

**RULES  
OF  
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-02-04  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION**

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**0520-02-04-.01 SCOPE OF RULES.**

All educator preparation providers and the specialty area programs they offer must be approved by the State Board of Education (State Board). All educator preparation providers and specialty area programs currently approved as of January 8, 2019 under the State Board Educator Preparation Policy shall maintain their current approval status and shall be subject to all requirements under this Rule. All qualifying organizations or specialty area programs not currently approved by the State Board as of January 8, 2019 shall be considered for approval under this Rule.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed May 12, 1992; effective August 29, 1992. Amendment filed June 29, 1993; effective September 28, 1993. Amendment filed August 10, 1993; effective December 29, 1993. Amendment filed November 3, 1993; effective March 30, 1994. Amendment filed October 11, 1995; effective February 28, 1996. Amendment filed April 29, 1996; effective August 28, 1996. Amendment filed November 18, 1998; effective March 30, 1999. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed November 30, 1999; effective March 29, 2000. Amendment filed April 28, 2000; effective August 28, 2000. Amendment filed April 30, 2001; effective August 28, 2001. Amendment filed January 26, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. Amendment filed June 30, 2005; effective October 28, 2005. Amendment filed December 28, 2005; effective April 28, 2006. Amendment filed July 31, 2008; effective November 28, 2008. Amendment filed September 23, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendments filed April 30, 2009; effective August 28, 2009. Amendments filed December 19, 2012; effective May 31, 2013. Amendment filed June 18, 2013; effective November 28, 2013. Amendment filed July 23, 2014; effective October 20, 2014. Repeal and new rule 0520-02-04-.01 filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Amendment of rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(a) filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. On July 30, 2015, the State Board of Education filed a withdrawal of the rule 0520-02-04-.01(9)(a). Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019.

**0520-02-04-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) "Annual report" means detailed, candidate-level data for each Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) compiled each year. Annual reports provide evidence of EPP effectiveness and are used for ongoing approval.
- (2) "Candidate" means an individual enrolled in an educator preparation program that has been approved by the State Board.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.02, continued)

- (3) “CMO” means a Charter Management Organization that is a non-profit entity that manages or operates two (2) or more public charter schools in Tennessee.
- (4) “Clinical experiences” means guided, hands-on, practical applications and demonstrations of professional knowledge of theory to practice, skills, and dispositions through collaborative and facilitated learning in field-based assignments, tasks, activities, and assessments across a variety of settings.
- (5) “Clinical practice” means student teaching, internship, or job embedded opportunities that provide candidates with sustained school-based responsibilities, assignments, tasks, and assessments that allow a candidate to demonstrate the professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be an effective educator.
- (6) “Completer” means an individual who has completed the requirements of an educator preparation program that has been approved by the State Board.
- (7) “Comprehensive review” means the review that each EPP must complete every seven (7) years in order to maintain state approval.
- (8) “Conditional approval” means the provider or specialty area program has met preconditions and demonstrated alignment to all appropriate standards and expectations. The provider or specialty area program has not yet been reviewed for the purpose of obtaining full approval.
- (9) “Department” means the Tennessee Department of Education.
- (10) “Endorsement Area” means the subject and/or grade level for which a licensed educator is prepared to provide instruction, leadership, or services in schools or districts. When applying for licensure, each teacher candidate must meet requirements in at least one (1) area of endorsement.
- (11) “EPP” means an Educator Preparation Provider responsible for managing, operating, or coordinating programs for the preparation and licensure of teachers and other school personnel that has been approved by the State Board.
- (12) “ERO” means a Tennessee-based Education-Related Organization.
- (13) “Focused review” means a review of an EPP that is triggered when an EPP does not meet one (1) or more standards during the comprehensive review.
- (14) “Full approval” means the approval status of an EPP that has met the requirements for initial approval, been approved by the State Board, has participated in the annual review process each year, and has undergone a comprehensive review every seven (7) years.
- (15) “IHE” means an Institution of Higher Education.
- (16) “Initial approval” means the first step of approval for new EPPs. The initial approval period shall last for a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of five (5) years.
- (17) “Instructional Leader Preparation Program (ILPP)” means a program that is approved for the preparation of school leaders.
- (18) “Interim review” means a review of an EPP or an individual SAP that is triggered by performance that is below expectations on the annual report for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years.
- (19) “LEA” means a Tennessee Local Education Agency.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.02, continued)

