
Virtual Schools Rule 0520-01-03-.05

The Background:

As public schools, virtual schools are subject to comparable expectations for academic performance and state-level oversight as their brick-and-mortar counterparts. However, in its current description of responsibilities assigned to virtual schools, SBE Rule 0520-01-03-.05 lacks specific language delineating how LEAs will be expected to fulfill such responsibilities as well as the role of the Department of Education in monitoring these activities. The proposed changes seek to ensure greater clarity regarding expectations for public virtual schools across the state.

Additionally, the proposed rule makes revisions to existing flexibility regarding class size requirements for public virtual schools in the 2020-21 school year to account for the lack of TVAAS data in 2019-20 due to COVID-19 and clarify that remote instruction provided pursuant to an approved Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) shall be considered a virtual education program under T.C.A. § 49-1-104(h). These changes complement revisions made to the State Board CLP Rule 0520-01-17 on final reading at this meeting .

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.

The Recommendation:

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