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**COVID-19 Continuous Learning Plan Policy 3.210**

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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 policy further defines State Board Emergency Rule 0520-01-17 Continuous Learning Plans, which is being proposed at this meeting. The policy provides detailed expectations for Continuous Learning Plans (CLPs) developed for the 2020-21 school year as well as timelines and processes for the Department of Education to use in reviewing and approving the CLPs. 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.

This policy and the associated rule 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.

**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:**

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