



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

2026-27 Accountability Hearings

Superintendent Study Council Conference
September 2026

About the Accountability Hearings

In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-3-112 and State Board Rules 0520-09-02, the State Board may call for a hearing an LEA or public charter school that meets specific performance criteria.

The hearing is held before a committee of the state board with a focus on school performance and how spending decisions may have affected the school's ability to achieve its performance goals.

At the conclusion of a hearing the State Board may recommend that the Department impose a corrective action.



The State Board's Goals

- Publicly acknowledge school performance.
- Consider the many inputs, including spending decisions, that may have an impact on student outcomes.
- Provide the opportunity to publicly discuss what's working and what isn't working.
- Allow for reflection and collaboration in determining next steps to improve outcomes for students.



Accountability Hearings in 2025-26

- The State Board's Hearing Committee held 18 public hearings in Nashville over the week of March 23, 2026.
- The hearings were livestreamed and a recording of each hearing is available on the State Board's [YouTube channel](#).
- In accordance with current State Board Rules, the 15 LEAs and 3 charter schools that appeared before the Hearing Committee this past March will not be called for another hearing in the following two school years.



Hearing Eligibility Criteria (Current)

An LEA shall be called for an Accountability Hearing if the LEA meets the following criteria:

- Has at least one (1) public school for which that same school received an “F” letter grade for the two (2) most recent school years in which school letter grades have been issued; or
- Has at least one (1) public school for which that same school received an “F” letter grade immediately following the year in which that school received a “D” letter grade; and
- The LEA has not been called for a Hearing during the two (2) consecutive school years prior to the school year in which the Hearing will be held.



Accountability Hearings in 2026-27

- If any school in your district earned a “D” or “F” letter grade from the 2024-25 school year and your district was not called for a hearing this past March, your district may be called this school year.
- The State Board will hold this year’s Accountability Hearings in Nashville the **week of March 29, 2027**.
- LEAs will be notified of a hearing via email on January 6, 2027. Due to the volume of hearings, dates and times cannot be changed.



Federal vs. State Accountability

Indicator	Federal Accountability System	State Accountability System (Letter Grades)
Achievement	- Cohort model based one ELA and one math - Weight: 45% (K8); 30% (HS)	- All subjects and all tests from the given school year - Weight: 50% for K8 and HS
Growth	- Combined literacy and numeracy composite - Weight: 35% (K8); 20% (HS)	- All subjects composite - Weight: 40% (K8); 30% (HS)
CCR	Weight: 20% (HS)	Weight: 10% (HS)
Other Indicators	- COS (10%) - ELPA (10%) - Graduation Rate (5%)	Growth 25 (10%) for the lowest performing students
Pathways	Absolute & AMO pathway (Best of)	Absolute pathway
Student Group Performance	Student groups are embedded within the system with 40% weight	Growth 25 is a proxy measure of student group performance
Designations	Designations are based on the federal system	NA



Table: Differences between Federal and State Accountability Systems Snapshot

Required Attendees

LEAs	Charter Schools	Charter Authorizers
Director of Schools	Executive Director (or principal)	Director of Schools
School Board Chair	Governing Body Chair	School Board Chair
Chief of Academics*	Chief of Academics*	Director of Charter Schools*
Chief of Finance*	Chief of Finance*	Chief of Finance*

The Director of Schools/charter school's Executive Director may elect to bring additional persons (i.e., school board members, school leaders), as needed.



*or equivalent

Type of Questions

- The Hearing Committee will review recent, publicly available data and collect supplemental information from the LEA ahead of the hearing.
- Questions posed at each hearing are uniquely tailored to the LEA in response to the publicly available data and collected information; no hearing is the same.
- The Hearing Committee will focus on questions that cover a range of topics including finance, instruction, staffing, and culture.



Corrective Action

At the conclusion of each hearing, the Hearing Committee will vote on whether to propose one of the following:

- For the State Board to recommend the Department **audit and investigate** the academic programming and spending for the “F” rated school(s);
- For the State Board to recommend the Department require the LEA or charter school to develop, submit to the Department for approval, and implement a **corrective action plan; or**
- **No Action** – For the State Board **not** to recommend a corrective action.

The State Board will consider the Hearing Committee’s proposal at its next quarterly meeting (typically in May).

