

**RULES
OF
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-02-03
EDUCATOR LICENSURE**

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0520-02-03-.03 REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER LICENSES.

(1) Prospective educators seeking a practitioner teacher license shall meet the requirements of one (1) of the following pathways:

(a) Pathway 1. The prospective educator:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university;
2. Has completed a State Board-approved educator preparation program;
3. Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider; and
4. Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.

(b) Pathway 2. The prospective educator:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university;
2. Is enrolled in a State Board-approved educator preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice;
3. Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider; and
4. Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.

(2) Prospective educators from a state other than Tennessee seeking a practitioner teacher license shall meet the requirements of one (1) of the following pathways:

(a) Out-of-State Pathway 1. The out-of-state prospective educator:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university;
2. Has completed an educator preparation program approved by a state other than Tennessee;
3. Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider; and
4. Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.

(b) Out-of-State Pathway 2. The out-of-state prospective educator:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university;
2. Holds a valid initial level license from a state other than Tennessee;
3. Has completed an educator preparation program approved by a state other than Tennessee; and
4. Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider.

(c) Out-of-State Pathway 3. The out-of-state prospective educator:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university; and
2. Holds a valid professional level license from a state other than Tennessee.

(d) Out-of-State Pathway 4. The out-of-state prospective educator:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university
2. Is enrolled in an educator preparation program with job-embedded clinical practice that is approved by a state other than Tennessee that has a state-recognized partnership with a Tennessee local education agency (LEA);
3. Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider; and
4. Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.

(3) At the time of application for a Tennessee license, out-of-state prospective educators who hold a valid certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall be issued a professional level teacher license.

(4) Out-of-state prospective educators who are military spouses and who hold an active license (initial or professional) from a state other than Tennessee shall be issued the practitioner license upon providing documentation of active military dependent status.

(5) A practitioner license may be renewed once upon completion of an approved educator preparation program and submission of qualifying scores on all State Board-required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy prior to the end of the validity period of the first (1st) issuance of the practitioner license.

(6) If the requirements for practitioner license renewal are not met prior to the end of the validity period of the first (1st) issuance of the practitioner license, the license shall become inactive.

(7) An educator with a practitioner teacher license may seek to advance to a professional teacher license. In order to advance from a practitioner license to a professional license, an educator shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Completed an approved educator preparation program and submitted qualifying scores on all State Board-required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee

Educators Policy prior to the end of the validity period of the first (1st) issuance of the practitioner license;

- (b) Obtained three (3) years of qualifying experience as an educator as defined by the Department; and
 - (c) Earned thirty (30) professional development points.
- (8) If the requirements for licensure advancement are not met prior to the end of the validity period of the second (2nd) issuance of the practitioner license, the license shall become inactive.
- (9) Educators who obtained the practitioner teaching license through the out-of-state pathway 3 shall not be required to submit qualifying scores on State Board-required assessments to advance if:
- (a) The educator has been employed in a Tennessee public school in the candidate's area of endorsement; and
 - (b) The educator earned a level of overall effectiveness (LOE) score of "above expectations" or "significantly above expectations" in each of the first two (2) years immediately following the issuance of the individual's initial practitioner license.
- (10) To renew the professional license, an educator shall earn sixty (60) qualifying professional development points as indicated in SBE Educator Licensure Policy 5.502.
- (11) If the educator has not met the requirements for renewal at the end of the validity period of the professional license, then the license shall become inactive.

(12) In order to reactivate a license and endorsements held, an educator shall: ~~meet one of the following sets of requirements.~~

(a) ~~Option A: s~~Submit to the Department evidence of completion of an approved educator preparation program and shall submit qualifying scores on all State Board-required assessments that are not more than five (5) years old; ~~or~~

~~(a)(b) Option B: Submit to the Department evidence of current National Board Certification (NCBT) issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.~~

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302 and 49-5-108, Executive Order No. 14 of 2020 (and applicable, subsequent Executive Orders addressing COVID-19 relief), and Public Chapter 652 of 2020. **Administrative History:** Repeal and new rules filed December 18, 2014; effective March 18, 2015. A stay of the rules was filed January 28, 2015; new effective date June 1, 2015. Emergency rules filed August 27, 2015; effective through February 23, 2016. Repeal and new rules filed October 27, 2015; effective January 25, 2016. Amendments filed October 16, 2017; effective January 14, 2018. Amendments filed August 16, 2019; effective November 14, 2019. Emergency rules filed April 16, 2020; effective through October 13, 2020. Amendments filed April 16, 2020; effective July 15, 2020.

