
Middle Grades Policy 2.102

The Background:

State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.03 governs the academic standards and courses of study in public schools, including the requirement for students to create a plan of study to prepare for success in and after high school. Middle Grades Policy 2.102 further defines the purpose and steps to develop this plan.

In addition, a section has been added to articulate ways in which districts can partner with industry leaders to support occupational instruction in the middle grades. This item also removes the requirement for LEAs to submit verification to the Department on implementation of project-based civics assessments. The requirement was removed in the 2022 legislative session through Public Chapter 686.

Between first and final reading, State Board staff met with the Department of Education's School Counselor Advisory Council to discuss the proposed updates and solicited feedback from several stakeholder groups including Tennessee Education Association, American School Counselor Association, Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, Tennessee School Counselor Association and Professional Educators of Tennessee.

Small formatting changes have been made since first reading.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Postsecondary and Career outlined in the Master Plan by building upon the existing high school plan to include planning for the two years post-graduation and providing additional opportunities for middle grade students to learn from industry leaders in occupational fields of interest.

The Recommendation:

State Board staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.