- (20) "Primary partnership" means a partnership between an EPP and one (1) or more LEAs or CMOs in which both parties collaborate to establish an explicit process for identifying and responding to LEA- or CMO-identified areas of need, developing candidate selection criteria, and designing and implementing high-quality, needs-based clinical experiences.
- (21) "Physical presence" means the entity has real estate and human capital within the boundaries of the state of Tennessee for the purpose of preparing educators.
- (22) "SAP" means a Specialty Area Program that is a planned sequence of courses and experiences designed to provide educators with an additional, specific set of knowledge and skills or to expand and enhance an existing set of knowledge and skills.
- (23) "State Board" means the Tennessee State Board of Education.
- (24) "State-recognized partnership" means a partnership between an EPP and each LEA and/or CMO where enrolled candidates will complete any aspect of clinical experiences that has been submitted to the Department for recognition.
- (25) "Stipulation" means findings that require an EPP to address identified deficiencies in order to meet standards and expectations.
- (26) "Substantial change" means a variation from the original design that implements new requirements or expectations.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed June 29, 1993; effective September 28, 1993. Amendment filed November 3, 1993; effective March 30, 1994. Amended by Public Chapter No. 957 Acts of 1994; effective May 10, 1994. (See Attorney General Opinion No. 094-080). Amendment filed January 31, 1995; effective May 31, 1995. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Repeal and new rule filed April 17, 2006; effective August 28, 2006. Amendments filed April 30, 2009; effective August 28, 2009. However, notice of withdrawal of proposed amendment (2) filed August 3, 2009 and effective August 3, 2009 (to have been effective August 28, 2009). Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024.

### **0520-02-04-.03 ELIGIBLE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS.**

- (1) Each EPP and SAP that leads to licensure shall be approved by the State Board.
- (2) The following organizations are eligible to apply for State Board approval to serve as a Tennessee-approved EPP:
  - (a) A Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accredited Tennessee-based Institution of Higher Education (IHE) authorized by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC);
  - (b) A Tennessee-based Education-Related Organization (ERO) with a physical presence in Tennessee;
  - (c) A Tennessee LEA or a consortium of Tennessee LEAs that have not received the lowest performance determination on the state's accountability model pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-602 in either of the two (2) most recent school years where performance determinations on the state's accountability model were available; or

(Rule 0520-02-04-.03, continued)

- (d) Out-of-state providers that hold approval in a state other than Tennessee and that meet the following conditions:
  - 1. Identified recruitment and placement goals as a component of the primary partnership and a goal of recommending at least ten (10) candidates for licensure in Tennessee per academic year. If at the point of review for full approval the provider has not met this goal, then the State Board may deny approval;
  - 2. Demonstrated capacity to provide effective mentoring and supervision for all licensure candidates completing clinical experiences in Tennessee public or non-public schools;
  - 3. Established selection criteria that meets or exceeds those minimum expectations established for Tennessee providers; and
  - 4. The ability to clearly identify program candidates and completers as affiliated with Tennessee for all federal reporting requirements.
- (3) Out-of-state providers that wish to operate in Tennessee without becoming a Tennessee-approved EPP based on approval from a state other than Tennessee shall submit to the Department an out-of-state partnership agreement that includes at least one (1) LEA or CMO in Tennessee. If the partnership agreement meets the requirements of this Rule, these providers may implement a program approved in another state.
- (4) Out-of-state providers are not eligible to become a Tennessee-approved provider for the preparation of instructional leaders.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108; Executive Order No. 14 of 2020 (and applicable, subsequent Executive Orders addressing COVID-19 relief); and Public Chapter 652 of 2020.

**Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed January 31, 1995; effective May 31, 1995. Amendment filed April 27, 1998; effective August 28, 1998. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed April 28, 2000; effective August 28, 2000. Amendment filed July 31, 2000; effective November 28, 2000. Amendment filed August 31, 2001; effective December 28, 2001. Amendment filed October 31, 2002; effective February 28, 2003. Amendment filed May 19, 2005; effective September 28, 2005. Repeal and new rule filed April 17, 2006; effective August 28, 2006. Amendments filed April 30, 2009; effective August 28, 2009. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Emergency rules filed July 2, 2020; effective through December 29, 2020. Emergency rules expired effective December 30, 2020, and the rules reverted to their previous statuses. Amendments filed April 7, 2021; effective July 6, 2021. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024.

