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**Universal Screener Policy 3.302**

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**The Background:**

The Tennessee Literacy Success Act (Chapter 3 of the Public Acts of 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session) requires LEAs and public charter schools to annually administer a universal reading screener to each student in Kindergarten through grade three (K-3) during each of the three (3) administration windows established by the Department. The Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act (Chapter 1 of the Public Acts of 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session) also authorizes LEAs to use universal screeners to identify priority students for summer learning camps.

Based on both statute and on State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.15, LEAs and public charter schools may choose to administer the Tennessee universal reading screener or a universal reading screener approved by the State Board. This item presents a new policy, Universal Screener Policy 3.302, to further define Rule 0520-01-03-.15 by providing the list of State Board approved screeners identified by the Department that LEAs may use to fulfill the requirements of the Literacy Success Act.

This list of screener options was generated after the review of Foundational Literacy Skills Plans submitted by LEAs and public charter schools to the Department by June 1, 2021. The recommended universal reading screeners in this policy meet the requirements of the Tennessee Literacy Success Act including the requirements of RTI<sup>2</sup> and Dyslexia screening.

**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 first and final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.