

Tennessee Educator Preparation Policy 5.504

The Background:

According to Tennessee Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, all teacher candidates must complete one of three options for clinical practice (student teaching, internship, or job embedded) to complete an educator preparation program (EPP) and be recommended for a license in Tennessee. All three options require an educator to physically work in a school building under the tutelage of a clinical mentor teacher.

This proposed addition to Tennessee Educator Preparation Policy 5.504 gives EPPs flexibility in designing clinical practice experiences for the 2020-21 school year in the event of future disruptions to LEA or public charter school operations due to COVID-19. EPPs will be required to submit to the department plans detailing how candidate clinical experiences will be modified and an assurance that rigor will be maintained in the event of future disruptions to LEA or public charter school operations due to COVID-19.

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