

**Additional Endorsements, Rule & Policy**

---

**The Background:**

Currently, teachers desiring to add an endorsement to teaching licenses must, according to State Board Rule 0520-2-3-.01 (9), “complete a teacher education program for additional endorsement.” Those who have already completed a teacher education program and hold a valid license with a 7-12 endorsement have completed all the general education and professional education requirements that a newly licensed teacher must complete, regardless of subject area. Preparation to add an additional secondary (7-12) endorsement should be limited to the subject-area content.

For many years Tennessee has required newly licensed teachers to demonstrate subject-area content knowledge by means of a licensure test. This is done to ensure that teachers have entry-level, minimal competency in the content area and to validate the mastery that occurred at the institution of higher education. The State Board of Education prescribes which tests are taken in the various subject areas and approves the passing scores for each of the licensure examinations.

This proposed rule change would allow those teachers who hold valid Tennessee teaching licenses with a secondary (7-12) endorsement to add 7-12 endorsements in other subject-areas by obtaining passing scores on one or more of the currently approved licensure specialty examinations.

**Master Plan Connection:**

This item supports the *Master Plan* by providing for effective teachers.

**The Recommendation:**

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

## **Additional Endorsements Rule**

### **0520-2-3-.01 LICENSURE, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

- (9) Teacher candidates seeking to add endorsements to a teacher license may complete a teacher education program for additional endorsement. Institutions which offer programs for additional endorsement shall submit to the State Department of Education a list of specialty areas in which additional endorsements are offered. Institutions of higher education will verify completion of the appropriate course requirements to the Department of Education. Teachers who are licensed in Tennessee and who complete programs of study for additional endorsements at institutions in other states may be recommended by the out-of-state institution to the State Department of Education for additional endorsements. *Teachers who hold a valid Tennessee license with a 7-12 endorsement may add a 7-12 endorsement by obtaining a passing score on all of the required, state-approved teacher licensure specialty exams and submitting application with the passing scores to the State Department of Education.*

### **0520-2-4-.09 REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENTS, GRADES 7-12, ON A TEACHER LICENSE.**

- (1) *Teachers who hold a valid Tennessee license with a 7-12 endorsement may add a 7-12 endorsement by obtaining a passing score on all of the required, state-approved teacher licensure specialty exams and submitting application with the passing scores to the State Department of Education.*

**Additional Endorsement Standards  
Requirements for Adding Endorsements  
To a Teacher's License**

Date Standards Adopted or Most Recent Revision: April 17, 2009  
Date Institutions Must Submit To DOE: Current  
Date Candidates Must Meet Standards: September 1, 2009

**Specific Requirements**

1. General Education: Candidates for additional endorsements, having attained a baccalaureate from an accredited institution and a teacher license, have met the general education requirements for teacher licensure.
2. Professional Education: Candidates for additional endorsements, having attained a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and a teacher license, have met the professional education requirements for teacher licensure.
3. Specific Additional Endorsement Areas: Candidates for additional endorsements will meet the following requirements:
  - a. The addition of endorsements in art, music, theater, physical education, health and wellness, and special education will not exceed 30 semester hours.
  - b. The addition of endorsements in early childhood education, elementary education, and middle grades education will not exceed 30 semester hours, with the following exceptions:
    - (1) The addition of early childhood education will not exceed 21 semester hours for candidates who hold endorsements in middle grades education.
    - (2) The addition of early childhood education will not exceed 21 semester hours for candidates who hold endorsements in elementary education.
    - (3) The addition of middle grades education will not exceed 21 semester hours for candidates who hold endorsements in elementary education or secondary education.
  - c. The addition of a gifted education endorsement will not exceed 15 semester hours.
  - d. The addition of a secondary endorsement(s) (7-12, 5-12, 9-12) to a license that includes at least one secondary endorsement can be accomplished by submitting a completed application and evidence of a passing score(s) on the required Praxis II Content Specialty test(s) to the State Department of Education.
4. Specialty Area Knowledge and Skills in Determining Course Work: The institution will use the applicable knowledge and skills of teaching in the specialty area as a

focus for determining a program of study for the additional endorsement. In determining the exact course work to be required for each candidate, the institution will consider previous course work and relevant experiences in lieu of specialty course work. In some cases, no course work may be needed or required.

