
Service-Learning Course Standards

The Background:

State Board of Education rule 0520-01-03-.05(1) requires the Board to adopt 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.

This final reading item contains the revised standards for Service-Learning. Service-Learning is a form of experiential learning where students develop academic knowledge and soft skills while addressing genuine community needs. The revised standards are designed to cover the knowledge and skills required by the Board's Work-Based Learning (WBL) Framework established in High School Policy 2.103. The WBL Framework is aligned with postsecondary pathways, is designed to reinforce Tennessee State Standards for English Language Arts and, where applicable, Mathematics, and reflects the competitive employment demands of our state. The proposed standards also align this course with language and formatting expectations consistent with the Department of Education's Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

The proposed Service-Learning standards have been written and reviewed with significant input from stakeholders across the state including service-learning teachers, current and past service-learning trainers, and Volunteer Tennessee board members.

The only change since first reading is the removal of references to the Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects Grades 6-12, which are proposed for removal on first reading.

The Recommendation:

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