
Educator Preparation Policy 5.504

The Background:

In October 2014, the board approved a new Educator Preparation Policy. The new 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 convened a group of stakeholders, composed of representatives from local education agencies, education-related organizations and educator preparation providers and another state education agency. These recommendations reflect the consensus of that group, as well as the opinions of department staff.

This item presents revisions to offer revised and updated standards for the preparation of educators for providing instruction in literacy. The department convened a taskforce that included educator preparation faculty and practitioners from the K-12 community. These stakeholders met in-person three times to provide recommendations for the drafted changes. These new standards represent a significant departure from the prior reading standards. The new standards are tightly aligned with Tennessee's Read to be Ready initiative, reflect Tennessee specific student standards, as well as Tennessee's Special Education Framework and RTI². The new standards also incorporate expectations for a broader range of educators, including secondary teachers and instructional leaders.

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 acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.