

**RULES  
OF  
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-02-07  
LEA TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS**

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**0520-02-07-.01 PURPOSE.**

- (1) The purpose of this rule is to effectuate T.C.A. § 49-5-108(d) that requires the State Board of Education to approve a process for an LEA, or for two (2) or more LEAs working together, to establish an LEA teacher training program for the purpose of recommending Eligible Educators for additional endorsements.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 49-5-108 and Public Chapter 571 of 2021. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 1, 2022; effective May 30, 2022.

**0520-02-07-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) "Department" means the Tennessee Department of Education.
- (2) "Eligible Educator" means an educator who holds an active Tennessee professional-level teacher license with at least one (1) academic Endorsement Area in accordance with State Board Educator Licensure Rules Chapter 0520-02-03.
- (3) "Endorsement Area" has the same definition as used in State Board Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04-.02.
- (4) "LEA" means a Tennessee Local Education Agency and has the same meaning given in T.C.A. § 49-1-103(2).
- (5) "State Board" means the Tennessee State Board of Education.
- (6) "Specialty Area Program" or "SAP" has the same definition as used in State Board Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04-.02.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 49-5-108 and Public Chapter 571 of 2021. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 1, 2022; effective May 30, 2022.

**0520-02-07-.03 LEA REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL APPROVAL.**

- (1) LEA teacher training programs may be formed by one (1) LEA or by two (2) or more LEAs working together, provided, that at the time of application and initial approval, none of the applicant LEAs have received the lowest performance designation on the state's LEA accountability system in either of the last two (2) years in which designations were assigned.
- (2) The LEA or LEAs seeking to establish an LEA teacher training program may partner with an Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) that is operating under State Board approval or that has a Department-recognized EPP partnership agreement with an LEA.

(Rule 0520-02-07-.03, continued)

- (3) Proposals submitted for initial approval as an LEA teacher training program shall be reviewed by the Department.
- (4) To be considered for initial approval, LEA teacher training programs shall submit a proposal to the Department that contains, at minimum, evidence of the following:
  - (a) Evidence of Program Capacity.
    1. A designated program supervisor for the LEA, as appointed by the Director of Schools;
    2. Adequate staffing for each course the LEA teacher training program seeks to offer to prepare educators for the Endorsement Area(s), including evidence that the faculty or staff who teach courses or provide direct coaching to Eligible Educators possess sufficient knowledge, skills, training, and expertise; and
    3. A requirement for each Eligible Educator participating in the program to receive ongoing support, coaching, and feedback from a mentor teacher during the time the educator is enrolled in the LEA teacher training program. The mentor teacher shall:
      - (i) Hold an active Tennessee educator license with an endorsement in the area or a closely related area to the one (1) in which the Eligible Educator is seeking endorsement;
      - (ii) Have a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations or significantly above expectations on the mentor teacher's most recent evaluation; and
      - (iii) Have a minimum of three (3) years of experience as a teacher.
  - (b) Evidence of Alignment to Specialty Area Program Standards.
    1. Program structure and method(s) of delivery;
    2. Alignment to the standards of the applicable sections of the Literacy and Specialty Area Program Standards Policy 5.106 for the Endorsement Area(s) the LEA teacher training program seeks to offer;
    3. Opportunities for Eligible Educators to demonstrate application of the standards through field experience; and
    4. Opportunities for Eligible Educators to demonstrate understanding of the standards through benchmark assessments throughout the LEA teacher training program.
- (5) The Department shall review all proposals for initial approval of an LEA teacher training program or approval of a new SAP and provide feedback within ninety (90) calendar days of receipt of the completed proposal.
  - (a) Within the ninety (90) calendar day review, the Department may request additional information or revisions to a proposal.
  - (b) Applicants shall respond to requests for additional information or revisions within forty-five (45) calendar days.

(Rule 0520-02-07-.03, continued)

- (c) The Department may provide an additional opportunity for applicants to respond to a request for minor revisions.
  - (d) No more than sixty (60) days following the submission of required revisions to the proposal, the Department shall notify an applicant of its recommendation or decision, as outlined in paragraphs (6) or (7) below, as applicable.
- (6) After review of the proposal for initial approval of an LEA teacher training program, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one (1) of the following:
- (a) Initial approval. If initial approval is awarded, LEA teacher training programs may begin enrolling and subsequently recommending Eligible Educators for endorsement in approved Specialty Area Programs; or
  - (b) Denial of initial approval. If initial approval is denied, LEA teacher training programs shall not recommend educators for endorsements or identify the program as leading to endorsement. LEA teacher training programs may submit a revised proposal for consideration to the Department during the next review period established by the Department.
- (7) After administrative review of proposals for new SAPs, approval or denial shall be issued through Department notification. SAPs that are denied approval shall be provided an opportunity to resubmit the proposal to the Department to correct any identified deficiencies.
- (8) Applicants shall not publicize LEA teacher training programs or SAPs as leading to endorsement prior to receiving initial approval.
- (9) Applicants that receive initial approval from the State Board to operate an LEA teacher training program may begin enrolling Eligible Educators and subsequently recommending Eligible Educators for endorsement.
- (10) The initial approval period shall last for a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of five (5) years. An LEA teacher training program may seek full approval after three (3) years in operation under initial approval by requesting a full approval review from the Department. Initial approval expires after five (5) years or upon the LEA teacher training program earning full approval from the State Board.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 49-5-108 and Public Chapter 571 of 2021. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 1, 2022; effective May 30, 2022.

