
Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 -.03, -.05, -.08, and -.10

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 outlines the license types issued in Tennessee and pathways toward licensure. Sections -.03 through -.08 govern the issuance of Teacher, Occupational, School Service Personnel, JROTC, Postsecondary Educator, and Adjunct licenses. Section -.10 outlines the requirements for Instructional Leader licenses.

This item proposes revising Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03 sections -.03, -.05, -.08, and -.10 to amend degree requirements for license issuance to include institutions with regional or national accrediting organizations recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education (USDOE). To be CHEA-recognized, an institution's accreditor must meet the CHEA standards for recognition that includes a rigorous evaluation of institutions for quality assurance and improvement. For USDOE recognition, an institution's accreditor must demonstrate that accreditation standards are enforced effectively. The USDOE primarily recognizes accreditors that accredit programs leading to certification, as opposed to degree-granting programs... Currently, the rule requires educators to hold a degree from a regionally accredited institution for license issuance, and the proposed revisions would also allow an individual holding a degree from a nationally accredited institution recognized by CHEA or USDOE to be issued a license, provided all other applicable requirements have been met. Corresponding revisions are also being proposed to the Permits Rule -.12 that is on final reading at the August 16, 2024 State Board meeting.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading for public feedback.

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.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring the Rule captures individuals who hold degrees from institutions with either regional or national accreditation.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.