
Educator Preparation Policy 5.504

The Background:

In October 2014, the board approved a new Educator Preparation Policy. The new policy outlines requirements related to the approval of entities that prepare educators who will be recommended for a Tennessee educator license. Since approval, the department has identified several aspects of the policy that need additional clarification or revision. Prior to developing these recommendations, the department convened a group of stakeholders, composed of representatives from local education agencies, education-related organizations and educator preparation providers and another state education agency. These recommendations reflect the consensus of that group, as well as the opinions of department staff.

This item presents revisions to offer revised and updated standards for the preparation of educators for providing instruction in literacy. The department convened a taskforce that included educator preparation faculty and practitioners from the K-12 community. These stakeholders met in person three times to provide recommendations for the drafted changes. These new standards represent a significant departure from the prior reading standards. The new standards are tightly aligned with Tennessee's Read to be Ready initiative, and reflect Tennessee specific student standards and Tennessee's Special Education Framework and RTI². The new standards also incorporate expectations for a broader range of educators, including secondary teachers and instructional leaders.

Changes between first and second reading:

Since the first reading, the department has worked with key stakeholders to make additional revisions to the standards and to begin development of a companion guidance document. Most significantly, the reviewers determined that the proposed standards are most appropriately focused on expectations for early and the elementary endorsement areas. While these standards will also serve as the foundation for other endorsement areas, the department will make those proposals in April 2017. The originally proposed implementation standards were reflective of the CAEP standards and would not appropriately function as implementation standards. A single actionable implementation standard is proposed. In addition, the matrix was removed. In the coming months, the department will continue to develop and refine the matrix. Once the matrix is complete, the department will propose to add the matrix to this policy.

In addition, there are two additional program implementation standards related to the professional education standards. The first adds a sentence related to expectations regarding exposure to state-approved evaluation tools. The second addresses assessment literacy, and explicitly requires that providers introduce candidates to Tennessee-approved pre-k-12 student assessments.

Changes between January 2017 and April 2017:

Since the meeting of the Board in January 2017, the Department convened a group of stakeholders to reconsider the standards related to literacy for other endorsement areas. This item presents the standards for literacy for candidates being prepared for an instructional leader license. Additional work will be required to finalize standards for the remaining endorsement areas. The Department expects to present these standards to the Board at the July 2017 meeting.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education 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 adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.