
Educator Licensure Policy 5.502

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Policy 5.502 outlines general licensure requirements, including application and duration of licenses, professional development points, and endorsements.

Over the past several years, Tennessee has worked to establish integrated endorsements – including both general education and special education content and assessments – for teacher candidates in pre-K-3. These endorsements indicate that teachers are prepared to support all students in their classrooms in the earliest grades. The integrated endorsements remain in effect, are being implemented by Tennessee educator preparation providers, and are being earned by Tennessee teachers.

However, to accommodate specific situations, this item revises the endorsements section of the Licensure Policy by removing 2026 retirement dates from the Early Childhood Education Pre-K–3, Early Development and Learning Pre-K–K, and Special Education Early Childhood Pre-K–3 endorsements. Maintaining these endorsements ensures reciprocity options for out-of-state educators seeking licensure in Tennessee and provides a licensure reactivation pathway for Tennessee educators holding an expired license with one of these endorsements. These pathways maximize opportunities for prior and future Tennessee educators to join the workforce and provide LEAs opportunities to fill critical vacancies.

There have been no changes since first reading.

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 Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring alignment for license issuance, renewal, advancement, and reactivation across Educator and Instructional Leader License types.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.