
Definition of a Tennessee Public School, Rule

The Background:

The Tennessee Department of Education recently convened a Task Force for Students Overage and Under Credit. Several policy recommendations came from that interdisciplinary committee including one related to the definition of a Tennessee public school. State Board Rule 0520-01-02-.01 defines a public school stating that “A public school is the basic administrative unit of a state, county, city or special district school system, consisting of one or more grade groups, one or more teachers to give instruction, one plant, and one principal, which school shall be subject to the statutes of the State of Tennessee, and to rules, regulations, and minimum standards of the Tennessee State Board of Education.” It is recommended that Rule 0520-01-02-.01 Definition of a Tennessee Public School be amended by deletion of “one plant.” This recommendation stems from the recognition that such a requirement inhibits the creation of virtual schools. Taskforce members noted that districts should have the freedom to establish virtual schools and should not be inhibited by the physical plant requirement.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the Board’s *Master Plan* by ensuring that all students can complete rigorous, relevant curriculum in a virtual setting.

The Recommendation:

The State Department of Education staff recommends acceptance of this rule on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

Proposed Rule Language

0520-01-02-.01 DEFINITION OF A TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

A public school is the basic administrative unit of a state, county, city or special district school system, consisting of one or more grade groups, one or more teachers to give instruction, and one principal, which school shall be subject to the statutes of the State of Tennessee, and to rules, regulations, and minimum standards of the Tennessee State Board of Education.