
Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership Policy

The Background:

Tennessee's Learning Centered Leadership Policy, initially approved in November of 2008, is recognized by many school leadership experts as among the finest school leadership standards in the nation. It has provided the guidance for the reengineering of the leadership programs in university programs across the Tennessee.

At the October, 2010 meeting, the Board amended the policy to abolish previous interstate agreements with those states that have not redesigned their leadership training programs. The amendment allows states to apply for and receive approval to recommend candidates to the state for initial leadership licensure once they have implemented redesigned programs significantly similar to Tennessee. These programs must meet the same standards as any other in-state-approved program. The revisions make clear that simply completing a leadership training program in another state does not imply reciprocity as it relates to Tennessee principal licensure.

This proposed revision would allow a Tennessee LEA to partner with an out-of-state Institution of Higher Education to apply for approval as a leadership preparation program and be authorized to recommend candidates to the state for initial leadership licensure. These programs must meet the same standards as any other in-state-approved program.

Whether based in Tennessee or not, university-based or not, all approved programs will strive toward similar outcomes that include alignment of selection, preparation, licensure, evaluation and professional development; formalized collaboration and responsibilities between LEAs and approved programs; and more rigorous program admissions standards. Likewise, preparation curriculum will be grounded in current best practice; program completion requirement will be clearly and uniformly defined; and professional development will support an instructional leader's goals to improve student learning.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the State Board's *Master Plan* by providing multiple routes for the development of effective school leaders. A comprehensive system of instructional leadership training, development, licensure and evaluation is essential to improve student learning. The proposed policy and rules move the learning centered leadership redesign from planning to implementation.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends the proposed policy be adopted on final reading.

Amend Board Policy 5.101 Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership by inserting the following new language in section e. Program Approval, Organizations Eligible to Offer Instructional Leadership License Preparation Programs:

3. Tennessee LEAs in Partnerships with Out of State Institutions of Higher Education

State approval for the issuance of the Instructional Leadership License, ILL, will be considered for partnerships established between Tennessee LEAs and out of state IHEs based on the following:

- the out of state IHE must have current state program approval for administrator licensure preparation by a state other than Tennessee; and
- the Tennessee LEA must submit to the State Department of Education a completed *Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership System Preparation Program Proposal Template* that responds to the required ILL program components.

The program approval process used for approval of partnerships between Tennessee LEAs and out of state IHEs is the program approval process described in this section of the *Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership Policy*.