
Transitional Licensure Policy

The Background:

The most recent session of the Tennessee General Assembly passed Public Chapter 1072, a law designed to help facilitate the licensure of qualified higher education faculty, allowing them to teach in Tennessee public high schools.

Eligibility for this license is restricted to full time and part time higher education faculty from regionally accredited institutions and is limited to the 9-12 subject area endorsements parallel to the courses taught by the candidate at the IHE.

On December 15, 2008, the State Board of Education adopted a rule and policy that establishes the new Transitional License. The new license is an addition to the current licenses offered by the State of Tennessee and is limited to grades 9-12.

In order to obtain this license the candidate must pass the same licensure examinations, attend inservice training, and participate in district mentoring in the same manner as any other licensed Tennessee teacher.

The SBE's Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Certification reviewed the statute and policy at the most recent meeting and discussed the intricacies of the law and this proposed policy. Moving forward, the Department of Education will work with IHEs and candidates to operationalize and implement this policy.

The proposed language would be included in the SBE's current Transitional Licensure Policy as paragraph "G" at the end of Section II.

The Recommendation:

The State Board of Education staff recommends adoption of this item of final reading.