
Statewide Dual Credit Agriculture Courses

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to set policies governing standards and courses of study in public schools. Additionally, Public Chapter 967 established a protocol for creating, piloting, and implementing statewide dual credit courses.

This item presents two new courses within the Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources career cluster through the Statewide Dual Credit (SDC) program. The proposed new courses within this career cluster are directly aligned to postsecondary courses and provide high school students the opportunity to sit for a challenge exam to earn postsecondary credit at any public institution in the state with an agriculture program.

The proposed new courses in this item include:

- Statewide Dual Credit: Introduction to Plant Science
- Statewide Dual Credit: Introduction to Agriculture Business

These courses are the first to go through the entire three-year development and pilot cycle established under Public Chapter 967. Tennessee high school and college faculty worked together to develop the learning objectives and challenge exam for each course. During the initial pilot phase, all courses undergo a validation process to ensure the learning objectives and challenge exam questions meet current postsecondary expectations across the state.

Since first reading, an open public comment period was held, with communications about the course learning objectives and request for feedback sent to all involved postsecondary faculty and all secondary agriculture teachers in the state. There are only formatting changes to the attached learning objectives and no substantive content changes. Postsecondary faculty did have changes to aligned challenge exam, which the department will be exploring in more depth later this school year.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education 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.

The Recommendation:

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