2014-15 Special Courses

The Background:

A local school district can request approval to offer a course that is not on the list of courses that are required for graduation as approved by the State Board of Education (i.e., a special course). These courses must be approved by Department of Education for each of the first three years offered by the local school district.

The following is specific guidance provided by Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards 0520-01-03-05 (2)(a):

Local school districts may offer special courses not listed in 0520-01-03-.06 on an experimental basis. Each course must be approved in advance each year by the Commissioner of Education. After three years the course may become a permanent part of the local school program upon approval by the State Board of Education

The following is specific guidance provided by Policy 3.201:

1. Credits earned in special courses approved by the State Department of Education and the State Board of Education will apply to fulfilling the twenty (20) credits required for graduation.

2. To receive approval for special course(s) which will substitute for credit in specific core curriculum graduation requirements, a school system must show that the special course(s) meet the curriculum requirements of the course(s) being replaced.

3. A list of special courses approved by the State Department of Education and State Board of Education will be maintained and made available to other school systems as they consider ways to improve their respective high school programs.

These courses have been:

- Submitted to the department with a complete set of standards,
- The standards have been reviewed by content experts at the department, and
- The courses have met the academic criteria set by the department.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on consent reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.