#### **0520-02-04-.04 APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS.**

- (1) Eligible organizations that wish to offer educator preparation programs in Tennessee must complete a two (2)-step approval process:
  - (a) The entity must receive initial approval by the State Board to begin serving as an EPP; and
  - (b) The EPP must undergo a comprehensive review to achieve full state approval to continue serving as an EPP within five (5) years of initial approval.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.04, continued)

- (2) Eligible organizations seeking initial approval as an EPP in order to prepare and recommend candidates for licensure shall participate in the initial approval process by submitting a proposal to the Department that contains, at a minimum, the following information:
  - (a) Evidence that the entity has the capacity to serve as an EPP and provide programs leading to licensure or endorsement;
  - (b) Evidence for how the EPP will address all applicable educator preparation standards approved by the State Board, including:
    1. Content and pedagogical knowledge;
    2. Clinical partnerships and practice;
    3. Candidate quality, recruitment, and selectivity; and
    4. Provider quality assurance and continuous improvement.
  - (c) Geographic area to be served and documentation of the engagement of at least one (1) primary LEA or CMO partner;
  - (d) Plan for curriculum offerings, including delivery method and timeframe, clinical placements, and clinical supervision plans;
  - (e) A proposal for each SAP that, at a minimum, includes alignment to Tennessee academic standards, candidate assessment, relevant clinical experience(s), the professional education standards approved by the State Board, all applicable literacy standards, and applicable specialty area standards approved by the State Board;
  - (f) Evidence that the faculty who teach courses or provide direct coaching to teacher or instructional leader candidates possess sufficient knowledge, skills, training, and expertise;
  - (g) A description of admissions procedures, including the criteria which must be met in order for a candidate to be fully admitted to the licensure program;
  - (h) Evidence of organizational and financial stability;
  - (i) Applicable provider characteristics, such as governance, control (private or public), regional or national accreditation agency, and THEC authorization; and
  - (j) If the provider is currently operating or has operated in Tennessee or any other state, data on program effectiveness, including but not limited to completions effectiveness, quality of district partnerships, and performance on annual reports, if available.
- (3) Proposals submitted for EPP initial approval shall be reviewed by the Department. After review of the proposal for initial approval, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one (1) of the following:
  - (a) Initial approval. If initial approval is awarded, providers may begin enrolling and subsequently recommending candidates for licensure in approved specialty areas; or
  - (b) Denial of initial approval. If initial approval is denied, providers may not recommend candidates for licensure or identify programs as leading to licensure. Providers may submit a revised proposal for consideration during the next review period.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.04, continued)

- (4) EPPs shall not publicize programs as leading to licensure prior to receiving initial approval.
- (5) All EPPs that receive initial approval shall submit annual report data to the Department.
- (6) Initial approval shall expire upon an EPP receiving full approval through the state-managed full-approval review or after five (5) years, whichever occurs first. If an EPP with initial approval has not received full approval within five (5) years, approval shall be revoked, and the EPP may no longer enroll or recommend candidates for licensure.
- (7) An EPP may seek full approval after three (3) years in operation under initial approval by requesting a state-managed full-approval review.
- (8) Upon completion of the full-approval review, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one (1) of the following:
  - (a) Full approval. The EPP meets one (1) of the following statuses and may recommend candidates for licensure:
    1. Exemplary status. The EPP exceeds expectations on a majority of the standards and meets expectations on all other standards.
    2. Full approval. The EPP meets expectations on all standards.
    3. Full approval, minor stipulations. The EPP meets expectations on all standards, but falls below expectations on one (1) or more components across multiple standards. The EPP shall submit to the Department a plan for addressing the areas in need of improvement within three (3) months of receiving full approval, minor stipulations. The Department shall annually review the EPP's progress on the submitted plan for improvement. If the EPP has adequately addressed the areas in need of improvement, the Department may recommend to the State Board removal of the minor stipulations for the remainder of the approval period of the EPP. If, within a three (3)-year period, the Department determines the areas in need of improvement are not adequately addressed, the EPP may be required to participate in an interim review.
  - (b) Probationary approval, major stipulations. The EPP meets expectations on three (3) or more standards but falls below expectation on one (1) or more standard(s). An EPP that is issued probationary approval may recommend candidates for licensure but shall submit to the Department an improvement plan for addressing the areas in need of improvement within three (3) months of receiving probationary approval status from the State Board. Each year, the EPP shall present evidence that the provider is implementing the improvement plan and making progress toward meeting expectations. The EPP shall also participate in a focused review within three (3) years of receiving probationary approval from the State Board. The EPP shall not submit SAP proposals for conditional approval until the Department determines all deficiencies have been adequately addressed. The EPP shall specifically report on the progress made in each area of deficiency on their annual report for the three (3) years following the issuance of probationary approval.
  - (c) Denial of approval. The EPP falls below expectations on two (2) or more standards. EPPs that are denied approval shall no longer enroll new candidates for licensure and shall notify all current candidates of the denial of approval status of its program. Denied EPPs may continue to serve candidates who can complete the program by the end of the semester that falls twelve (12) months after the date of the denial of approval. The EPP shall assist candidates who are unable to complete the program within this period in transferring to another degree program at the institution or to another approved EPP.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.04, continued)

The EPP may not re-apply for initial approval for at least three (3) years from the date of denial.

