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### Graduation Permissions and Substitutions Policy 3.103

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#### Background:

In conjunction with the State Board of Education Academic and Instructional Requirements Rules 0520-01-03, Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205, and High School Policy 2.103, the Graduation Substitutions Policy 3.103 details permitted course substitutions for graduation credit requirements.

On first reading, this item proposed:

- Centering an individual student's postsecondary and career interests in the selection and substitution process to promote meaningful coursework that leads to a life-sustaining postsecondary and/or career pathway.
- Clarifying which graduation requirements are eligible for selection and substitution and the corresponding courses that may be selected or substituted based on existing practices and local education agency (LEA) and school-based questions and feedback.
- Revising the policy name and structure to more effectively and efficiently reflect how LEAs, schools, and staff use the policy.
- Other clarifying and technical edits to support public transparency, effective implementation, and efficiency across related policies.

On final reading, this item proposes:

- Removing certain Statewide Dual Credit courses that will be retired beginning in the 2026-27 school year.
- Clarifying that students can take English III & IV course substitutions alongside English I & II courses to support students who are pursuing the AP Capstone Diploma Program.
- Additional clarifying and technical edits to support public transparency, effective implementation, and efficiency across policies, including alphabetizing discipline areas.

#### 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 for adoption 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 and does not affect private rights or privileges.

**Connection to the [Master Plan](#):**

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Postsecondary and Career and Engagement and Accountability, outlined in the Master Plan, by promoting graduation credits and substitutions policy clarity for districts and schools based on their questions and feedback.

**Recommendation:**

The State Board of Education staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.