Agenda

Final Reading Item: VI. H.

Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205

The Background:

The Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205 identifies courses that have been approved by the State Board for instruction in Tennessee public schools.

This item updates the Approved High School Course Policy 3.205 to ensure accuracy of current course offerings. The Department conducted a review of the courses listed in the policy and updated the career and technical education (CTE) and other courses to ensure the policy is reflective of the course changes approved by the State Board of Education at previous meetings throughout the 2024-25 school year, including removal of courses no longer offered for credit in grades 9-12, removal of CTE course guidance, and providing naming consistency of courses with the recently approved standards. Additionally, the CTE courses are realigned based on the new alignment of career clusters that will go into effect for the 2025-26 school year. Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, Statewide Dual Credit will be phased out over a three-year period. For more information, please see the Department of Education's website.

This item is being heard on first and final reading to allow for timely implementation for the 2025-26 school year.

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 Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring State Board policy reflects current and upcoming course offerings in schools.

The Recommendation:

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