

Special Education Caseload and Class Size Standards Policy 3.206

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-104(b) requires the State Board of Education to establish class size standards and caseload standards for instructional personnel and teachers having the primary responsibility for the development, implementation and updating of a student's individualized education program (IEP).

Special Education Class Size Standards Policy 3.206 outlines minimum caseload and class size standards toward improving staffing practices based on the learning needs of the student and the instructional capacity of the teacher.

In the 2022 legislative session, Governor Lee and the Tennessee General Assembly passed the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Act which will transition the state to a student-based funding approach starting in the 2023-24 school year. Due to the passage of TISA, this item proposes changes to the Special Education Caseload and Class Size Standards Policy 3.206 to remove specific references to the Basic Education Program (BEP) from the policy and align language with TISA.

This item also updates outdated language in the policy to align with current law and practice.

Minor revisions were made between first and final reading to improve clarity regarding caseload requirements.

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.

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.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring the policy aligns with changes in law to ensure the effective implementation of education policy.

The Recommendation:

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