
Approved High School Courses Policy 3.205

The Background:

State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-03-.05(1) calls for the State Board of Education (State Board) to adopt curriculum 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. The Approved High School Courses Policy identifies those courses which have been approved by the Board for instruction across the state.

The Department of Education proposes adoption of a Tier II Mathematics Intervention course and a Tier II English Language Arts Intervention course for high school that will follow component three of the Response to Instruction and Intervention Framework. Through the Response to Instruction and Intervention Framework, Tier II addresses the needs of struggling and advanced students. Those students who require assistance beyond the usual time allotted for core instruction should receive additional skill-based group intervention daily in the specific area of need.

The proposed high school Tier II intervention courses are needed because struggling learners need more time and instruction to learn and apply strategies and concepts. For some students, Tier I instruction will not be sufficient to successfully meet their needs, and they will require intervention that is explicit and focused on the area of skill deficit. Increasing frequency and duration is required in Tier II. Tier II interventions are progress monitored to see if students are acquiring the needed skills (at least once every other week). For students with significant deficits, the majority of the materials in Tier I classes will be too difficult for them to access. School teams determine the student's skill deficit(s) and provide the needed interventions for these students so that they can access Tier I material at an instructional or independent level.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department 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 acceptance of this item on first reading. The State Board staff concurs with this recommendation.