

**STEM/STE(A)M Standards Framework for Grades K-5**

---

**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to “Approve all academic standards and adopt rules and policies governing courses of study in the public schools.” Additionally, Academic and Instructional Requirements Rule 0520-01-03 calls for the State Board of Education to adopt standards for each subject area, grades K-12. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system.

This item includes new and revised K-5 STEM/STE(A)M Standards that have been created in collaboration with postsecondary faculty, industry representatives, and K-5 teachers. The course is a foundational course experience providing students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the content connections that exist between science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. If approved, these changes will go into effect for the 2022-23 school year.

In response to feedback from CTE Directors, district STEM consultants, educators, and the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN), these new and revised K-5 STEM/STE(A)M Standards provide stronger foundations that lead to and align with secondary coursework options and expanded postsecondary pathways, incorporate added instructional rigor, and reflect the competitive employment demands of our state. The standards are also designed to align with the attributes in the TSIN STEM and STEAM Designation rubric.

Between first and final reading, revisions were made to more consistently reference the arts to reflect the continuity of the integration of STE(A)M throughout the course standards.

**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.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.