
Career & Technical Education Course Lists in Board Policy 3.205

The Background:

Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education 0520-01-03-.05(1) calls for the State Board of Education to adopt curriculum standards for each subject area, grades K-12. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system. Section 3.205 Approved High School Courses of the State Board of Education Policy identifies those courses which have been approved by the Board for instruction across the state.

This item will update sections 6 and 12-29 in State Board Policy 3.205 (Approved High School Courses) to reflect new, renamed and revised courses that are being proposed by career cluster, as well as the removal of courses that are being retired or replaced. In addition, the item will also update the course list with course additions to both Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.

The recommended revisions to the CTE course list (sections 12-29) are a continuation of the Division of Career and Technical Education's revision of Tennessee's CTE course standards to ensure all courses promoted by the department are rigorous, relevant, and student-focused. These submitted course revisions are being recommended for implementation in the 2015-16 school year.

Standards for existing CTE courses, which have been revised, include the (a) embedding of and alignment with Tennessee State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in Technical Subjects and where applicable, Mathematics, (b) increased alignment with general education standards and national industry standards, and (c) strong framework for 21st century skills (soft skills) development. Standards developed for new CTE courses provide greater clarity around student performance expectations, thereby increasing rigor.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are proprietary curricula developed by the College Board and taught as rigorous, college-level courses in high schools across the country. These rigorous courses are aligned with AP Exams, through which students can earn college credit if they meet or exceed the score(s) accepted by the institutions of their choice. All University of Tennessee and Tennessee Board of Regents institutions award credit based on student performance on AP exams.

The College Board has introduced a new Advanced Placement Capstone program that is built on two foundational courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments. In AP Research, students cultivate the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research in order to produce and defend a scholarly academic thesis. In order to provide Tennessee students with the opportunity to

participate in the rigorous AP Capstone program, the department of education recommends that these two courses be included on the state's list of approved high school courses.

Tennessee secondary schools that are approved by International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization are able to provide students the opportunity to participate in the rigorous IB Diploma Programme curriculum, which prepares them for university work and for world citizenship. Students study courses in six subject areas: their native language, an additional language, history, science, mathematics, and arts/elective.

As an international program, there is no single language that serves as the IB native language courses. Tennessee's international community has continued to expand as more business and industry establish a presence in the state. The Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga has brought many native German-speaking students to Hamilton County Schools. Several schools in the district already offer IB Diploma Programme courses. To best serve their students through the IB curriculum, there is a need for IB native language courses beyond English to be part of Tennessee's approved high school course list. The department of education recommends IB German Language and Literature courses be included on the state's list of approved high school courses.

The resulting changes are recommended in the new course list for Policy 3.205. Standards for new and revised courses are being presented for first and final readings as separate agenda items.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

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