
Educator Licensure Policy 5.502

The Background:

Over the past 18 months, the State Board of Education adopted two new rules and two new policies to address educator licensure and preparation. The previous rules, Teacher Education and Licensure (0520-02-03) and Licensure (0520-02-04) were replaced with Educator Licensure (0520-02-03) and Educator Preparation (0520-02-04). In addition, the new Educator Licensure Policy replaces the Transitional Licensure Policy. In tandem with this change, the Board also adopted the Educator Preparation Policy, which replaced the Tennessee Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines, as well as the Transitional Licensure Policy.

Changes to the policy discussed during the first reading included clarification on: verification on candidate content knowledge, initial licensure assessment and out-of-state endorsement requirements, requirements for occupational practitioner license renewal and advancement, licensure renewal and advancement windows, professional development point (PDP) verification for educators in non-public schools, transition plan for the new license structure, endorsement requirements and grade spans, and application grace periods.

This item presents minor revisions to offer greater clarity and additional information. Below is a brief summary of the changes since first reading in April 2015 (page numbers refer to the version with tracked changes):

- **Page 1:** Replaces “enrolled in” with “formally admitted to.” Educators must be formally admitted to a preparation program, but are not required to formally enroll (sign up for courses or pay tuition) prior to the issuance of the practitioner license.
- **Page 1 (footnote 1):** Clarifies the minimum requirements for practitioner occupational licenses.
- **Pages 9-10:** Clarifies the procedures (and sequencing) for the review of industry certification and required experience related to qualifying for an occupational practitioner license and aligns this with the requirements listed in the licensure rule (0520-02-03).

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

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.