
Educator Licensure – Endorsement Exemptions and Permits Rule 0520-02-03 -.11 and .12

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 outlines the license types issued in Tennessee and pathways toward licensure. Section -.11 governs the issuance of endorsement exemptions for individuals to teach subject areas in which they hold a valid license but do not possess the proper endorsement. Section -.12 governs the issuance of temporary academic and occupational permits for unlicensed individuals to teach specific classes for which an LEA or public charter school cannot find a licensed teacher.

This item makes revisions to the Endorsement Exemption Rule -.11 to authorize the Department to issue endorsement exemptions for elementary physical education courses in accordance with Chapter 280 of the Public Acts of 2023.

Additionally, Chapter 284 of the Public Acts of 2023 (PC 284) created a new temporary permit pathway by allowing the Commissioner of Education to issue temporary permits to individuals who have completed all required coursework in an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) except for the clinical experience requirement.

To align with PC 284, this item proposes the following revisions to Rule 0520-02-03-.12:

- Adds a new category of temporary permits titled Clinical Practice Permits and outlines the requirements to be eligible to obtain a Clinical Practice Permit, including how an individual who teaches under a clinical practice permit may use this time to satisfy the clinical experience required pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-5604.
- Clarifies that “clinical experience” means “clinical practice” as outlined in the State Board of Education Rule Educator 0520-02-04-.02 and Educator Preparation Policy 5.504 which includes student teaching, internship, or job-embedded opportunities.
- Clarifies requirements for mentor teachers who oversee individuals teaching under clinical practice permits and who make recommendations regarding completion of all EPP clinical practice requirements.

An emergency rule containing these revisions was approved at the June 22, 2023, special called meeting and is currently in effect. This item seeks approval of these revisions as a permanent rule.

State Board staff conducted a rulemaking hearing on October 2, 2023, to collect public feedback. No public comments were received at the hearing or in writing.

Minor typographical revisions were made between first and final reading.

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 providing additional options for individuals to complete their clinical practice requirements, thus helping remove barriers for educators and aspiring educators.

The Recommendation:

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