Tennessee State Board of Education **Agenda**
August 5, 2011 **Final Reading Item: III. D.**

Summer Schools, Rule

The Background:

The Tennessee Department of Education recently convened a Task Force for Students Overage and Under Credit. Several policy recommendations came from that interdisciplinary committee including one related to summer schools. State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.03 outlines regulations for the operation of summer schools. It is recommended that Item (1) Part (b) of paragraph (7) of Rule 0520-01-03-.03 Summer Schools be amended by deletion of this part in its entirety which states that "A minimum of 133 contact hours shall be required in order to earn one unit of credit." This recommendation stems from the recognition that seat time is not an adequate measure of student competency. Taskforce members noted that districts should have the freedom to move students through their coursework based upon proficiency and not be inhibited because of current seat time requirements.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the Board's *Master Plan* by ensuring that all students can complete rigorous, relevant curriculum and without equating proficiency to seat time.

The Recommendation:

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

Summer Schools Rule

It is recommended that Item (1) Part (b) of paragraph (7) of Rule 0520-01-03-.03 Summer Schools be amended by deletion of this part in its entirety. The new rule will read as the following:

(7) Summer Schools.

(a) Summer schools shall be under the control and management of the local board of education having jurisdiction.

(b) The following shall be required for grades 9 through 12:

1. State curriculum frameworks shall be used for all courses.

2. Summer school teachers shall be licensed and hold endorsements in the subject areas in which they are teaching.