
Educator Preparation Clinical Experiences Rule 0520-02-04-.10

The Background:

The Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Preparation Clinical Experiences Rule 0520-02-04 outlines the educator preparation requirements in Tennessee and approval of educator preparation providers (EPPs) and specialty area programs. Currently, SBE Rule 0520-02-04-.10(7) states that clinical practice sites may include Tennessee public schools, including public charter schools and Tennessee state special schools, or Category 1, 2, or 3 non-public schools. Additionally, the rule states that Category 4 and 5 schools shall not be used as placement sites. These categories are defined in State Board Rule 0520-07-02.

To better align with Birth – Kindergarten endorsements, this item proposes to allow the following programs, which are subject to monitoring by the Tennessee Department of Education, to serve as clinical practice sites, provided they meet the highest level of quality set forth by the Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee Department of Health Services:

1. Public school-administered early childhood education programs;
2. Programs operated by private schools as defined by T.C.A. § 49-6-3001(c)(3)(i) or § 49-6-3001(c)(3)(iii);
3. Child care provided by church affiliated schools as defined by T.C.A. § 49-50-801(a);
4. State-approved Montessori school programs; and
5. Child care provided in federally regulated programs, including Title I preschools and all school-administered Head Start and Even Start Programs.

This item also proposes changes to delineate school-based clinical mentor requirements between public and non-public settings.

State Board staff will conduct a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading to collect public feedback.

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 Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by providing additional educator preparation clinical experience options.

The Recommendation:

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