
Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 -.03 through -.07, -.10, and -.13

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 outlines the license types issued in Tennessee and pathways toward licensure. Sections -.03 through -.07 govern the issuance of teacher, occupational, school service personnel, JROTC, and Postsecondary Educator Licenses. Section -.10 governs the issuance of Instructional Leader Licenses.

This item makes revisions to the requirements for all educator license types to ensure alignment across license types and ensures requirements for license issuance, renewal, advancement, and reactivation are clearly defined. Additionally, this item makes revisions to the requirements for Instructional Leader Licenses to ensure alignment for license renewal and advancement in accordance with T.C.A § 49-5-5703.

This item proposes the following revisions to Requirements for Teacher Licenses Rule 0520-02-03-.03:

- Clarifies that an educator who has completed an approved educator preparation program in a state other than Tennessee may be issued a practitioner or professional teacher (academic) license if they currently hold a valid Tennessee practitioner or professional occupational license.
- Amends the ability for occupational license holders to be issued a teacher license to include middle and secondary endorsements in the core academic, world languages, and CTE academic categories to align with the teacher license to occupational license pathway.
- Clarifies that an educator who holds a professional-level occupational license in Tennessee can advance a practitioner teacher license to align with occupational advancement options.
- Clarifies that an educator holding a practitioner teacher license following the issuance of a Limited License does not need to complete an Educator Preparation program in order to renew the 1st issuance practitioner teacher license.
- Codifies the grace period allowing renewal or advancement of a practitioner or professional teacher license until October 1 following the date of expiration if requirements for advancement or renewal are met within the validity period.

This item proposes the following revisions to Requirements for Occupational Teacher Licenses Rule 0520-02-03-.04:

- Clarifies that an educator who has completed an approved educator preparation program in a state other than Tennessee may qualify for a teacher license (academic) if they currently hold a valid Tennessee practitioner or professional teacher (academic) license.
- Amends the ability to be issued an occupational license by holding a valid teacher license and submitting evidence demonstrating relevant years of experience for occupational endorsements that do not require an industry certification.
- Removes unnecessary assessment requirements for issuance, renewal, and advancement of occupational licenses to align with Licensure Policy changes effective as of June 1, 2023, in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy 5.105.
- Allows an individual holding a practitioner occupational license upon completion of an EPP to add additional occupational endorsements. This revision aligns with the ability for individuals with practitioner teacher (academic) licenses to add endorsements.

- Removes the ability for an educator issued an occupational license under pathway 3 to advance to a professional occupational license without completion of an occupational educator preparation program. This ensures consistency with the options available to an educator who is issued a practitioner teacher license under the Limited License Rule 0520-02-03-.13.
- Codifies the grace period to renew or advance a practitioner or professional license until October 1 following the date of expiration if requirements are met within the validity period.

This item proposes the following revisions to the Requirements for School Services Personnel Licenses Rule 0520-02-03-.05:

- Removes the requirement for all coursework to be completed prior to licensure recommendation for candidates enrolled in a School Counselor preparation program with job-embedded practice who hold, at a minimum, a bachelor degree under Pathway 2.
- Removes the unnecessary Pathway 4 from licensure options, as Pathway 2 would apply to all candidates recommended for School Counselor licensure enrolled in a program with job-embedded practice.
- Removes unnecessary assessment requirements for issuance of an endorsement in school social work to align with the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy 5.105.
- Amends advancement requirements for school service personnel licensure to include Educator Preparation Program (EPP) completion and applicable assessments to align with advancement requirements for other educator license types.
- Amends the ability to renew or advance a practitioner license until October 1 following the date of expiration if requirements are met within the validity period.
- Amends the ability to renew a professional license until October 1 following the date of expiration if requirements are met within the validity period.

This item proposes the following revisions to Requirements for a JROTC License Rule 0520-02-03-.06:

- Amends renewal requirements for JROTC licenses by replacing a valid JROTC license with a valid JROTC training certificate.
- Adds reactivation requirements for JROTC licenses to include an active JROTC training certificate and verification that the applicant will be employed in a JROTC program in a Tennessee LEA.
- Codifies the grace period to renew a JROTC license until October 1 following the date of expiration if requirements are met within the validity period.

This item proposes the following revisions to Requirements for Postsecondary Educators Rule 0520-02-03-.07:

- Amends assessment requirements to align with other educator types by replacing the five-year age limit with current assessments.
- Clarifies that a practitioner postsecondary educator (PSE) license is continuously renewable if advancement requirements are not met.
- Clarifies that if renewal requirements are not met within the validity period, then the license shall expire.
- Codifies the grace period to renew the PSE license until October 1 following the date of expiration if requirements are met within the validity period.

This item proposes the following revisions to Rule 0520-02-03-.10 for Instructional Leader Licenses:

- Amends licensure advancement guidelines to include being current in all TASL hours.

- Clarifies out-of-state experience used for the purpose of obtaining an ILL-P must have accrued out-of-state.
- Codifies the grace period to renew or advance the Instructional Leader License until October 1 following the date of expiration if requirements are met within the validity period.

Lastly, this item proposes the following revisions to Rule 0520-02-03-.13 for the Limited License to clarify the advancement requirements for educators seeking to advance from a limited license to a practitioner license.

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 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.