

SENATE BILL 2296

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to student recognition.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) The state seal of STEM is established to recognize high school graduates who have attained proficiency in fields of study within the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The state seal of STEM shall be awarded by the commissioner of education. Local education agency participation in this program is voluntary.

(b) The purposes of the state seal of STEM are as follows:

(1) To encourage students to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

(2) To certify achievement within the STEM fields;

(3) To provide students with a tool to demonstrate STEM competency to employers;

(4) To provide universities with a method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission;

(5) To prepare students with twenty-first century skills;

(6) To engage students in STEM learning at an early age; and

(7) To prepare students for a job market increasingly in need of individuals with STEM skills.

(c) The state seal of STEM certifies that a graduating high school student has attained proficiency in STEM and meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 for STEM courses taken in high school;

(2) Successfully completed four (4) credits in mathematics and four (4) credits in science while enrolled in high school. The requirement for completion of up to one (1) credit in mathematics may be satisfied by completion of one (1) credit in computer science;

(3) Has one (1) of the following:

(A) A score of three (3) or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) examination in science;

(B) A score of 600 or higher on an SAT subject test in science or per ACT equivalent score;

(C) A score of four (4) or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) examination in science; or

(D) A grade of B or higher in a college-level science course taken through dual enrollment; and

(4) Has one (1) of the following:

(A) A score of three (3) or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) examination in mathematics;

(B) A score of 600 or higher on an SAT subject test in mathematics or an ACT equivalent score;

(C) A score of four (4) or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) examination in mathematics; or

(D) A grade of B or higher in a college-level mathematics course taken through dual enrollment.

(d) The commissioner of education shall:

(1) Prepare and deliver to participating local education agencies an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the student indicating that the student has been awarded a state seal of STEM by the commissioner; and

(2) Provide other information deemed necessary for the local education agencies to successfully participate in the program.

(e) A local education agency that participates in the program under this section shall:

(1) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify students who have earned a state seal of STEM; and

(2) Affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each student who earns a state seal of STEM.

(f) No fee shall be charged to a student to receive a state seal of STEM.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.