
Educator Licensure Policy 5.502

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Policy 5.502 details requirements for issuance, renewal, advancement, and reactivation of all license types.

This item proposes revisions to the policy necessary to implement the Tennessee Department of Education's Computer Science Endorsement Pathway (CSEP) pursuant Chapter 979 of the Public Acts of 2022 (PC 979). PC 979 requires the Department to develop and submit to the State Board of Education a no-cost pathway to the Computer Science K-12 endorsement. This item amends the endorsement section of Educator Licensure Policy 5.502 detailing the requirements for an educator to receive a Computer Science endorsement through the Department's pathway.

The Department's Computer Science Endorsement Pathway contains six self-paced modules that allow teachers to demonstrate their knowledge and skills of the Computer Science standards by embedding these practices into their current instruction.

To obtain the endorsement, educators must meet all requirements: a) hold a valid Tennessee practitioner or professional license, b) complete required modules, c) be recommended by the Department, and d) submit qualifying scores on the Computer Science Endorsement Pathway final assessment. The Department plans to publish passage rates on the CSEP final assessment.

Between first and final reading, revisions were made to correct an error that inadvertently retired the Agriculture Education endorsement 6-12. This is an active endorsement and revisions remove the retirement date of 2020. Revisions also add endorsement codes for Aviation Maintenance 6-12, Diesel Technician 6-12, Government 6-12, and corrected the endorsement code for Physical Education K-12.

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 Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring there are opportunities for educators to receive additional endorsements to serve their students.

The Recommendation:

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