

**Occupational Educator Scholarship Program Rules
0520-02-05-.02 through -.05**

The Background:

The State Board of Education Occupational Educator Scholarship Program Rule outlines the eligibility requirements for the occupational educator scholarship program. Section -.03 requires participants to sign a promissory note agreeing to repay the scholarship if requirements are not met. This item removes the reference to a promissory note and instead requires scholarship participants to enter into a written agreement with the EPP to repay the scholarship to the state of Tennessee if requirements are not met. This item also makes several other revisions to better align the rule with T.C.A. § 49-11-102 and ensure consistent use of defined terms throughout the rule.

This item also makes revisions to Section -.05 of the rule to align language related to the maximum amount of the occupational educator scholarship with Public Chapter 181 of the Public Acts of 2023.

State Board staff held a rulemaking hearing on July 13, 2023. No comments were submitted regarding this rule.

Revisions were made on final reading to clarify that an individual is not required to repay the scholarship in the event of death or permanent disability, in alignment with T.C.A. § 49-11-102.

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 Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by alleviating financial costs for individuals to enter the teaching profession.

The Recommendation:

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