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High School Career Exploration Course Standards (CTE)

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**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to “set policies governing all academic standards and courses of study in the public schools.” Additionally, State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.03(1) calls for the State Board to adopt standards for each subject area, grades K-12. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system.

This item presents three new career exploration courses for freshman, sophomore, and junior students as well as a revised career exploration course for seniors. These courses were developed and will be taught in partnership with Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) Tennessee. JAG TN currently has a course approved by the State Board for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. They have expanded their curriculum and this item proposes three additional courses to the previously approved course from 2016. The additional courses progress from grades 9-12 and align practical skills to postsecondary education and employability. The courses were developed in collaboration with Department staff, high school educators, school counselors, and industry experts.

Additional feedback will be solicited between first and final reading.

**The Fiscal Analysis Impact:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department 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.

**Connection to the [Master Plan](#):**

This item supports the State Board’s strategic focus on Postsecondary and Career outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring that students develop and demonstrate readiness for their postsecondary or career plans.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.