
Minimum Requirements for the Approval of Public Schools, Rule 0520-01-03

The Background:

The State Board of Education staff and the Department of Education conducted a comprehensive review of the Minimum Requirements for the Approval of Public Schools Rule to ensure alignment with current state statute, State Board policy and practice.

Below is a brief summary of the changes since first reading (page numbers reflect the tracked changes document):

- Page 9: Removes highly qualified teacher requirement, as this designation is no longer applicable.
- Page 10: Clarifies requirement for school board and district improvement plans.
- Page 10: Updates requirements for emergency operations plans.
- Page 11: Removes experimental courses and clarifies process for special courses, which has also been updated in the special courses policy.
- Page 16: Reduces the percentage that End of Course exams comprise a student's final grade to 5% for the 2016-17 school year, 10% for the 2017-18 school year and between 15% and 25% based on local Board policy in the 2018-19 school year and subsequent school years.
- Page 17: Requires LEAs to award credit to students that complete college level courses that align to a graduation requirement.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 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.