

**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 HB695/SB1438 which was passed in the 2023 legislative session.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading to collect public feedback.

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 acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.