
**Educator Preparation Rule
0520-02-04-.02 through -.04, -.07, -.09, and -.10**

The Background:

All educator preparation providers (EPPs) and the specialty area programs (SAPs) that lead to licensure shall be approved by the State Board of Education (SBE). Programs must ensure that candidates have opportunities to attain the knowledge and skills specified by the SBE and have school-based clinical experiences in accordance with guidelines established by the SBE. To support candidate recruitment, selection, and preparation, EPPs are required to form strategic primary partnerships with at least one (1) Local Education Agency (LEA) and state recognized partnerships with any LEA where an EPP places candidates for clinical practice.

This first read item presents multiple revisions intended to allow EPPs to form primary and state recognized partnerships with Charter Management Organizations (CMOs). Many EPPs work closely with CMOs to support candidate recruitment and selection, development and implementation of high-quality clinical experiences, and selection of effective clinical mentors. Under current rule, EPPs are not permitted to develop formal primary or state-recognized partnerships with CMOs and must work through the authorizing LEA. This has posed some challenges as EPPs seek to engage with CMOs that otherwise have the resources to effectively support candidate preparation.

Applicable references to EPP partnerships appear throughout multiple sections of this rule. SBE Rule 0520-02-04-.02 provides definitions for the chapter, -.03 and -.04 govern the eligibility requirements and approval processes for EPPs seeking initial and ongoing state approval. -.07 details expectations related to EPP and SAP reviews and annual reporting. Section -.09 provides detailed requirements for EPP partnerships. Finally, -.10 outlines requirements related to clinical experiences. Revisions have been made throughout these rules to support the expansion of EPP and CMO partnerships.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing to collect public feedback before final reading.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by supporting high-quality educator preparation for all Tennessee public schools, whether traditional or public charter.

The Recommendation:

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