- (9) The State Board has final authority on all provider and program decisions related to educator preparation.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024. Amendments filed March 5, 2025; effective June 3, 2025.

#### **0520-02-04-.05 APPROVAL OF SPECIALTY AREA PROGRAMS.**

- (1) An approved EPP that is seeking conditional approval of a new SAP or of an existing SAP that has undergone substantial revision shall submit a SAP proposal for administrative review to the Department that includes:
  - (a) A proposal for each SAP;
  - (b) Evidence of alignment to and integration of State Board approved applicable professional standards, applicable literacy standards, and applicable specialty area standards;
  - (c) Candidate assessment structure; and
  - (d) Requirements for clinical experiences, including at least one (1) type of clinical practice.
- (2) An approved EPP may seek approval of a SAP that leads to one (1) or more endorsements.
- (3) After administrative review of the proposal, conditional SAP approval or denial of SAP approval shall be issued through Department notification. SAPs that are denied approval shall be provided an opportunity to resubmit the proposal to correct any identified deficiencies.
- (4) After an SAP has received conditional approval, an EPP may enroll and subsequently recommend candidates for licensure in the approved specialty area. EPPs shall not advertise programs as leading to licensure prior to receiving conditional approval.
- (5) After three (3) years of data is available for the conditionally approved SAP, it will be reviewed for full approval by the State Board during the EPP's next comprehensive review.
- (6) In order for an SAP to receive full approval, it must meet the requirements and expectations outlined in the comprehensive review.
- (7) If the SAP does not meet the requirements and expectations for full approval, then approval for the SAP may be denied by the State Board. If full approval is denied, then the EPP may not advertise the program as leading to licensure.
- (8) Failure by an EPP to request a program review for a new SAP or an SAP that has undergone substantial change may result in its candidates being ineligible for licensure or endorsement.
- (9) EPPs that wish to offer an instructional leader prep program shall submit a proposal to the Department that demonstrates alignment to the instructional leader preparation standards.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.05, continued)

- (10) EPPs may only recommend initial licensure candidates for endorsements that are part of an approved SAP.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, 49-5-108, and 49-5-5605. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed September 1, 1992; effective December 29, 1992. Amendment filed January 29, 1993; effective April 30, 1993. Amendment filed January 31, 1995; effective May 31, 1995. Amendment filed March 14, 1995; effective July 28, 1995. Amendment filed October 11, 1995; effective February 28, 1996. Amendment filed January 14, 1997; effective May 30, 1997. Amendment filed April 27, 1998; effective August 28, 1998. Amendment filed November 18, 1998; effective March 30, 1999. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed November 30, 1999; effective March 29, 2000. Amendment filed October 31, 2000; effective February 28, 2000. Amendment filed October 31, 2000; effective February 28, 2001. Amendment filed August 31, 2001; effective December 28, 2001. Amendment filed March 28, 2002; effective July 29, 2002. Amendment filed October 31, 2002; effective February 28, 2003. Amendment filed January 26, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. Amendment filed March 1, 2005; effective July 29, 2005. Amendment filed December 28, 2005; effective April 28, 2006. Amendment filed April 30, 2009; effective August 28, 2009. Amendment filed February 24, 2010; effective July 29, 2010. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019.

#### **0520-02-04-.06 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) EPPs shall ensure that all programs that lead to licensure adequately address educator preparation standards, the professional education standards, all applicable literacy standards, and all applicable specialty area standards.
- (2) EPPs shall ensure completers are prepared to deliver or lead instruction that enables students to master the Tennessee Academic Standards. Programs shall ensure that candidates master the content covered in the areas for which they are prepared to teach. EPPs shall align course work, clinical experiences, and candidate assessment systems to appropriate standards for each specialty area.
- (3) All EPPs shall require that candidates demonstrate content knowledge in the specialty area program.
- (4) EPPs shall provide training to support candidates' readiness to deliver or lead instruction informed by Response to Instruction and Intervention Framework (RTI<sup>2</sup>). Teacher candidates not seeking endorsement in Special Education shall be prepared to deliver instruction and intervention at the Tier I and II levels.
- (5) EPPs shall provide training to support candidates' understanding of the state-approved educator evaluation framework.
- (6) EPPs shall provide candidates training on the teacher code of ethics outlined in T.C.A. §§ 49-5-1001 through 49-5-1005 and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification's (NASDTEC) Model Code of Ethics for Educators.
- (7) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-513, EPPs shall provide candidates with instruction on what is constitutionally permissible with teaching religious content and strategies for dealing with religious content in curriculum that are educationally sound, fair, neutral, and objective.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed May 12, 1992; effective August 29, 1992. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019.



