

**RULES
OF
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-02-04
EDUCATOR PREPARATION**

0520-02-04-.04 APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS.

- (1) Eligible organizations that wish to offer educator preparation programs in Tennessee must complete a two (2)-step approval process:
 - (a) The entity must receive initial approval by the State Board to begin serving as an EPP; and
 - (b) The EPP must undergo a comprehensive review to achieve full state approval to continue serving as an EPP within five (5) years of initial approval.
- (2) Eligible organizations seeking initial approval as an EPP in order to prepare and recommend candidates for licensure shall participate in the initial approval process by submitting a proposal to the Department that contains, at a minimum, the following information:
 - (a) Evidence that the entity has the capacity to serve as an EPP and provide programs leading to licensure or endorsement;
 - (b) Evidence for how the EPP will address all applicable educator preparation standards approved by the State Board, including:
 - 1. Content and pedagogical knowledge;
 - 2. Clinical partnerships and practice;
 - 3. Candidate quality, recruitment, and selectivity; and
 - 4. Provider quality assurance and continuous improvement.
 - (c) Geographic area to be served and documentation of the engagement of at least one (1) primary LEA or CMO partner;
 - (d) Plan for curriculum offerings, including delivery method and timeframe, clinical placements, and clinical supervision plans;
 - (e) A proposal for each SAP that, at a minimum, includes alignment to Tennessee academic standards, candidate assessment, relevant clinical experience(s), the professional education standards approved by the State Board, all applicable literacy standards, and applicable specialty area standards approved by the State Board;
 - (f) Evidence that the faculty who teach courses or provide direct coaching to teacher or instructional leader candidates possess sufficient knowledge, skills, training, and expertise;
 - (g) A description of admissions procedures, including the criteria which must be met in order for a candidate to be fully admitted to the licensure program;
 - (h) Evidence of organizational and financial stability;

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- (i) Applicable provider characteristics, such as governance, control (private or public), regional or national accreditation agency, and THEC authorization; and
 - (j) If the provider is currently operating or has operated in Tennessee or any other state, data on program effectiveness, including but not limited to completion effectiveness, quality of district partnerships, and performance on annual reports, if available.
- (3) Proposals submitted for EPP initial approval shall be reviewed by the Department. After review of the proposal for initial approval, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one (1) of the following:
 - (a) Initial approval. If initial approval is awarded, providers may begin enrolling and subsequently recommending candidates for licensure in approved specialty areas; or
 - (b) Denial of initial approval. If initial approval is denied, providers may not recommend candidates for licensure or identify programs as leading to licensure. Providers may submit a revised proposal for consideration during the next review period.
- (4) EPPs shall not publicize programs as leading to licensure prior to receiving initial approval.
- (5) All EPPs that receive initial approval shall submit annual report data to the Department.
- (6) Initial approval shall expire upon an EPP receiving full approval through the state-managed full-approval review or after five (5) years, whichever occurs first. If an EPP with initial approval has not received full approval within five (5) years, approval shall be revoked, and the EPP may no longer enroll or recommend candidates for licensure.
- (7) An EPP may seek full approval after three (3) years in operation under initial approval by requesting a state-managed full-approval review.
- (8) Upon completion of the full-approval review, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one (1) of the following:
 - (a) Full approval. The EPP meets one (1) of the following statuses and may recommend candidates for licensure:
 - 1. Exemplary status. The EPP exceeds expectations on a majority of the standards and meets expectations on all other standards.
 - 2. Full approval. The EPP meets expectations on all standards.
 - 3. Full approval, minor stipulations. The EPP meets expectations on all standards, but falls below expectations on one (1) or more components across multiple standards. The EPP shall submit to the Department a plan for addressing the areas in need of improvement within three (3) months of receiving full approval, minor stipulations. The Department shall annually review the EPP's progress on the submitted plan for improvement. If the EPP has adequately addressed the areas in need of improvement, the Department may recommend to the State Board removal of the minor stipulations for the remainder of the approval period of the EPP. If, within a three (3)-year period, the Department determines the areas in need of improvement are not adequately addressed, the EPP may be required to participate in an interim review.

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- (b) Probationary approval, major stipulations. The EPP meets expectations on three (3) or more standards but falls below expectation on one (1) or more standard(s). An EPP that is issued probationary approval may recommend candidates for licensure but shall submit to the Department an improvement plan for addressing the areas in need of improvement within three (3) months of receiving probationary approval status from the State Board. Each year, the EPP shall present evidence that the provider is implementing the improvement plan and making progress toward meeting expectations. The EPP shall also participate in a focused review within three (3) years of receiving probationary approval from the State Board. The EPP shall not submit SAP proposals for conditional approval until the Department determines all deficiencies have been adequately addressed. The EPP shall specifically report on the progress made in each area of deficiency on their annual report for the three (3) years following the issuance of probationary approval.
- (c) Denial of approval. The EPP falls below expectations on two (2) or more standards. EPPs that are denied approval shall no longer enroll new candidates for licensure and shall notify all current candidates of the denial of approval status of its program. Denied EPPs may continue to serve candidates who can complete the program by the end of the semester that falls twelve (12) months after the date of the denial of approval. The EPP shall assist candidates who are unable to complete the program within this period in transferring to another degree program at the institution or to another approved EPP. The EPP may not re-apply for initial approval for at least three (3) years from the date of denial.
- (9) The State Board has final authority on all provider and program decisions related to educator preparation.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024.

