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**Educator Preparation Policy 5.504**

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**The Background:**

All educator preparation providers (EPP) and the specialty area programs (SAP) that lead to licensure shall be approved by the State Board of Education (SBE). All licensure programs must ensure that candidates have opportunities to attain the knowledge and skills specified by the SBE, have clinical experiences in accordance with guidelines established by the SBE, and meet other standards, procedures, and guidelines established by the SBE.

This final read item aligns to and supports the updated Educator Preparation Rule and includes detailed information on the approval process for educator preparation providers and specialty area programs, provider and program reviews, program requirements, annual reports, candidate admission requirements, partnerships, and clinical experiences.

Minor changes have been made since first reading in January.

**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.

**Policy Justification:**

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.