
Educator Preparation Policy 5.504

The Background:

In October 2014, the Board approved a new Educator Preparation Policy. The new policy outlines requirements related to the approval of entities that prepare educators who will be recommended for a Tennessee educator license. Since its approval, the Department of Education has identified several aspects of the policy that need additional clarification or revision. Prior to developing these recommendations, the Department of Education convened a group of stakeholders, composed of representatives from local education agencies, education-related organizations, educator preparation providers, and another state education agency. These recommendations reflect the consensus of that group, as well as the opinions of department staff.

This item presents revisions to offer greater clarity and additional information. Below is a brief summary of the changes presented at the January meeting on first reading. There have been no changes since first reading.

- Section 1.A – Approval of Educator Preparation Providers and Programs – Eligibility: Clarifies eligibility requirements related to providers that are approved in a state other than Tennessee. Changes also ensure that out-of-state providers are held to the same reporting requirements and expectations as Tennessee-approved providers. With the increased use of online preparation, the Department of Education has recognized the need for more explicit requirements related to out-of-state providers.
- Appendix A – Eligibility Requirements: Revises the policy to allow providers with a track-record of less than three years an opportunity to meet eligibility requirements. The department recognizes that new providers with innovative approaches to preparation may not have an established track record but may have the potential to provide excellent preparation. This revision maintains requirements to protect candidates, schools and districts, but creates opportunity for eligibility of new providers.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education 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.

The Recommendation:

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