, TNReady assessments, English learner assessments, alternate TCAP assessments, and end-of-course examinations, administered in the 2019-20 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to a school, unless the use results in a higher letter grade for the school. Additionally, student performance and student growth data from TCAP tests administered in the

2019-20 school year shall not be used to identify a school as a priority school or to assign a school to the achievement school district.

- (7) The Department of Education will not recommend and the State Board will not approve school or LEA performance designations based on performance goals and measures in the 2019-20 school year.

**Authority:** Executive Order No. 14 of 2020 (and applicable, subsequent Executive Orders addressing COVID-19 relief), U.S. Department of Education 2020 Waiver of Tennessee Assessment Requirements, Public Chapter 652 of 2020. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to June, 1992, see pages iii-ix). Repeal filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992.