**0520-02-04-.07 PROVIDER AND PROGRAM REVIEWS AND ANNUAL REPORTS.**

- (1) In order to maintain full state approval, EPPs shall participate in a comprehensive review every seven (7) years. EPPs may elect to pursue ongoing full state approval through a state-managed comprehensive review or a comprehensive review managed by an educator preparation accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the State Board.
- (2) Each comprehensive review, either state-managed or managed by an educator preparation accrediting agency recognized by CHEA and the State Board, shall include, at a minimum, the following components:
  - (a) Prior to an EPP's comprehensive review, the Department shall evaluate data from the EPP's three (3) most recent annual reports.
  - (b) EPPs shall submit evidence demonstrating alignment to the educator preparation provider standards, the professional education standards, all applicable literacy standards, and all applicable specialty area standards approved by the State Board.
  - (c) A trained comprehensive review team shall be appointed for each EPP undergoing comprehensive review and shall be responsible for, at a minimum:
    1. Reviewing all required evidence submitted by the EPP that demonstrates high quality implementation of:
      - (i) Content and pedagogical knowledge;
      - (ii) Clinical partnerships and practice;
      - (iii) Candidate quality, recruitment, and selectivity;
      - (iv) Program impact; and
      - (v) Provider quality assurance and continuous improvement;
    2. Reviewing annual report data for the EPP from the applicable review cycle;
    3. Conducting an on-site visit; and
    4. Recommending an approval status to the Department.
  - (d) An Advisory Committee on Educator Preparation (ACEP) shall be appointed to review the recommendation of the review team and shall provide a preliminary recommendation for approval status to the Department.
- (3) Following each comprehensive review, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one (1) of the following:
  - (a) Full approval. The EPP meets expectations on one (1) of the following statuses and may recommend candidates for licensure:
    1. Full approval, exemplary status. The EPP exceeds expectations on a majority of the standards and meets expectations on all other standards and components.
    2. Full approval. The EPP meets expectations on all standards.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.07, continued)

3. Full approval, minor stipulations. The EPP meets expectations on all standards, but falls below expectations on one (1) or more components across multiple standards. The EPP must submit to the Department a plan for addressing the areas in need of improvement within three (3) months of receiving full approval, minor stipulations. The Department shall annually review the EPP's progress on the submitted plan for improvement. If the EPP has adequately addressed the areas in need of improvement the Department may recommend to the State Board removal of the minor stipulations for the remainder of the approval period of the EPP. If within a three (3)-year period the Department determines the areas in need of improvement are not adequately addressed, then the EPP may be required to participate in an interim review.
- (b) Probationary approval, major stipulations. The EPP meets expectations on three (3) or more standards but falls below expectation on one (1) or more standard(s). An EPP that is issued probationary approval may recommend candidates for licensure but shall submit to the Department an improvement plan for addressing the areas in need of improvement within three (3) months of receiving probationary approval status from the State Board. Each year, the EPP shall present evidence that the provider is implementing the improvement plan and making progress toward meeting expectations. The EPP shall also participate in a focused review within three (3) years of receiving probationary approval from the State Board. The EPP shall not submit SAP proposals for conditional approval until the Department determines all deficiencies have been adequately addressed. The EPP shall specifically report on the progress made in each area of deficiency on their annual report for the three (3) years following the issuance of probationary approval.
- (c) Denial of approval. The EPP falls below expectations on two (2) or more standards. EPPs that are denied approval shall no longer enroll new candidates for licensure and shall notify all current candidates of the denial of approval status of its program. Denied EPPs may continue to serve candidates who can complete the program by the end of the semester that falls twelve (12) months after the date of the denial of approval. The EPP shall assist candidates who are unable to complete the program within this period in transferring to another degree program at the institution or to another approved EPP. The EPP may not re-apply for conditional approval for at least three (3) years from the date of denial.
- (4) The Department shall manage an interim review process for EPPs or individual SAPs that have been identified as performing below expectations on the annual report for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years at any point. The Department may manage an interim review process for EPPs with initial approval that perform below expectations as reported on the annual report at any point during the initial approval period. Following an interim review, the Department may make a recommendation for approval status change, including denial of approval, to the State Board.
- (5) The Department shall manage a focused review process for EPPs or individual SAPs that receive probationary approval based on the comprehensive review. The Department shall appoint a review team responsible for reviewing the EPP's progress on implementation of the required improvement plan. As a result of a focused review, the Department may make an approval status change recommendation, including denial of approval, to the State Board.
- (6) If an EPP refuses to participate in any required review, the Department may make a recommendation for approval status change, including denial of approval, to the State Board.
- (7) EPPs shall annually submit to the Department the following:

(Rule 0520-02-04-.07, continued)

- (a) Any substantial changes to the approved EPP or SAP(s), including changes to accreditation status, parent organization, primary partnerships, the requirements for selection, structure of the program of study, clinical requirements, or candidate assessment systems;
  - (b) Contact information, including primary contact information and verification of the designated head of the EPP and approved certification or licensure officers; and
  - (c) Progress reports addressing any stipulations, including all required focused or interim reviews, identified in the most recent comprehensive review, if applicable.
- (8) Each EPP shall annually verify or submit all information identified by the Department for inclusion in an annual report. Annual reports provide evidence of performance of the provider and SAP or clusters of SAPs and shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - (a) Metrics related to recruitment and selection of candidates, such as selectivity characteristics;
  - (b) Goals related to the recruitment and program retention of candidates from underrepresented demographics including race, ethnicity, and sex;
  - (c) Information on completer and job-embedded candidate employment in qualifying positions in Tennessee public schools;
  - (d) Completer and job-embedded candidate retention in Tennessee public schools following initial employment;
  - (e) Results from a program completer satisfaction survey;
  - (f) Results from an employer satisfaction survey administered to all primary partner LEAs and/or CMOs and any LEA or CMO employing more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the program completer cohort;
  - (g) Completer outcomes including, but not limited to, program completion rates and pass rates on required licensure assessments;
  - (h) Job-embedded candidate outcomes, if applicable, including but not limited to pass rates on required licensure assessments; and
  - (i) Completer and job-embedded candidate impact as measured by components of an approved Tennessee educator evaluation model including, but not limited to, overall levels of effectiveness, observation scores, and individual growth scores.
- (9) EPPs with approved instructional leader preparation programs shall annually verify or submit all information identified by the Department for inclusion in the annual report. The Department shall, at a minimum, include the following ILPP metrics in the annual report:
  - (a) Metrics related to recruitment and selection;
  - (b) Information on employment and retention, including the percentage of completers employed in a qualifying instructional leadership position and the percentage of completers retained in a qualifying instructional leadership position after initial employment as a leader;
  - (c) Results from a program completer satisfaction survey;

(Rule 0520-02-04-.07, continued)

- (d) Results from an employer satisfaction survey administered to all primary partner LEAs and/or CMOs;
- (e) Completer outcomes including, but not limited to, program completion rates and pass rates on required licensure assessments; and
- (f) Completer impact as measured by components of an approved Tennessee educator evaluation model.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, 49-5-108, and 49-5-5619 and Public Chapter No. 535 - Education Improvement Act. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed May 12, 1992; effective August 29, 1992. Amendment filed January 29, 1993; effective April 30, 1993. Amendment filed November 22, 1993; effective March 30, 1994. Expired rules edited by Secretary of State in October 1996. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed February 20, 2008; effective June 27, 2008. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed August 19, 2022; effective November 17, 2022. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024.

#### **0520-02-04-.08 ADMISSION TO EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.**

- (1) Candidates for admission to a baccalaureate-level educator preparation program shall, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
  - (a) A minimum postsecondary grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 at the time of admission to the EPP;
  - (b) A qualifying score on the Praxis Core, ACT or SAT assessment defined in the State Board's Educator Preparation Policy; and
  - (c) Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-5-5610.
- (2) Candidates for admission to a post-baccalaureate educator preparation program shall, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
  - (a) Evidence of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education (USDOE);
  - (b) A minimum overall GPA of 2.75 from a completed baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree program or a GPA of 3.00 in the most recent sixty (60) credit hours earned at a regionally or nationally accredited college or university recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education (USDOE);
  - (c) Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-5-5610; and
  - (d) For admission to programs that include job-embedded clinical practice, a degree with a major in the specialty area or qualifying scores on the required content assessment defined in the State Board's Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy.