0520-02-04-.08 ADMISSION TO EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

- (1) Candidates for admission to a baccalaureate-level educator preparation program shall, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
 - (a) A minimum postsecondary grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 at the time of admission to the EPP;
 - (b) A qualifying score on the Praxis Core, ACT or SAT assessment defined in the State Board's Educator Preparation Policy; and
 - (c) Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-5-5610.
- (2) Candidates for admission to a post-baccalaureate educator preparation program shall, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Evidence of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education (USDOE);

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- (b) A minimum overall GPA of 2.75 from a completed baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree program or a GPA of 3.00 in the most recent sixty (60) credit hours earned at a regionally or nationally accredited college or university recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education (USDOE);
 - (c) Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-5-5610; and
 - (d) For admission to programs that include job-embedded clinical practice, a degree with a major in the specialty area or qualifying scores on the required content assessment defined in the State Board's Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.
- (3) Candidates for admission to an ILPP shall, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
- (a) Have successfully completed an educator preparation program and hold a valid teacher license from Tennessee or from a state other than Tennessee;
 - (b) Have at least two (2) years of qualifying education experience as defined by the Department;
 - (c) Have demonstrated effectiveness as an educator in the most recent two (2) years as evidenced by a state-approved evaluation model or similar measure for educators employed in schools that do not utilize a state-approved evaluation model;
 - (d) Have demonstrated leadership potential in accordance with guidelines developed by the Department; and
 - (e) Be recommended by an LEA and participate in an interview conducted by a program admissions committee.
- (4) EPPs may establish additional or more rigorous admission requirements than the state minimum requirements, provided they are in compliance with all state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.
- (5) To admit candidates on appeal, EPPs must submit an admissions appeal procedure process to the Department for approval. If the Department denies an admissions appeal procedure process, the EPP shall not admit candidates on appeal. Each EPP with an approved admission appeal procedure shall report to the Department the names, academic qualifications, and basis on which candidates were admitted on appeals each year.
- (6) Each EPP shall report to the Department each candidate admitted to the educator preparation program and identify each candidate admitted on appeal.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Expired rules edited by Secretary of State in October 1996. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019.

(Rule 0520-02-04, continued)

0520-02-04-.10 CLINICAL EXPERIENCES.

- (1) Each EPP shall provide candidates with clinical experiences. EPPs shall design these experiences to provide candidates with opportunities to build and demonstrate content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, and pedagogical content knowledge. These experiences shall reflect the breadth of the grade span and the depth of the content reflected by the specialty area(s) in which the candidate is being prepared.
- (2) Each candidate shall complete field experiences and at least one (1) clinical practice in order to successfully complete an educator preparation program.
- (3) EPPs shall ensure candidates complete a clinical practice in the appropriate licensure and endorsement area.
- (4) Field experiences shall provide early and ongoing practice opportunities to apply content and pedagogical knowledge in settings reflective of the specialty area(s) in which the candidate is being prepared.
- (5) EPPs shall develop requirements for completion of clinical practice and outline the causes and procedures by which the clinical practice can be terminated. Candidates who do not successfully complete clinical practice shall not be recommended for licensure.
- (6) Prior to participating in a clinical practice, post-baccalaureate program candidates shall receive training on the professional education standards.
- (7) Clinical practice sites may include Tennessee public schools, including public charter schools and Tennessee state special schools, or Category 1, 2, or 3 non-public schools. Category 4 and 5 schools shall not be used as placement sites. These categories are defined in State Board Rule 0520-07-02. If extraordinary circumstances arise that prevent a candidate from completing the clinical experience in Tennessee, the EPP may request permission for the candidate to complete the clinical practice in another state. Information of candidates who complete the clinical practice outside of Tennessee shall be included as part of the comprehensive review process.
- (8) EPPs shall ensure all candidates participating in a clinical practice have a school-based clinical mentor.
- (9) Educators who serve as a school-based clinical mentor in a public school setting shall, at a minimum:
 - (a) Hold an active Tennessee license with an endorsement in the area or a closely related area where they will be supervising the candidate;
 - (b) Have a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations or significantly above expectations for the prior school year; and
 - (c) Have a minimum of three (3) years of experience as a teacher, school services personnel, or instructional leader, as applicable.
- (10) Clinical mentors shall be selected jointly by the EPP and the partner LEA and/or CMO.
- (11) Clinical mentors shall, in cooperation with the EPP clinical supervisor, direct the activities of the candidate in the classroom.

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- (12) EPPs shall coordinate with LEAs and/or CMOs to ensure clinical mentors are provided release time for counseling, observation, evaluation, or other activities related to the clinical practice that occur during the school day.
- (13) Beginning on July 1, 2026, clinical mentors supervising candidates completing an Internship clinical practice, as defined in Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, shall use an observation tool approved by the Department.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Expired rules edited by Secretary of State in October 1996. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed April 28, 2000; effective August 28, 2000. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed May 27, 2021; effective August 25, 2021. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024.