

Educator Licensure Policy 5.205

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Policy 5.205 further defines Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 and outlines general licensure requirements, including application and duration of licenses, professional development points, and endorsements.

This item makes revisions to the licensure renewal and advancement section by removing the section in its entirety as requirements for renewal and advancement are detailed in Educator Licensure Rule Chapter 0520-02-03.

This item makes revisions to the endorsements section by allowing an educator to add an endorsement by holding a major in an area aligned to a qualifying middle or secondary core academic or World Languages endorsement. Currently, educators who hold a major in a qualifying area can be issued a license and subsequent endorsement without additional coursework or assessment(s); however, educators who hold a valid license are unable to obtain an additional endorsement utilizing this same flexibility.

This item also clarifies that candidates holding a practitioner-level license enrolled in job-embedded program shall complete all program requirements prior to adding additional endorsements to the practitioner license.

Lastly, this item creates endorsement areas split by K-8 and 6-12 grade bands for English as a Second Language, Health and Wellness Education, and Physical Education with an effective year of 2024. Currently, only K-12 endorsements exist for these areas and the creation of endorsements split by grade band will allow the Department to better issue equivalent endorsements to out-of-state candidates that is appropriately aligned to the grade level of students served. The department plans to bring a recommendation in the future to requirements for state board approved TN-based EPPs to create pathways for these endorsements as well.

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 alignment for license issuance, renewal, advancement, and reactivation across Educator and Instructional Leader License types.

The Recommendation:

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