(Rule 0520-02-04-.08, continued)

- (3) Candidates for admission to an ILPP shall, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:
  - (a) Have successfully completed an educator preparation program and hold a valid teacher license from Tennessee or from a state other than Tennessee;
  - (b) Have at least two (2) years of qualifying education experience as defined by the Department;
  - (c) Have demonstrated effectiveness as an educator in the most recent two (2) years as evidenced by a state-approved evaluation model or similar measure for educators employed in schools that do not utilize a state-approved evaluation model;
  - (d) Have demonstrated leadership potential in accordance with guidelines developed by the Department; and
  - (e) Be recommended by an LEA and participate in an interview conducted by a program admissions committee.
- (4) EPPs may establish additional or more rigorous admission requirements than the state minimum requirements, provided they are in compliance with all state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.
- (5) To admit candidates on appeal, EPPs must submit an admissions appeal procedure process to the Department for approval. If the Department denies an admissions appeal procedure process, the EPP shall not admit candidates on appeal. Each EPP with an approved admission appeal procedure shall report to the Department the names, academic qualifications, and basis on which candidates were admitted on appeals each year.
- (6) Each EPP shall report to the Department each candidate admitted to the educator preparation program and identify each candidate admitted on appeal.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Expired rules edited by Secretary of State in October 1996. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed March 5, 2025; effective June 3, 2025.

**0520-02-04-.09 PARTNERSHIPS.**

- (1) All EPPs shall have a partnership with each LEA and/or CMO where enrolled candidates are placed for clinical experiences.
- (2) Each Tennessee-based EPP shall have at least one (1) primary partnership with an LEA or CMO in which both parties collaborate to establish an explicit process for identifying and responding to LEA- or CMO-identified areas of need, developing candidate selection criteria, and designing and implementing high-quality, needs-based clinical experiences. The primary partnership shall also establish the roles and responsibilities of EPP faculty and LEA or CMO staff, including clinical mentors and supervisors and establish clear expectations regarding the delivery of candidate support and evaluation.
- (3) Tennessee-based EPPs that meet the following requirements may request to establish a primary partnership with an alternate entity that oversees or manages two (2) or more schools in Tennessee:
  - (a) The most recent completer cohort has ten (10) or fewer educators employed in a Tennessee public school; and

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- (b) The EPP provides a description of how the partnership will comply with the requirements of paragraph (2).
- (4) All EPPs shall establish state-recognized partnerships with LEAs and/or CMOs with which they do not have a primary partnership, but where enrolled candidates are placed for clinical experiences. State-recognized partnerships, at a minimum, shall establish the roles and responsibilities of EPP faculty and LEA or CMO staff, including clinical mentors and supervisors and establish clear expectations regarding the delivery of candidate support and evaluation.
- (5) Out-of-state and online EPPs that place candidates in Tennessee LEAs and/or CMOs for clinical experiences shall have formal state-recognized partnership agreements with the LEAs or CMOs hosting their candidates. This includes placement of candidates who are employed as teachers-of-record while completing preparation programs through the job embedded clinical practice option. Out-of-state and online EPPs must submit LEA and/or CMO partnership agreements to the Department in order to receive partnership recognition from the state.
- (6) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-5-5631, all full-time faculty members, including academic deans or executive leaders, in a Tennessee approved EPP, who are involved in the preparation of teachers, shall further their professional development through direct personal involvement in a public school or LEA on an annual basis. Each primary partnership agreement shall detail the faculty involvement. Direct faculty involvement shall include at least one (1) of the following activities:
  - (a) Professional learning targeted to or led by pre-K through grade twelve (pre-K–12) educators;
  - (b) Professional learning focused on local education agency-specific educational initiatives;
  - (c) Direct instruction to pre-K through grade twelve (pre-K–12) students;
  - (d) Curriculum development;
  - (e) District level strategic partnerships; or
  - (f) Direct observation of pre-K through grade twelve (pre-K–12) classrooms.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-202, 49-1-302, 49-1-302(15), 49-1-302(16), 49-5-101, and 49-5-108 and Public Chapter No. 535 - Education Improvement Act. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed May 12, 1992; effective August 29, 1992. Expired rules edited by Secretary of State in October 1996. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendments filed September 6, 2007; effective January 28, 2008. Amendment filed February 20, 2008; effective June 27, 2008. Amendment filed October 20, 2009; effective March 31, 2010. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024.

