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**Continuous Learning Plans Rule 0520-01-17**

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**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.

This emergency rule establishes the expectation for local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to develop Continuous Learning Plans (CLPs) for the 2020-21 school year. LEAs and public charter schools will be required to develop and submit a CLP to the Department for approval utilizing a template created by the Department. The CLP will 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 and ensure that LEAs and public charter schools can count days where instruction was provided pursuant to the CLP as instructional days counting toward the 180 day legal requirement, and that districts will be able to continue receiving BEP funding. An accompanying policy that further defines this rule is also proposed for approval by the Board at this meeting.

This rule and the associated policy were developed by State Board staff in close consultation with the Tennessee Department of Education. Feedback was solicited from numerous stakeholder organizations including the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, Tennessee School Boards Association, Tennessee Charter School Center, and others.

State Board staff intends to bring a permanent version of this rule to the Board for approval on first reading at the July quarterly meeting. The permanent rule will address the development of CLPs to allow LEAs and public charter schools to continue instruction during times of serious outbreak of illness or natural disaster in school years 2021-22 and beyond.

**The Recommendation:**

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