

<b>TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	
<b>SPECIAL COURSES</b>	<b>3.201</b>

**POLICY SECTIONS:**

- I. Approval of Special Courses**
- II. Approval Process**
- III. Conversion of High-Frequency Special Courses to Permanent Courses**

**I. Approval of Special Courses**

Local education agencies (“LEAs”) and public charter schools may seek approval for special courses not listed in the Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205.

**II. Approval Process**

- (1) LEAs and public charter schools shall seek approval from the Department of Education (“Department”) for new special courses in advance of each school year in which the special course will be offered by submitting a special courses application to the Department. A public charter school shall certify in its application for a special course that it has provided written notice to its authorizer of its intent to seek approval of the special course, including the title and primary objective of the special course.
- (2) A special course approved by the Department shall be recommended to the State Board for:
  - (a) One (1) year approval;
  - (b) Three (3) year approval; or
  - (c) Eight (8) year approval.
- (3) After the duration of the State Board’s approval, the LEA or public charter school shall resubmit a special course application to the Department to continue offering the course.
- (4) Credit earned in a special course shall apply as additional elective credit and may not be substituted for a graduation credit requirement, including the elective focus.
- (5) The Department shall maintain and make available to LEAs and public charter schools a list of approved special courses.
- (6) Special courses approved by the State Board but not offered by an LEA or public charter school may be identified and considered for removal each year.

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**III. Conversion of High-Frequency Special Courses to Permanent Courses**

- (1) Beginning in school year 2026-27, the Department shall establish and oversee a process to identify special courses demonstrating high frequency of approval and sustained LEA demand as candidates for conversion to permanent courses. Permanent courses shall be included in the Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205.