#### **0520-02-04-.10 CLINICAL EXPERIENCES.**

- (1) Each EPP shall provide candidates with clinical experiences. EPPs shall design these experiences to provide candidates with opportunities to build and demonstrate content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, and pedagogical content knowledge. These experiences

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- shall reflect the breadth of the grade span and the depth of the content reflected by the specialty area(s) in which the candidate is being prepared.
- (2) Each candidate shall complete field experiences and at least one (1) clinical practice in order to successfully complete an educator preparation program.
  - (3) EPPs shall ensure candidates complete a clinical practice in the appropriate licensure and endorsement area.
  - (4) Field experiences shall provide early and ongoing practice opportunities to apply content and pedagogical knowledge in settings reflective of the specialty area(s) in which the candidate is being prepared.
  - (5) EPPs shall develop requirements for completion of clinical practice and outline the causes and procedures by which the clinical practice can be terminated. Candidates who do not successfully complete clinical practice shall not be recommended for licensure.
  - (6) Prior to participating in a clinical practice, post-baccalaureate program candidates shall receive training on the professional education standards.
  - (7) Clinical practice sites may include Tennessee public schools, including public charter schools and Tennessee state special schools, or Category 1, 2, or 3 non-public schools. Category 4 and 5 schools shall not be used as placement sites. These categories are defined in State Board Rule 0520-07-02. If extraordinary circumstances arise that prevent a candidate from completing the clinical experience in Tennessee, the EPP may request permission for the candidate to complete the clinical practice in another state. Information of candidates who complete the clinical practice outside of Tennessee shall be included as part of the comprehensive review process.
  - (8) EPPs shall ensure all candidates participating in a clinical practice have a school-based clinical mentor.
  - (9) Educators who serve as a school-based clinical mentor in a public school setting shall, at a minimum:
    - (a) Hold an active Tennessee license with an endorsement in the area or a closely related area where they will be supervising the candidate;
    - (b) Have a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations or significantly above expectations for the prior school year; and
    - (c) Have a minimum of three (3) years of experience as a teacher, school services personnel, or instructional leader, as applicable.
  - (10) Clinical mentors shall be selected jointly by the EPP and the partner LEA and/or CMO.
  - (11) Clinical mentors shall, in cooperation with the EPP clinical supervisor, direct the activities of the candidate in the classroom.
  - (12) EPPs shall coordinate with LEAs and/or CMOs to ensure clinical mentors are provided release time for counseling, observation, evaluation, or other activities related to the clinical practice that occur during the school day.
  - (13) Beginning on July 1, 2026, clinical mentors and supervisors shall formally observe candidates a minimum of four (4) times during clinical practice, as defined in Educator Preparation Policy 5.504. Mentors and supervisors shall use an observation tool selected by the EPP and

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approved for use in the Educator Evaluation Policy 5.201. If the EPP does not select an observation tool approved for use in the Educator Evaluation Policy 5.201, the observation tool shall be reviewed and approved for use by the Department.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302, 49-5-101, and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Expired rules edited by Secretary of State in October 1996. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed April 28, 2000; effective August 28, 2000. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed January 28, 2019; effective through July 27, 2019. Amendments filed January 28, 2019; effective April 28, 2019. Amendments filed May 27, 2021; effective August 25, 2021. Amendments filed October 25, 2023; effective January 23, 2024. Amendments filed March 5, 2025; effective June 3, 2025.

**0520-02-04-.11 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 49-1-302, Executive Order No. 14 of 2020 (and applicable, subsequent Executive Orders addressing COVID-19 relief), and Public Chapter 652 of 2020. **Administrative History:** Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015. Emergency rules filed April 16, 2020; effective through October 13, 2020. Emergency rules expired effective October 14, 2020, and the rules reverted to their previous statuses.

**0520-02-04-.12 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302 and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed November 22, 1993; effective March 30, 1994. Expired rules edited by Secretary of State in October 1996. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed December 31, 2001; effective April 30, 2002. Amendments filed May 19, 2005; effective September 28, 2005. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015.

**0520-02-04-.13 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302 and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed January 21, 1994; effective May 31, 1994. Amendment filed April 27, 1998; effective August 28, 1998. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed June 11, 2007; effective October 25, 2007. Amendment filed January 20, 2012; effective June 30, 2012. Amendments filed February 6, 2013; effective July 29, 2013. Amendments filed September 6, 2013; effective February 28, 2014. Amendments filed May 8, 2014; effective October 29, 2014. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015.

**0520-02-04-.14 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 49-1-302. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendment filed June 24, 1992; effective September 28, 1992. Amendment filed June 29, 1993; effective September 28, 1993. Amendment filed January 21, 1994; effective May 31, 1994. Amendment filed April 27, 1998; effective August 28, 1998. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Amendment filed January 26, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. Amendment filed June 11, 2007; effective October 25, 2007. Amendment filed March 24, 2014; effective August 29, 2014. Withdrawal of the March 24, 2014 amendment filed July 10, 2014 by the State Board of Education. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015.

**0520-02-04-.15 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-1-302 and 49-5-108. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed November 3, 1993; effective March 30, 1994. Amendment filed May 28, 1999; effective September 28, 1999. Repeal filed May 29, 2015; effective August 27, 2015.