Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy 5.105

The Background:

To become fully licensed to teach in Tennessee, educators must demonstrate both content and pedagogical competencies. The current policy requires that licensure candidates submit qualifying scores on an assessment that measures pedagogical knowledge, including the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) assessment, a part of the Praxis series, or edTPA. The current policy also requires the use of a Praxis assessment series for assessments of core knowledge and content knowledge.

Below is a brief descriptions of the revisions proposed on first reading:

- Updating test codes. ETS has made test code changes that indicate the computer-based administration of tests. The digit "5" precedes test codes are that are computer-administered tests. The digit "0" precedes test codes that are paper and pencil administered tests. The proposed policy revisions reflect the ETS-initiated test code changes.

- Beginning January 1, 2019, as an assessment of pedagogical competencies, candidates for licensure will submit qualifying scores on the edTPA. In limited subject areas, an edTPA assessment is not available. Candidates who complete programs in subject areas that do not have an edTPA assessment must submit a qualifying score on the relevant PLT assessment from ETS. The proposed revision explicitly states this requirement.

- American Sign Language has been established as a new endorsement area and has two grade ranges, pre-K-12 and 6-12. The proposed policy revision includes a content assessment for American Sign Language pre-K-12 and 6-12.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 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 acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.