
Continuous Learning Plans for the 2020-21 School Year Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01

The Background:

Pursuant to Public Chapter 652 of 2020, the State Board of Education was authorized to approve emergency rules to address special circumstances created by school closures due to the infectious disease COVID-19.

At the June 22, 2020 State Board meeting, the Board approved the Continuous Learning Plans Rule 0520-01-17, which established the expectation for local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to develop Continuous Learning Plans (CLPs) for the 2020-21 school year. CLPs address how the LEA or public charter school will continue to provide quality instruction to students in the event of COVID-19 related disruptions to traditional school operations during the 2020-21 school year. LEAs and public charter schools were required to develop and submit a CLP to the Department for approval utilizing a template created by the Department of Education.

The proposed revisions clarify that remote instruction provided pursuant to an approved CLP shall be considered a virtual education program for purposes of compliance with T.C.A. § 49-1-104 (h), and specify class size standards that shall apply to public virtual schools and virtual education programs for the 2020-21 school year based on flexibility already contained in State Board Virtual Schools Rule 0520-01-03-.05. These revisions allow both LEAs implementing remote instruction and public virtual schools some flexibility to exceed the class size maximum established by T.C.A. § 49-1-104 under specific conditions during the 2020-2021 school year. These changes complement similar revisions in Virtual Schools Rule 0520-01-03-.05.

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