
Special Courses Policy 3.201

The Background:

State Board of Education rule 0520-01-03-.05(2) and Special Courses Policy 3.201 allow local education agencies (LEAs) the ability to apply to offer special courses not listed in the State Board's Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205. The Department of Education annually reviews special course and special program of study applications and assigns subject-specific course codes to special courses approved for one (1), three (3), or six (6) years.

This item presents revisions to this policy to clarify the process for a public charter school to submit a request for special course approval. The revisions allow a public charter school to apply directly to the Department of Education for special course approval rather than having to submit their special course through their authorizing LEA. To ensure the authorizing LEA is aware of the special course request, the policy revisions require the public charter school to certify that the school has provided notice to the LEA of the intent to apply for approval of the course, including notice to the LEA of the title and objective of the course.

In addition, language designated for removal after the 2017-18 school year has been removed.

Minor edits were made between first and final reading to ensure clarity and consistency.

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:

The SBE staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.