



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

A FOCUS ON QUALITY

- In 2017, the charter law was amended to require the State Board of Education to adopt quality authorizing standards.
- In 2018, the charter law was amended to allow authorizers to collect an authorizer fee.
- In 2019, the charter law was amended to create the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission and to charge the State Board of Education with evaluating authorizers.

STATUTORY CHARGE

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145:

- The State Board shall ensure the effective operation of authorizers in the state and shall evaluate authorizer quality.
- The State Board is charged with conducting periodic evaluations of authorizers to determine authorizer compliance.
- An authorizer's failure to remedy non-compliance may result in the reduction of the authorizer fee.

The following authorizers in the state will be evaluated:

- Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Shelby County Schools
- Knox County Schools
- Hamilton County Schools
- Achievement School District
- Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Tennessee is the fourth (4th) state in the U.S. to implement authorizer evaluations.
- Our staff partnered with SchoolWorks to develop our evaluation process.
- We conducted surveys, led focus groups, and facilitated working group sessions with an evaluation task force comprised of authorizing staff, charter school operators and support organizations.
- The Fall 2020 Pilot was our opportunity to test the full evaluation process.

EVALUATION PROCESS

AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

EVALUATION PROCESS

Key Elements:

- Occur at least every two (2) years with a cohort of three (3) authorizers
- Based on an authorizer's alignment to the State Board's Policy 6.111 - Quality Charter Authorizing Standards
- Facilitated by State Board staff and external evaluators
- Authorizers receive preliminary scores and an opportunity to review the evaluation report for factual corrections prior to public release
- Evaluation reports are presented to the State Board at its first meeting following the evaluation cycle and posted on the State Board's website
- During a non-evaluation year, authorizers complete a self-assessment and any corrective action plans, if required

EVALUATION STANDARDS

- The rubric is based on the 24 Quality Charter Authorizing Standards which encompass the following categories:
 - Agency Commitment and Capacity
 - Application Process and Decision Making
 - Performance Contracting
 - Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation
 - Revocation and Renewal Decision Making
 - Advanced Standards (Bonus)
- An authorizer's evidence base is evaluated against the rubric; the evidence base includes:
 - Authorizer documentation
 - Interview with school leaders
 - Interview with authorizing staff
 - Appeals history, if applicable

EVALUATION OUTCOMES

- The final product is a completed evaluation report with a score and evaluative comments per standard, an overall rating, and any required follow-up actions.
- The evaluative comments provide brief statements to describe the documented evidence in relation to each standard of the rubric.
- Follow-up actions are assigned to authorizers who receive a score of “Approaching Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory/Incomplete”.

Score	Rating
3.5 – 4.0	Exemplary
3 – 3.49	Commendable
2 – 2.99	Satisfactory
1 – 1.99	Approaching Satisfactory
0 – 0.99	Unsatisfactory/Incomplete

EVALUATION COHORTS

Cohort 1 Fall 2021:

- Hamilton County Schools
- Knox County Schools
- Shelby County Schools

Cohort 2 Fall 2022:

- Achievement School District*
- Metro Nashville Public Schools*
- Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

*Participated in the Fall 2020 Pilot Evaluations

EVALUATION TIMELINE

Sample Two-Year Evaluation Cycle

	August	September	October – December	January	February	March – July
Year 1	Orientation	Document Submission	Authorizer Evaluations	Submit Self-Evaluation	SBE Meeting	*
Year 2	Orientation	Document Submission	Authorizer Evaluations	Submit Self-Evaluation	SBE Meeting	*

Purple = Cohort 1 Blue = Cohort 2

*Task may include completing corrective action plan items and updating documents

FALL 2020 PILOT

AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

PILOT EVALUATIONS

Key Elements:

- All authorizers offered the option to voluntarily participate
 - Metro Nashville and Achievement School District opted in
- Authorizing staff invited to serve as evaluators
 - Shelby County Schools, Metro Nashville and the TN Public Charter School Commission opted in
- Followed the full evaluation process
- Opportunity to gain valuable feedback and further refine process
- Results serve as baseline to gauge thresholds for overall ratings in subsequent evaluations and determine topics for technical assistance

LESSONS LEARNED

- Evaluation is an iterative process.
- Evaluations are intensive and important.
- Authorizers, charter schools, and ultimately, our students will positively benefit from this work.

NEXT STEPS

- Approval of the Authorizer Evaluation Rule
- Approval of State Board Policy 6.113 – Charter School Authorizer Evaluations
- Provide technical assistance to authorizers in key areas ahead of the formal evaluations
- Begin formal evaluations of Cohort 1 this Fall

QUESTIONS?



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