#### **0520-02-07-.04 LEA REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING FULL APPROVAL.**

- (1) In order to receive full approval, LEA teacher training programs with initial approval must undergo a full approval review by the Department by the timeline set forth in section 0520-02-07-.03 of this Chapter. In order to maintain full state approval, LEA teacher training programs shall participate in a full approval review every seven (7) years.
- (2) Each full approval review shall be conducted by the Department and shall include, at a minimum, the following components:
  - (a) LEA teacher training programs shall submit evidence demonstrating alignment to the standards established in section 0520-02-07-.03 of this chapter, the applicable professional education standards, and State Board Literacy and Specialty Area Program Standards Policy 5.106.

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

- (b) LEA teacher training programs shall verify records of the Eligible Educators prepared in each approved Endorsement Area since the previous review.
  - (c) LEA teacher training programs shall submit evaluation records, which may include observation data, student growth data, or overall level of effectiveness (LOE), of Eligible Educators who earned additional endorsements through the LEA teacher training program and taught in the Endorsement Area earned.
  - (d) The Department shall compile and review data on the extent to which Eligible Educators prepared in the LEA teacher training program pass the required licensure assessments for their Endorsement Area(s).
- (3) The Department shall be responsible for, at a minimum:
  - (a) Developing a full approval rubric for evaluating LEA teacher training programs;
  - (b) Reviewing all required evidence submitted by the LEA teacher training program;
  - (c) Reviewing data regarding educator outcomes on licensure assessments and LOE scores; and
  - (d) Recommending an approval status to the State Board.
- (4) Following each full approval review, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one (1) of the following:
  - (a) Full approval. The LEA teacher training program meets expectations for approval on the Department full approval rubric.
  - (b) Denial of approval. The LEA teacher training program falls below expectations on the Department full approval rubric. LEA teacher training programs that are denied approval are prohibited from enrolling new educators for Endorsement Areas and shall notify all currently participating Eligible Educators of the denial of approval status of its program. Denied LEA teacher training programs may continue to serve Eligible Educators who can complete the program within twelve (12) months of the denial of approval. The LEA teacher training program shall not re-apply for initial approval for at least three (3) years from the date of denial.
- (5) If an LEA teacher training program 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.
- (6) LEA teacher training programs shall annually submit to the Department the following:
  - (a) Any substantial changes to the approved LEA teacher training program or SAP(s); and
  - (b) Contact information, including primary contact information and verification of the designated supervisor of the LEA teacher training program.
- (7) Each LEA teacher training program shall annually verify or submit all information identified by the Department for inclusion in annual reports to the State Board. The annual reports to the State Board shall include evidence of performance of the LEA teacher training program and shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - (a) Participating Eligible Educators' outcomes including, but not limited to, program completion rates and pass rates on required licensure assessments; and

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

- (b) Participating educators' classroom 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.
- (c) All reports shall maintain confidentiality for individual educators and be aggregated at the LEA teacher training program and/or SAP level.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 49-5-108 and Public Chapter 571 of 2021. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 1, 2022; effective May 30, 2022.

**0520-02-07-.05 REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATORS.**

- (1) To enroll in an approved LEA teacher training program, Eligible Educators shall:
  - (a) Hold, at time of enrollment in the LEA teacher training program, an active, professional-level, Tennessee teacher license with at least one (1) academic Endorsement Area issued in accordance with State Board Rules Chapter 0520-02-03; and
  - (b) Be employed full-time by an LEA that is operating the State Board-approved LEA teacher training program in which the educator seeks enrollment.
- (2) To obtain the additional Endorsement Area(s), Eligible Educators shall:
  - (a) Hold, at the time of application to the Department for the additional Endorsement Area(s), an active, professional-level Tennessee teacher license with at least one (1) academic Endorsement Area issued in accordance with State Board Rules Chapter 0520-02-03;
  - (b) Submit a recommendation from the LEA by which they are employed and were trained for the additional Endorsement Area(s); and
  - (c) Submit proof of passing scores on the specialty area assessment(s) required by the State Board Professional Assessments Policy 5.105.
- (3) Enrollment in an LEA teacher training program is at the discretion of the Eligible Educator.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 49-5-108 and Public Chapter 571 of 2021. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 1, 2022; effective May 30, 2022.