
Guidelines for K-12 Instruction on Adoption

The Background:

Chapter 83 of the Tennessee Public Acts of 2015, requires the State Board of Education to “develop guidelines on the appropriate instruction on adoption, including what adoption is, and the benefits of adoption.” These guidelines must be distributed to every LEA prior to the 2015-16 school year.

Adoption is currently included in Section 6 of the Kindergarten through grade 8 Health Education Standards and the High School Lifetime Wellness standards. The specific areas where adoption is addressed include:

Kindergarten – 8th Grade Health Education Standards:

- Distinguish between the different types of families (e.g. two parent, single parent, blended, extended, foster, and adoptive);
- Describe a variety of family structures and how they change over time;

High School Lifetime Wellness Standards:

- Discuss the alternatives of an unplanned pregnancy

The accompanying guidelines will support educators in the instruction of these standards.

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.