Career and Technical Education - Coordination and Supervision of Student Work-Based Learning Experience Rule 0520-01-07-.04

The Background:

Chapter 543 of the Public Acts of 2024 (PC 543) increased the maximum number of work-based learning (WBL) credits a student may earn each school year. Previously, T.C.A. § 49-11-909 stated that students may earn a maximum of three (3) WBL credits per school year and at least one (1) credit must be earned through related classroom experience which must include a minimum of two (2) periods per week of classroom instruction. The law also previously specified that a minimum of ten (10) hours per week of supervised work experience is required for one (1) additional credit, and a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week is required for two (2) additional credits.

PC 543 amends the law to allow a student to earn up to six (6) work-based learning credits each school year and states that a minimum of five (5) hours per week of supervised work experience is required for each additional credit.

This item presents revisions to the rule to align with PC 543.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading for 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 providing students with increased opportunity and flexibility to participate in work-based learning programs.

The Recommendation:

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