
Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04-.04, -.08, and -.10

The Background:

Tennessee State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04 outlines the educator preparation requirements in Tennessee and approval of educator preparation providers (EPPs) and specialty area programs. Currently, Section -.04 governs the approval of EPPs, Section -.08 governs admission to the educator preparation program, and Section -.10 governs requirements for clinical experiences for EPP candidates.

This item proposes to amend the Approval of EPP Rule Section -.04 and Admission to EPP rule Section -.08 to include regional and nationally recognized accreditation 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.

Additionally, following engagement with the SBE and TDOE-facilitated Educator Licensure Review Committee in the spring, this item also revises the Clinical Experiences Section -.10 to propose strengthening the Internship clinical practice by requiring clinical mentors to use a Department approved tool for observing candidates starting July 1, 2026. This fall, SBE and TDOE will convene the Committee again to share more details about a proposal to bolster the Internship clinical practice further and to remove the edTPA requirement for candidates completing this type of intensive experience. Changes to this rule represent the first step in this significant policy shift.

State Board staff will conduct a rulemaking hearing between first and final reading to collect 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 providing additional educator preparation accreditation options.

The Recommendation:

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