0520-02-03-.04 REQUIREMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL TEACHER LICENSES.

- (1) Prospective educators seeking a practitioner occupational teacher license shall meet the following requirements:
- (a) Hold a high school diploma or higher;
 - (b) Be enrolled in a State Board-approved educator preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice;

- (c) Be recommended by the approved educator preparation provider;
 - (d) Have a minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience, completed within the last ten (10) years, in the area of endorsement or equivalent education attainment as defined by the Department; and
 - (e) Hold an active industry license or credential for the area of endorsement as defined by the Department, if applicable.
- (2) A practitioner occupational teacher license may be renewed once upon completion of an approved educator preparation program prior to the end of the validity period of the first (1st) issuance of the practitioner license.
- (3) If the requirements for practitioner license renewal are not met prior to the end of the validity period of the first (1st) issuance of the practitioner license, the license shall become inactive.
- (4) In order to advance from a practitioner occupational teacher license to a professional occupational teacher license, an educator shall meet the following requirements:
- (a) Complete three (3) years of qualifying experience as an educator as defined by the Department;
 - (b) Complete a State Board-approved educator preparation program;
 - (c) Earn thirty (30) professional development points, a minimum of twenty (20) which shall come from new teacher training provided by the Department as indicated by SBE Educator Licensure Policy 5.502;
 - (d) Hold an active industry license or credential for the area of endorsement as defined by the Department, if applicable; and
 - (e) For educators that received the practitioner occupational teacher license on or after July 1, 2018, submit qualifying scores on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.
- (5) If the requirements for licensure advancement are not met prior to the end of the validity period of the second (2nd) issuance of the practitioner occupational teacher license, the license shall become inactive.
- (6) In order to renew the professional occupational teacher license educators must meet the following requirements:
- (a) Earn sixty (60) professional development points as indicted by SBE Educator Licensure Policy 5.502; and
 - (b) Provide verification of an active industry license or credential for the area of endorsement as defined by the Department, if applicable; ~~and~~.
- (7) If the educator has not met the requirements for renewal at the end of the validity period of the professional license, then the license shall become inactive.
- (8) Teachers who hold an active professional occupational teacher license may add additional occupational endorsements through one (1) of the following pathways:
- (a) Hold an active industry license or credential, as determined by the Department, for the area of endorsement, if applicable; or

- (b) If the endorsement area does not require a license or credential, then have a minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience, completed within the last ten (10) years, in the area of endorsement or equivalent education attainment as defined by the Department.
- (9) A practitioner or professional occupational teacher license may be reactivated by completion of both of the following:
- (a) Meeting one (1) of the following requirements:
 1. Hold an active industry license or credential, as determined by the Department, for the area of endorsement, if applicable; or
 2. If the endorsement area does not require a license or credential, then have a minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience, completed within the last ten (10) years, in the area of endorsement or equivalent education attainment as defined by the Department; and

(b) Meeting one (one) of the following requirements:

1. Submit qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy; or-
2. Submit to the Department evidence of current National Board Certification (NCBT) issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302 and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Repeal and new rules filed December 18, 2014; effective March 18, 2015. A stay of the rules was filed January 28, 2015; new effective date June 1, 2015. Emergency rules filed August 27, 2015; effective through February 23, 2016. Repeal and new rules filed October 27, 2015; effective January 25, 2016. Amendments filed October 7, 2016; effective January 5, 2017. Amendments filed August 16, 2019; effective November 14, 2019.

0520-02-03-.05 REQUIREMENTS SCHOOL SERVICES PERSONNEL LICENSES.

