Uniform Grading System Rule 0520-01-03-.02

The Background:

Uniform Grading System Rule 0520-02-03-.02 establishes the statewide uniform grading scale to be used by LEAs for students enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) for the purposes of application for postsecondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

This item revises the percentage points used to calculate semester average grades for Dual Enrollment courses, proposing a shift from 4 percentage points to 5 percentage points, beginning with courses completed in the 2024-2025 school year. This recommendation follows input from higher education leadership suggesting that Dual Enrollment course completion should be incentivized and rewarded given the fact that such courses result in awarding of college credit.

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 Postsecondary and Career outlined in the Master Plan by increasing flexibility for students seeking to take courses aligned to their area of interest and college or career pathway and by increasing student opportunities to qualify for state graduation distinction.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommend acceptance of this item on first reading.