
Health Education Standards: Tennessee Lifetime Wellness Standards Grades 9-12 (High School)

The Background:

Chapter 224 of the Public Acts of 2025 (PC 224), now codified in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1304, amended Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1304(a) to require family life curriculum to provide instruction and evidence regarding the positive personal and societal outcomes associated with the “success sequence,” defined as a method by which a person completes the following in sequence: obtains a high school diploma, enters the workforce or pursues a postsecondary degree or credential, enters into marriage, and has children. PC 224 takes effect on July 1, 2026, and applies to the 2026-2027 school year and each school year thereafter. This item proposes a new standard for the 2026-27 school year to ensure that students are instructed on the success sequence in accordance with PC 224.

Additionally, Chapter 164 of the Public Acts of 2025 (PC 164), now codified in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1304, amended Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1304(a) to require family life curriculum to educate students in grades 9-12 on that state’s safe haven law, which allows mothers of newborns to surrender unharmed babies to designated facilities within 45 days of birth without fear of being prosecuted. PC 164 requires guidelines and educational materials to be developed and distributed to each local education agency (LEA) serving students in grades nine through twelve and to each public charter high school before the start of the 2026-2027 school year. This item proposes a new standard for the 2026-2027 school year to ensure that students are instructed on the safe haven law in accordance with PC 164.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 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 Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring standards are updated in accordance with statutory changes.

The Recommendation:

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