
Special Courses Offered for Permanent Status

The Background:

A local school district can request approval to offer a course that is not on the list of courses that are required for graduation as approved by the State Board of Education (i.e., a special course). These courses must be approved by Department of Education for each of the first three years that the course is offered by the local school district. After three years, a course may become a permanent part of the local school district upon approval by the State Board of Education.

The following is specific guidance provided by Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards 0520-01-03-.05(2)(a):

Local school systems may offer special courses not listed in 0520-01-03-.06 on an experimental basis. Each course must be approved in advance each year by the Commissioner of Education. After three years the course may become a permanent part of the local school program upon approval by the State Board of Education.

The courses on the attached list have been offered by school districts for three years and are being submitted for approval. These courses have been:

- Submitted to the department with a complete set of standards,
- The standards have been reviewed by content experts at the department, and
- The courses have met the academic criteria set by the department.

The respective school systems have requested permanent approval of the submitted courses within their district.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on consent reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.