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Literacy and Specialty Area Standards for Educator Preparation Policy 5.505

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**The Background:**

All educator preparation providers (EPP) and the specialty area programs (SAP) that lead to licensure shall be approved by the State Board of Education (SBE). All licensure programs must ensure that candidates have opportunities to attain the knowledge and skills specified by the SBE, have clinical experiences in accordance with guidelines established by the SBE, and meet other standards, procedures, and guidelines established by the SBE.

This final read item proposes to add a new endorsement to the Literacy and Specialty Area Standards for Educator Preparation Policy in the area of Mathematics 6-10. The item would allow EPPs to propose programs leading to this endorsement following the standards and expectations set forth in this policy. In addition, this item proposes to allow existing EPPs approved for Mathematics 6-8 or Mathematics 6-12 to recommend candidates for the Mathematics 6-10 endorsement under specific circumstances.

This item was on first reading in July 2020. It was not brought on final reading until this meeting because the Council for Exceptional Children was revising its standards, which affected the required standards and program components for the new Integrated Early Childhood Education Birth-K and pre-K-3 endorsements. The required standards and program components have been added as a change since first reading. These standards have been reviewed by both internal and external stakeholders prior to being recommended for approval.

Lastly, one minor error was corrected in the specialty area standards related to Gifted Education.

**The 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 approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.