
Graduation Requirements Rule 0520-01-03-.06

The Background:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) allows states to adopt alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, but the state's alternate academic achievement standards must be aligned with the state's traditional academic achievement standards. Similarly, T.C.A. § 49-6-6001 requires the State Board of Education to ensure the alternate academic diploma requirements are aligned with the traditional high school diploma requirements.

T.C.A. § 49-6-1010(b) and Tennessee State Board of Education Graduation Requirements Rule 0520-01-03-.06 require that a high school student pursuing a traditional high school diploma receive at least one credit of computer science education in high school. To ensure alignment between the traditional high school diploma requirements and the alternate academic diploma requirements, this item proposes revisions to clarify that a high school student pursuing an alternate academic diploma must receive at least one credit of computer science education in high school, although the course may be modified based on the student's individual needs.

This item also updates terminology in the requirements for state graduation distinction from "All-State Musical Organizations" to "All-State Arts Organizations" to recognize that other art disciplines, which still includes music, now have a mechanism to determine All-State status.

State Board staff held a rulemaking hearing on July 24, 2025, to collect public feedback. No public comments were received regarding the proposed revisions. There have been no changes to this item 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 beyond statute.

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 that students with the most significant disabilities receive appropriate instruction in computer science that enable the student to communicate and be prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

The Recommendation:

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