
Tennessee Community Schools Act Support

The Background:

A community school is a traditional school that actively partners with its community to leverage existing resources and identify new resources to support the transformation of the school to provide enrichment and additional life skill opportunities for students, parents, and community members at large.

Pursuant to Public Chapter 968 of the 108th General Assembly in regards to the Tennessee Community Schools Act:

SECTION 6. (a) The state board of education and the department shall support and encourage LEAs in the creation of community schools. All policies, guidelines, and rules and regulations adopted by the state board pursuant to this part shall actively foster the formation, development and operation of community schools. Such policies, guidelines, or rules and regulations shall permit teachers to receive in-service credit for teaching classes for parents, such as parenting classes, at the community school outside of normal school hours.

This agenda item proposes to update language from Appendix A of Policy 5.502 Educator Licensure to specifically permit in-service credit for these purposes to count for Professional Development Points (PDPs) for licensure advancement or renewal. This action will update SBE policy to conform to the amended law.

The updated language will be reflected in footnote #8 located in item 4 of Appendix A as follows:

⁸ As per Public Chapter 968 of the 108th General Assembly, in support of the Tennessee Community Schools Act, teachers shall be permitted to receive in-service credit for teaching classes for parents, such as parenting classes, at the community school outside of normal school hours.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends acceptance of the item on first reading.

Appendix A

Professional Development Points for Licensure Advancement or Renewal

Educators earn professional development points (PDPs) to advance (a total of 30) or renew (a total of 60) a license. The following table provides information about how PDPs may be earned.

| Option | PDPs Awarded | Required Documentation |
|--|--|--|
| Training (Academy/Institute/ Seminar/Conference) | 1 clock hour = 1 PDP 1 continuing education credit ⁷ = 5PDPs | Certificate of completion, Transcript OR Verification form signed by the Director of Schools (or designee) |
| College/University Coursework | 1 semester hour credit = 10 PDPs | Transcript |
| Overall Evaluation Score from TN- approved evaluation model | Overall Score of 5 = 20 PDPs Overall Score of 4 = 15 PDPs Overall Score of 3 = 10 PDPs | This information is maintained by TDOE. Educators are not required to submit any documentation. PDPs based on overall evaluation scores may be accrued on an annual basis. |
| National Board Certification | 30 PDPs | Official documentation from NBPTS |

1. All educators must earn professional development points to advance or renew a teacher license, including teacher licenses, occupational licenses, and professional school services personnel licenses. If an educator chooses to advance from the practitioner to the professional license using PDPs, the educator must accrue 30 PDPs. To renew the professional license, an educator must accrue 60 PDPs.
2. Activities cannot be part of the state funded in-service days and cannot be conducted during days and/or hours for which educators are already being paid by local education agencies. Activities cannot be completed during school hours.
3. Activities must be completed within the validity period of the license being advanced or renewed.
4. Activities must be related to the development of content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge or pedagogical content knowledge; activities designed to enhance educator effectiveness (e.g., world language courses for educators who work with students for whom English is a second language, coursework designed to support educator's understanding and use of student data) or other activities designed to improve instructional practice qualify for PDPs.⁸ Activities that are not related to the development of educator effectiveness do not qualify for PDPs. Examples of activities not accepted, include: athletic coaching or clinics, bus driver competitions, club sponsors, choral/band presentations, camp director or Christian education.
5. College/University coursework must be completed at regionally accredited institutions.
6. At the time of advancement or renewal, if the educator is employed in a Tennessee public school, the local education agency must retain documentation for each completed activity for which the educator is awarded PDPs. The local education agency will be required to verify that educators accrued sufficient PDPs to qualify for advancement or renewal.
7. At the time of advancement or renewal, if the educator is NOT employed in Tennessee public school, the educator must submit documentation of all activities for which the educator requests PDPs. Each activity must be listed on the appropriate form and include appropriate documentation. The form must be signed by the person responsible for conducting the local evaluation.

⁷ Continuing education includes activities that result in credits that may be similar to academic coursework in organization and delivery, but are not eligible for academic credit leading to a degree.

⁸ As per Public Chapter 968 of the 108th General Assembly, in support of the Tennessee Community Schools Act, teachers shall be permitted to receive in-service credit for teaching classes for parents, such as parenting classes, at the community school outside of normal school hours.