
Charter School Authorizer Evaluations – 2021 Outcomes

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-13-145 charges the State Board with ensuring the effective operation of authorizers in the state and evaluating authorizer quality. State Board Rule 0520-14-01-.08 outlines the evaluation process, authorizer ratings, and evaluation follow-up actions. Authorizers shall be evaluated at least biennially, and the evaluation process culminates with an evaluation report that shall be presented to the State Board for approval at the next quarterly or special called meeting following release of the evaluation report to the authorizer.

Evaluation Process:

Each evaluation includes a thorough review of documentation submitted by the authorizer during the submission window, a narrative explanation of the documentation, clarifications and explanations provided by the authorizer during a document debrief, supporting narrative shared during a school leader interview, and a review of the authorizer’s appeals history, as applicable. Authorizers are evaluated against the twenty-four standards within State Board Policy 6.111 – Quality Charter Authorizing Standards.

Authorizers shall receive an overall score, rating, and follow-up actions based on one of the following categories:

Score	Rating
3.5 – 4.0	Exemplary
3.0 – 3.49	Commendable
2.0 – 2.99	Satisfactory
1.0 – 1.99	Approaching Satisfactory
0 – 0.99	Unsatisfactory/Incomplete

2021 Evaluation Outcomes:

Three of the state’s six authorizers were evaluated during the first half of this evaluation cycle: Hamilton County Schools, Knox County Schools, and Shelby County Schools.

Hamilton County Schools

Overall Rating: 1.83 Approaching Satisfactory

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Submission of a corrective action plan approved by the State Board’s executive director or designee prior to implementation.
- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2022-23 school year with documentation demonstrating completion of the required follow-up actions outlined in the approved corrective action plan.

Knox County Schools

Overall Rating: 2.94 Satisfactory

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2022-23 school year, as required for all authorizers in a non-evaluation year.

Shelby County Schools

Overall Rating: 3.53 Exemplary

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board.
- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2022-23 school year, as required for all authorizers in a non-evaluation year.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends approval of this item on first and final reading.