
Minimum Requirements for the Approval of Public Schools, Rule 0520-01-03

The Background:

The proposed changes to the Minimum Requirements for the Approval of Public Schools Rule mirror the proposed change to the High School Policy.

On June 30, 2017, the Department of Education convened an internal working group to review postsecondary readiness for students with disabilities. The working group identified language in the High School Policy that states “students with disabilities who fail to earn a yearly grade of seventy percent (70%) in a course that has an End of Course (EOC) examination may use the alternative performance-based assessment (APBA) to add to their EOC score” as an item that should be removed from the rule because it is out of alignment with current law and State Board rule and because the standards on the APBA rubric are not aligned to current academic standards.

Removing this provision will align the rule with the requirements in state law and State Board rule that TCAP scores be incorporated into a student’s final grade as follows: fifteen percent (15%) in the 2017-2018 school year; and between fifteen percent (15%) and twenty-five percent (25%) based on local board policy in the 2018-19 school year and thereafter.

Below is a brief summary of additional changes to the rule (page numbers reflect the tracked changes document):

- **Page 1:** Updates language on reporting of waivers to align with legislation requiring the Department of Education to post all waiver requests granted by the Commissioner to the Department’s website.
- **Page 10:** Removes language on student absence in observance of religious holidays as this has been incorporated to the State Board’s School Attendance Policy.
- **Page 13:** Removes the APBA substitution.
- **Page 13:** Adds alternate academic diploma option in alignment with revisions to the High School Policy.
- **Page 15-16:** Removes the graduation with honors and distinction section as this has been incorporated to the State Board’s High School Policy.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 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.