(1) School services personnel licenses are available in the following areas:

(a) _____ ~~(a)~~ School speech-language pathologist;

~~(a)~~(b) School speech-language pathology assistant

- (b) School audiologist;
- (c) School psychologist;
- (d) School counselor;
- (e) School social worker; and
- (f) School educational interpreter.

(2) School speech-language pathologists shall hold a school services personnel license with the school speech-language pathologist endorsement. Candidates seeking a practitioner school services personnel license as a school speech-language pathologist shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Submit qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy [5.105](#) and meet one (1) of the following:
1. Hold an advanced degree in speech-language pathology from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education with a speech-language program approved by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology;
 2. Hold a valid speech-language pathologist license issued by the Tennessee Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences or the licensing board of a state other than Tennessee; or
 3. Hold an advanced degree in speech-language pathology and hold a valid out-of-state professional level educator license.

(3) School speech-language pathology assistants shall hold a school services personnel license with the school speech-language pathology assistant endorsement. Candidates seeking a practitioner school services personnel license as a school speech-language pathology assistant shall meet one (1) of the following requirements:

- (a) Hold a current Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certification (SLPA-C) from the American Speech-Language & Hearing Association (ASHA);
- (b) Hold a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology, communication disorders, or speech and hearing sciences from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- (c) Hold a valid registration with the Tennessee Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences as a speech-language pathology assistant; or
- (d) Hold a degree from a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program.

~~(3)~~(4) ~~(3)~~ — School audiologists shall hold a school services personnel license with the audiologist endorsement. Candidates seeking a practitioner school services personnel license as a school audiologist shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Submit qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy [5.105](#) and meet one (1) of the following:
1. Hold an advanced degree in audiology from a state or regionally-accredited institution of higher education with a graduate level program approved by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology;
 2. Hold a valid audiology license issued by the Tennessee Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences or the licensing board of a state other than Tennessee; or
 3. Hold an advanced degree in audiology and hold a valid out-of-state professional level educator license.

~~(4)~~(5) ~~(4)~~ — School psychologists shall hold a school services personnel license with the school psychologist endorsement. Candidates seeking a practitioner school services personnel license as a school psychologist shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Submit qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy [5.105](#) and meet one (1) of the following:

1. Complete a State Board-approved graduate level educator preparation program in school psychology or a graduate level educator preparation program in school psychology approved for licensure by a state other than Tennessee;
2. Hold an advanced degree in school psychology and hold a valid out-of-state professional level educator license; or
3. Hold a valid certificate as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist issued by the National School Psychology Certification System.

~~(5)(6)~~ (5) School counselors shall hold a school services personnel license with the school counselor endorsement.

(a) Candidates seeking a practitioner school services personnel licensure and endorsement as a school counselor shall meet the requirements of one (1) of the following pathways:

1. Pathway 1. The candidate:
 - (i) Holds an advanced degree in school counseling from a regionally- accredited college or university;
 - (ii) Has completed a State Board-approved educator preparation program in school counseling;
 - (iii) Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider; and
 - (iv) Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.
2. Pathway 2. The candidate:
 - (i) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university;
 - (ii) Is enrolled in a State Board-approved educator preparation program in school counseling with a job embedded clinical practice;
 - (iii) Has completed all coursework required of the educator preparation program;
 - (iv) Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider; and
 - (v) Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.
3. Pathway 3. The candidate:
 - (i) Holds an advanced degree in a counseling field;

- (ii) Is enrolled in a State Board-approved educator preparation program in school counseling;
- (iii) Has completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of coursework in school counseling;
- (iv) Is recommended by the approved educator preparation provider;
- (v) Submits required supervision agreement between the LEA and approved educator preparation provider; and
- (vi) Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.

4. Pathway 4. The candidate:

- (i) Holds an advanced degree in school social work or school psychology from a State Board-approved educator preparation program or from an educator preparation program approved by a state other than Tennessee;
- (ii) Is enrolled in a State Board-approved educator preparation program in school counseling;
- (iii) Is recommended by the approved school counseling educator preparation provider;
- (iv) Submits required supervision agreement between the LEA and approved educator preparation provider; and
- (v) Submits qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.

