
Quality Charter Authorizing Standards Policy 6.111

The Background:

In 2017, the Tennessee General Assembly passed Public Chapter 307, known as the Tennessee High-Quality Charter Schools Act. This Act amended T.C.A. § 49-13-108 to require chartering authorities to adopt policies and practices for quality charter school authorizing standards as approved by the State Board of Education.

In order to develop these standards, the State Board of Education staff contracted with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) to facilitate a working group of stakeholders to develop a Tennessee-specific version of authorizing standards based on the NACSA Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing. The working group met on November 29, 2017, for an in-depth discussion of the NACSA standards and how they may need to be modified for Tennessee's context. This working group consisted of a variety of stakeholders including representatives from Shelby County Schools, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Knox County Schools, charter operators, the Tennessee Comptroller's Office, the Tennessee Department of Education, The Governor's Office, The Charter School Growth Fund, The Tennessee Charter School Center, and the Tennessee School Boards Association. From that discussion, NACSA produced a draft version of the authorizing standards, which were then sent to the working group for feedback before being submitted to the State Board for approval.

The Recommendation:

State Board staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.