
Graduation Substitutions Policy 3.103

The Background:

The State Board's Graduation Substitutions Policy 3.103 outlines allowable course substitutions for graduation requirement credits.

This item proposes clarifying the allowability of using a course substitution to satisfy one graduation requirement and elective focus requirements. The Department and State Board of Education have provided long-standing guidance to LEAs that students may use a course substitution to satisfy one graduation requirement, while also counting the course toward their elective focus. For example, a student may count a course in the Graduation Substitutions Policy as a substitution for a required math credit and use the course to meet their elective focus, such as an A.P. elective focus or CTE program of study. This item codifies this guidance in policy to provide clear expectations for LEAs. Students will still be required to meet all other requirements for their diploma type, including the minimum number of credits.

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 Postsecondary and Career outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring policy language regarding graduation credits and substitutions are clear for districts and schools.

The Recommendation:

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