5. Pathway 5. The out-of-state candidate:

- (i) Holds an advanced degree in school counseling from a regionally-accredited college or university; and
- (ii) Has completed an educator preparation program in school counseling approved by a state other than Tennessee as evidenced by one (1) of the following:
 - (I) A valid professional level license from a state other than Tennessee; or
 - (II) A recommendation from the out-of-state educator preparation provider where the educator completed preparation and qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy [5.105](#).

- (b) School counselors who serve in a supervisory role shall have a professional school services personnel license with an endorsement in school counseling.

~~(6)(7)~~ ~~(6)~~ — School social workers shall hold a school services personnel license with the school social worker endorsement. Candidates seeking a practitioner school services personnel license as a school social worker shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Submit qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy [5.105](#) and meet one (1) of the following:
 - 1. Complete a State Board-approved educator preparation program in school social work, or an educator preparation program in school social work approved for licensure by a state other than Tennessee, and be recommended by the approved educator preparation provider;
 - 2. Hold a valid social worker license issued by the Tennessee Board of Social Workers or the licensing board of a state other than Tennessee; or
 - 3. Hold a bachelor's degree or higher in social work and hold a valid out-of-state professional-level educator license.

~~(7)(8)~~ ~~(7)~~ — School educational interpreters shall hold a school services personnel license with the educational interpreter endorsement. Candidates seeking licensure and endorsement as a school educational interpreter shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university; and
- (b) Meet one of the following:
 - 1. Hold a current, nationally recognized certification in educational interpreting which includes a written examination related to ethics and practice; or
 - 2. Submit qualifying scores that are no more than five (5) years old on all required assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy [5.105](#).

~~(8)(9)~~ ~~(8)~~ — A practitioner school services personnel license may be renewed once.

~~(9)(10)~~ ~~(9)~~ — In order to advance from a practitioner school services personnel license to a professional school services personnel license, an educator shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Three (3) years qualifying experience as defined by the Department; and
- (b) Earn thirty (30) qualifying professional development points as indicated by SBE Educator Licensure Policy 5.502.

~~(10)(11)~~ ~~(10)~~ — If the requirements for licensure advancement are not met prior to the end of the validity period of the second (2nd) issuance of the practitioner license, the license shall become inactive.

~~(12)(11)~~ — In order to reactivate a professional school services personnel license, an educator must meet one (1) of the following sets of requirements shall:

(a) Option A

- 1. Submit qualifying scores on all State Board-required assessments that are no more than five (5) years old; and

2. Submit evidence of a current and valid license issued by the appropriate Tennessee or out-of-state licensing board, if applicable.

(b) Option B

1. Submit evidence of an active national credential in the area of endorsement as outlined below:

(i) Speech-language Pathologists – Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-language Pathology (CCC-SLP) issued by the American Speech-language Hearing Association

(ii) Audiologist – Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) issued by the American Speech-language Hearing Association

(iii) School Psychologist – National Certification in School Psychology issued by the National School Psychology Certification Board

(iv) School Counselor – National Counselor Certification (NCC, CCMHC, MAS, or NCSC) issued by the National Board for Certified Counselors

(v) School Social Worker – Certified School Social Work Specialist (C-SSWS) issued by the National Association of Social Workers or Certification by the Academy of Certified Social Workers (NASW)

(vi) Educational Interpreter – Professional Deaf Interpreter Credential issued by the National Association for the Deaf or Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Certification.

~~(11)(13)(12)~~ — In order to renew the professional school services license educators must earn sixty (60) qualifying professional development points as defined in ~~indicated by the SBE~~ Educator Licensure Policy 5.502.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Repeal and new rules filed December 18, 2014; effective March 18, 2015. A stay of the rules was filed January 28, 2015; new effective date June 1, 2015. Emergency rules filed August 27, 2015; effective through February 23, 2016. Repeal and new rules filed October 27, 2015; effective January 25, 2016. Amendments filed August 16, 2019; effective November 14, 2019.