
Employment Standards for Additional Support Personnel Rule 0520-02-06-.04

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Employment Standards for Additional Supports Personnel Rule 0520-02-06-.04 governs employment standards for support personnel in schools. This includes speech language pathology assistants who often work in schools under the supervision of speech language pathologists.

This final read item removes the requirement that speech language pathology assistants (SLPAs) work under the supervision of a licensed speech language pathologist (SLP), and the requirement that SLPAs hold a speech language pathology assistant certification issued by the Tennessee Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences. The revision is intended to recognize a need to have multiple pathways to this role and is aligned with various pathways an individual may take to serve in this role in a non-school setting and a school setting. The qualifications for speech language pathology assistants are being removed from this rule and added to the Educator Licensure Rule as a type of school services personnel license on final reading at this meeting.

Revisions to this rule were accepted on first reading at the February 5, 2021 quarterly meeting. The State Board held a rulemaking hearing on April 14, 2021 to collect public feedback. No comments were offered at the hearing, however, written comments were submitted for consideration. Given that revisions to the Employment Standards Rule intersect with revisions to the Educator Licensure Rule, the final reading presentation of this rule was delayed to the October 29, 2021 meeting to ensure final reading occurs at the same time as the final reading presentation of the Educator Licensure Rule.

Revisions between first and final reading include the removal of the employment standards for Speech Language Teachers (SLT). SLT continues to be an endorsement that educators may hold on a license, however, it is being phased out and replaced by the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant endorsement. Previously, the Department recommended that the SLT endorsement become an employment standard. However, the Department is no longer recommending this as an approach in order to better track and maintain data for licensed and endorsed Speech-Language Teachers and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.

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.