
Health Education Course Standards

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to “set policies governing all academic standards and courses of study in the public schools.” Additionally, State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.03(1) calls for the State Board to adopt standards for each subject area, grades K-12. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system.

The State Board recently approved revised Health Education standards at their November 3, 2023 meeting. Chapter 571 of the Public Acts of 2024 (PC 571) amended T.C.A. § 49-6-1304(a)(13) to require family life curriculum to provide instruction on the detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of internet crimes against children involving sexting, sextortion, and the exploitation of a minor. Technology safety standards were included in the recent revision to Grades 6-8 Health Education Course Standards. However, Grades 9-12 Health Education Course Standards do not include technology safety. This item proposes new standards to ensure that students are instructed on internet crimes starting in the 2024-25 school year in accordance with PC 571.

This item also proposes grammatical and technical corrections to the Grades K-5 and Grades 6-8 standards that do not change any content.

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 Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring high-quality standards that provide opportunities to improve outcomes and ensuring transparency through public feedback.

The Recommendation:

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