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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 its 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 (EPPs). These recommendations reflect the consensus of the stakeholders, as well as the opinions of department staff.

Below is a brief summary of the changes (page numbers refer to the version with tracked changes):

**Section II. Procedures for Approval of Educator Preparation Providers and Specialty Area Programs**

- B. Full Approval 3. c. page 7 – the revised language allows the department to recommend the removal of minor stipulations based on demonstrated improvements since a comprehensive review;
- B. Full Approval 3. d., page 7 – the revised language prohibits an EPP that has the status of Probationary approval, major stipulations, from submitting new Specialty Area Program proposals for conditional approval; and
- C. Interim Review and D. Focused Review, page 8 – the revised language allows the department to recommend a change in program status based on outcomes related to an interim or a focused review.

**Section III. Admission to Educator Preparation Programs**

- 1., page 11 – the revised language clarifies that EPPs are allowed to admit candidates to post-baccalaureate initial licensure pre-service preparation programs that include the content component as well as the professional education content. This revision is particularly applicable for potential special education candidates or other endorsement areas for which the pre-service preparation programs are designed to include the content component. The revised language specifies that post-baccalaureate initial licensure candidates who enroll in preparation programs that include job-embedded clinical practice must demonstrate content knowledge as an admission criterion.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.