
Universal Student Screeners and State Adopted Benchmark Assessments Rule 0520-01-03-.15

The Background:

The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act (T.C.A. § 49-6-1501, et seq.) requires LEAs and public charter schools to implement summer learning camps, after-school mini camps, and learning loss bridge camps to provide students with additional learning opportunities. The Act requires that LEAs and public charter schools administer a pre-test and post-test at the beginning and end of the camps.

This item revises the Universal Student Screeners and State Adopted Benchmark Assessments Rule 0520-01-03-.15 to amend the definition of “pre-test” to remove the requirement that the pre-test is used to determine adequate growth for the purposes of 3rd grade to 4th grade promotion pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-6-3115. In measuring adequate growth for the purposes of 3rd grade promotion, the Department proposed that the student’s 3rd grade English Language Arts (ELA) TCAP or the TCAP retake, if applicable, serve as the baseline score to measure adequate growth. This approach was approved by the State Board at the May 2023 meeting and allows the Department to calculate a student’s growth toward proficiency with a consistent standards-aligned measure and ensure teachers and families have transparent information regarding their student’s progress. These revisions ensure that this rule and State Board Promotion and Retention Policy 3.300 are in alignment.

This item also clarifies that for grades K-3, the State Board-approved universal reading screeners shall serve as the state-adopted benchmark assessments for the purposes of identifying priority students for summer programming. Revisions also expand the grade bands for summer programming to 9th grade students in accordance with Chapter 144 of the Public Acts of 2023.

State Board staff held a rulemaking hearing on July 13, 2023. No comments were received.

Since first reading, only minor clerical revisions were made.

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.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board’s strategic focus on Literacy outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring the method to measuring student growth toward ELA proficiency is consistent and aligned with statewide assessments.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.