

Educator Licensure Policy 5.502

The Background:

Endorsements indicate the areas for which a licensed educator is prepared to provide instruction, leadership, or services in schools and districts. All educators are required by law to hold a valid Tennessee educator license with an endorsement covering the work assignment pursuant to Tennessee State Board of Education (SBE) rule.

For all endorsement areas that have an associated content assessment, Tennessee educators with a license may currently add additional endorsements through one of four available options, as outlined in Educator Licensure Policy 5.502.

This first read item proposes to add a new option by which educators may add an additional endorsement. The item would allow Tennessee educators with a license to earn an additional endorsement by completing an additional endorsement program developed and administered by the Tennessee Department of Education, receiving recommendation for endorsement by the Department, and submitting qualifying scores on all required content assessments as defined in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy 5.105.

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.

Policy Justification:

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

The Recommendation:

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