
Educator Licensure Permanent Rules 0520-02-03-.02, -.07, and -.11 through -.13

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Rules 0520-02-03 outline the license types issued in Tennessee and pathways toward licensure. Rule -.02 outlines the different types of educator licenses. Rule -.07 governs the issuance of Postsecondary Educator Licenses. Rules -.11 through -.13 outline the requirements and issuance of Endorsements, Permits, and Limited Licenses.

Chapter 328 of the Public Acts of 2025 (PC 328) took effect on July 1, 2025, and made various revisions to educator licensure laws to streamline requirements and increase consistency across emergency credentials and license types. This item makes corresponding revisions to various sections of the Educator Licensure Rule to align with PC 328. Revisions include:

- Adding the Limited Occupational Teaching License to the list of eligible license types for issuance to Tennessee educators and defining the validity period for Limited Licenses and Limited Occupational Teaching Licenses, as specified in Rule -.02;
- Allowing educators to add additional endorsements to subsequent issuances of the Postsecondary Educator License as specified in Rule -.07;
- Allowing an educator to teach a course with an end-of-course (EOC) exam if the educator is granted an emergency credential as outlined in the Endorsement or Permits Rule -.11 and -.12;
- Removing the prohibition against granting endorsement exemptions for courses with an end-of-course exam;
- Removing the prohibition against granting clinical practice permits to teach elementary physical education courses;
- Removing the requirements for occupational permits, which have been replaced by the new Limited Occupational Teaching License;
- Amending the requirements for issuance of the Limited License to educators who have utilized three temporary teaching permits;
- Removing the prohibition to grant a Limited License for courses with an end-of-course exam; and
- Outlining the requirements for issuance, renewal, and advancement of the Limited Occupational Teaching License. This will be a new type of occupational teaching license created through PC 328. To obtain the license, an individual must meet certain industry work or credential requirements, complete LEA training in specific subject areas, and receive support from a highly effective mentor teacher during the validity period of the license.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing to collect public feedback between first and final reading on the permanent rule. This item is also being proposed as an emergency rule at the August 15, 2025, State Board meeting to ensure there are rules in place by the start of the 2025-26 school year and meet the public chapter's effective date.

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 and types in accordance with updated state laws.

The Recommendation:

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