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**Eligible Educator Preparation Providers Permanent Rule 0520-02-04-.03**

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**The Background:**

Currently, Chapter 0520-02-04-.03 states that an LEA is eligible to become a Tennessee-approved Educator Preparation Program if the LEA or consortium of LEAs “have not received the lowest performance determination on the state’s accountability model pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-602 in either of the two (2) most recent school years.”

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the State Board passed emergency rules at its April 9, 2020 meeting clarifying that TCAP testing will not take place in the Spring of the 2019-20 school year, and that LEAs and schools will not be assigned performance designations in 2020 due to the lack of assessment data. Due to the lack of performance designations for 2020, this rule seeks to clarify that an LEA or consortium of LEAs eligibility to become an EPP will be based on performance designations from the two most recent school years where performance designations were available. There have been no changes since first reading.

There is currently an emergency rule in effect to establish this same provision for the 2020-21 school year.

**The Recommendation:**

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