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**Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03**

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**The Background:**

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-302, the State Board of Education has the authority to adopt policies governing the qualifications, requirements, and standards of, and provide the licenses and certificates for, all public school teachers, principals, assistant principals, supervisors, and directors of schools. This item was heard on first reading at the State Board's November 2019 meeting.

Proposed changes on first reading included:

- Section .03: add a new pathway for out-of-state prospective teachers that does not require submission of qualifying scores on professional assessments if the educator holds a comparable level license from a state other than Tennessee; and
- Section .10: add a new pathway for out-of-state prospective instructional leaders that does not require submission of qualifying scores on professional assessments if the educator holds a comparable level license from a state other than Tennessee.

Pursuant to Governor Lee's Executive Orders No. 13 and 14 declaring a state of emergency in Tennessee as a result of tornado damage and the infectious disease COVID-19, and Public Chapter 652 of 2020, The State Board of Education must approve emergency rules to address special circumstances created by the statewide closure of schools in the spring semester of the 2019-20 school year. In order to address these circumstances, the following change has been made for final reading:

- Section .15: This amends the State Board's Educator Licensure rule to allow prospective educators who were unable to complete required licensure exams due to COVID-19 to receive a one-year practitioner license with the requirement that scores on licensure exams be submitted within the one-year validity period. This rule also allows educators whose practitioner license is set to expire in August 2020 to have the license validity period extended one year to allow the educator to complete requirements for renewal or advancement that were interrupted as a result of COVID-19.

**The Recommendation:**

State Board staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.