
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Course Standards

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to “approve all academic standards and adopt rules and policies governing courses of study in the public schools” Additionally, State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.03(1) calls for the State Board to adopt standards for each subject area, grades K-12, and Standards Review Policy 3.209 requires the Department of Education to review the Career and Technical Education (CTE) course standards at a minimum of every three (3) years. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system.

This item includes new courses within the following CTE career clusters:

- Energy and Sustainable Resources (new career cluster)
 - Introduction to Ecology and Conservation
 - Conservation Strategies
 - Advanced Ecology and Conservation
 - Ecological Research and Conservation Practicum
- Education and Training
 - Mathematics Pedagogy and Core Principles Practicum

The Energy and Sustainable Resource courses were created based on the revised framework of CTE career clusters and educator feedback to align more closely with industry and postsecondary needs.

The Education and Training math practicum course was created in response to Chapter 551 of the Public Acts of 2024 (PC 551), the Mathematics Supports Act. PC 551 requires the department to offer this course by the 2025-26 school year and further requires the course to align with the recommendations of the Mathematics Expert Review Panel, also convened pursuant to PC 551. The Panel’s recommendations were provided to the Department’s CTE team to support the development of these standards.

Industry partners and secondary and postsecondary educators have reviewed all these new courses for alignment to workforce needs.

There have been no changes to this item since first reading. The department solicited additional feedback between first and final reading but did not receive further input. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-309, the State Board submitted the proposed changes to the education committees of the House and Senate prior to final reading. These CTE courses and standards changes will go into effect for the 2025-26 school year.

Below are the career clusters with revised course standards.

*Indicates a proposed new course

Education and Training	
*Mathematics Pedagogy and Core Principles Practicum	New Course

Energy and Sustainable Resources	
*Introduction to Ecology and Conservation	New Course
*Conservation Strategies	New Course
*Advanced Ecology and Conservation	New Course
*Ecological Research and Conservation Practicum	New Course

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 ensuring that students develop and demonstrate readiness for their postsecondary or career plans.

The Recommendation:

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