
Health Science Teacher Licensure, Rule

The Background:

Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education, 0520-02-04-.13(1)(a)1., stipulates requirements for apprentice occupational education license teachers in the field of Health Sciences Education. On July 30, 2010, the State Board of Education approved on second and final reading a clarification of the guidelines for of the Health Science Education Licensure Standards. Approval of this item will align the Rules and Regulations requirements for an occupational education license in Health Sciences Education with the Teacher Licensure Standards and Induction Guidelines of the State Board of Education Policies, Standards, and Guidelines that were approved at the July 2010 Board meeting.

The Health Sciences Education program, in over 198 schools across the state, prepares student for entry-level employment or postsecondary education in one of many health sciences professions. Students are taught in classes skills related to Emergency Medical Services, Certified Nursing Assisting, Phlebotomy, Electrocardiogram Technician, Optical Assistant, Physical Therapy Technician and many more careers. Certifications are available for Certified Nursing Assistant and Emergency Medical First Responders. The profession of health sciences is becoming more competitive each year and is requiring higher levels of training and skills. Health Sciences teachers who have degrees and work experience bring the needed high skills and expertise to the classroom that non-degreed members do not have. A few examples of health care professionals who can teach health science are Registered Nurses, Medical Laboratory Technicians/Technologists, EMT-Paramedics, Respiratory Therapists, and Radiological Technologists.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the Foundational Principle of having effective teachers and the goal of having a rigorous, relevant high school.

The Recommendation:

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

Health Science Teacher Licensure Rule

Requirements for the Occupational Education License for Health Sciences Education

The revised requirements for Health Sciences Education, 0520-02-02-.13(1)(a)1., would read as follows:

- (i.) The health science education teacher must hold an associate or higher degree that is related to their health care license. The license, registration or certification must be in an allied health occupation, or as a registered nurse, or in an appropriate medical profession in Tennessee that can be verified by Tennessee Department of Health Licensure or a national license accreditation agency. (EX: Radiological Technologist, Nuclear Medicine, etc.)
- (ii.) Applicant shall have completed three years of full-time successful employment within the past five years in a health care clinical setting having a current active health care license. (Ex: hospital, long-term care facility, rehabilitation or athletic training facility, dental or medical office, home health, day surgery center, etc.)