
Public Virtual Schools Rule 0520-01-03-.05

The Background:

As public schools, virtual schools are subject to comparable expectations for academic performance and state-level oversight as their brick-and-mortar counterparts. The proposed changes to this rule seek to ensure greater clarity regarding expectations for public virtual schools across the state, including additional detail regarding LEA responsibilities and the role of the Department of Education in monitoring.

Additionally, the proposed rule makes revisions to existing flexibility regarding class size requirements for public virtual schools in the 2020-21 school year to account for the lack of TVAAS data in 2019-20 due to COVID-19 and clarify that remote instruction provided pursuant to an approved Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) shall be considered a virtual education program under T.C.A. § 49-1-104(h). These changes complement revisions made to the State Board CLP Rule 0520-01-17 on final reading at the August 17, 2020 special called State Board meeting.

Slight clerical revisions were made between first and final reading to change from to permissive to mandatory the requirements for determining class size and monitoring attendance.

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 final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.