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**Educator Preparation Policy 5.504**

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**The Background:**

In October 2014, the board approved a new Educator Preparation Policy. The policy outlines requirements related to the approval of entities that prepare educators who will be recommended for a Tennessee educator license. Since approval, the department has identified several aspects of the policy that need additional clarification or revision. Prior to developing these recommendations, the department engaged stakeholders, including representatives from local education agencies, education-related organizations, and educator preparation providers. These recommendations reflect the consensus of the stakeholders, as well as the opinions of department staff.

Below is a brief summary of the changes:

**Procedures for Approval of Educator Preparation Providers and Specialty Area Programs (page 7)**

Denial of Approval - The current language allows an EPP that is operating under the denial of approval status to work with candidates who can complete the preparation program within twelve months from the date of the denial of approval action. The denial of approval action can be taken during a semester. The revised language provides a very limited extension to the end of the same semester of the following academic year that the denial of approval action was taken for candidates to complete the preparation program.

**Literacy Standards (page 28)**

- The State Board approved literacy standards for Early Childhood and Elementary endorsements in January 2017 and for Instructional Leaders in April 2017. The proposed policy revision is the product of convening relevant content experts across the department and proposes unique sets of literacy standards for the following specialty area endorsement programs:
  - All other Pre-K-12, K-12, 6-8, 6-12, and 9-12 endorsement areas (Academic as well as Career and Technical Education)
  - Special Education Interventionist K-8 and 6-12
  - Special Education Comprehensive K-12
  - 6-8 and 6-12 English Language Arts
  - Speech Language Teacher

**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 adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.