These specifications regarding course work for the additional endorsement area do not apply to individuals seeking initial licensure, individuals who hold an occupational education license and who seek a regular license, nor individuals who hold a license and who seek another endorsement for which a Master's degree is required.

5. Teaching Specialty Area Core Requirements in Science and Social Studies: Candidates for additional endorsements in the areas of science or social studies, having attained a baccalaureate from an accredited institution and having attained a teacher license, shall not be required to meet the science and social studies core requirements respectively.
6. Field Experiences: The candidate may need to have additional supervised field experience in the additional endorsement area. Field experiences may be obtained in a variety of ways. (Note: Because additional endorsements apply to licensed educators [notwithstanding guideline 5 below], an enhanced student teaching semester or a year-long internship will not be required.)
7. Licensure Examinations: Candidates shall be required to achieve the minimum passing score(s) on specialty test(s) required for each additional endorsement area sought.

#### Implementation Standards

1. Institutions of higher education will determine an individualized program for candidates seeking additional endorsements. Institutions will determine what course work and/or field experiences are needed by individual candidates. In evaluating for knowledge and skills, the institution will undertake one or more of the following:
  - a. An examination of the candidate's transcript,
  - b. An examination of the candidate's self assessment and portfolio,
  - c. An examination of the candidate's professional experience and competence in the knowledge and skills as verified by an employer,
  - d. Opportunities for candidates to test out of courses if appropriate, and
  - e. Administration of other tests or assessments of the knowledge and skills deemed appropriate by the institution.
2. The candidate's prior or current teaching experience may count as field experience. The institution will consider:

- a. When the teaching experience occurred,
  - b. In what specialty area the teaching experience occurred,
  - c. Whether the candidate received appropriate supervision and support, and
  - d. The results of the local evaluation or other assessment of the candidate's performance.
3. Institutions of higher education will verify completion of the appropriate course requirements to the State Department of Education.
  4. An institution must offer an approved program for initial endorsement in order to offer the program for additional endorsement (with the exception of the additional endorsements in Geography 7-12, Marketing 7-12, ESL PreK-12, and Gifted Education PreK-12). Institutions which offer programs for additional endorsement must submit to the State Department of Education a list of specialty areas in which additional endorsements are offered and a description of the processes used by the institution to assess the individual candidates to determine needed coursework.
  5. Candidates who need to take courses for additional endorsements at an institution other than the recommending institution may do so provided the candidate receives prior written approval from the verifying institution. Institutions will exercise a good faith effort to accept course work from other institutions.
  6. Teachers who are licensed in Tennessee and who complete programs of study for additional endorsements at institutions in other states may be recommended by the out-of-state institution to the State Department of Education for additional endorsements.
  7. Candidates who have attained a baccalaureate from an accredited institution and a teaching license from another state and who seek initial licensure or an additional endorsement on a Tennessee teacher license shall be considered to have met the general education requirements and professional education requirements on the same basis as Tennessee candidates.
  8. Teachers who are licensed in Tennessee or in another state or who have completed a teacher preparation program in a teaching area covering a grade span that is more narrow than the comparable Tennessee K-12 or PreK-12 teaching endorsement, shall be awarded the Tennessee endorsement provided that at least one of the following conditions has been met:
    - a. The applicant has at least one year of documented successful teaching experience in the grade span not covered by the existing endorsement in a school approved by the appropriate state governing body and a positive recommendation from the school system, or

- b. The applicant has six hours of course work in current content in the teaching area in the grade span not covered by the existing endorsement.

The applicant will apply directly to the State Department of Education for the endorsement.

9. This policy becomes effective for candidates who apply for additional endorsements September 1, 2009.