
Middle Grades Policy 2.102

The Background:

As a part of the State Board and Department of Education's ongoing policy audit process, it was discovered that the Middle Grades Policy was originally adopted by the board in October 1998 and has not been updated since that time. The policy is now out-of-date with state and federal statute and no longer includes best practices. Given the Department of Education's focus on middle school, this item presents significant revisions to the policy to align with coursework requirements, high school readiness planning, and assessment. This update is designed to strengthen the supports provided to middle grades students as they prepare for high school and postsecondary opportunities.

Changes have been made since first reading to outline determination processes related to assessment for students with disabilities.

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.