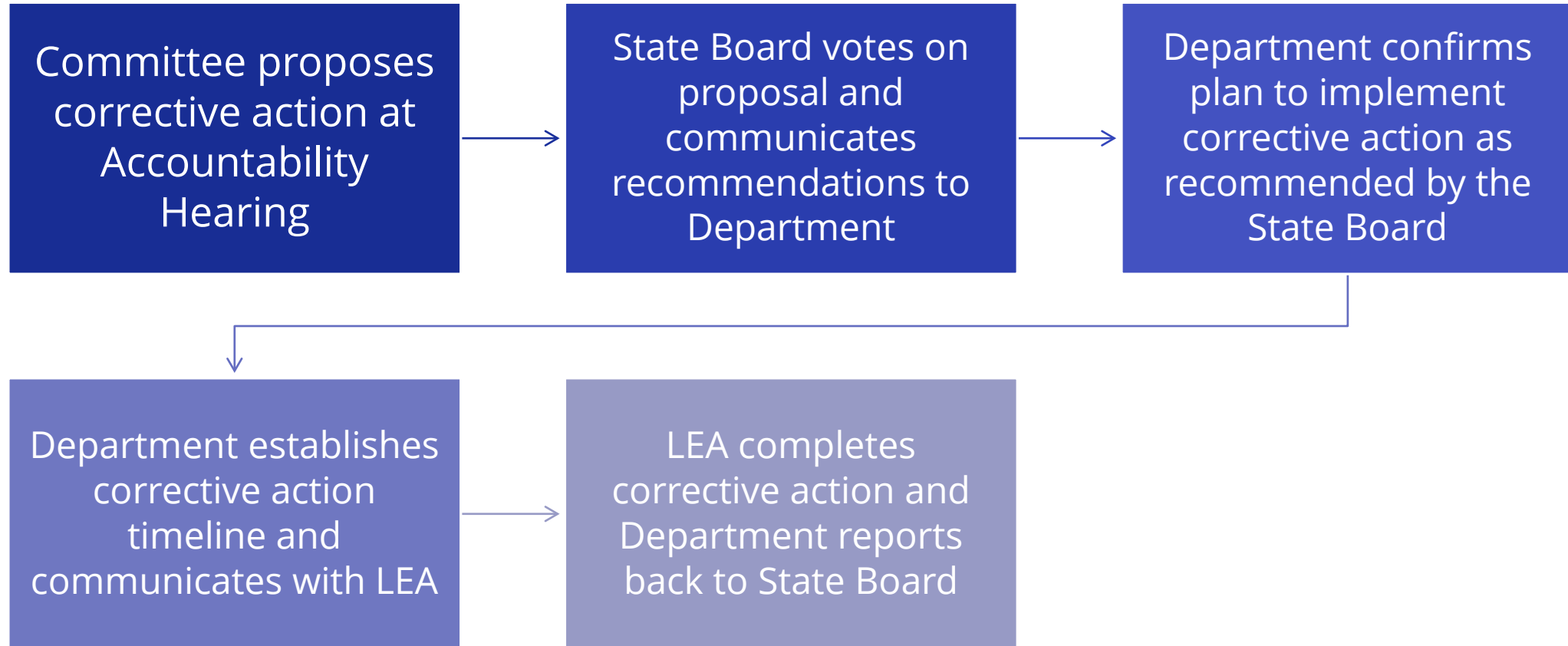


Beginning This School Year

If the Hearing Committee recommends **no action** and the **same eligible school(s) receive an “F” letter grade** in the immediately following year, the LEA or public charter school will no longer be exempt and will be called for another Accountability Hearing in the same year in which the additional “F” letter grade was received.



Post-Hearing Timeline



The Corrective Action Plan: Two Pathways

Corrective Action Plan

- Developed by the LEA and approved by the Department
- Incorporated into an existing plan to address the specific needs of the “F” rated schools
- Requires completion of a comprehensive needs assessment and school climate survey
- Includes short-term monitoring cycles conducted by the LEA

or

Corrective Action Plan with Implementation Support

- Includes all requirements of the corrective action plan and requires:
- Engaging in planning support provided by the Department to develop the plan
- Participation in Department-led professional development aligned to plan
- Providing results of short-term monitoring cycles to the Department



Corrective Action Plan Implementation

The LEA works closely with the F-rated school(s) to develop and implement a corrective action plan intended to improve outcomes in alignment with state accountability.

- District Oversight Team is responsible for development, implementation, and oversight of the required actions and timelines within the corrective action plan.
- District Data Team engages in the 30-day progress monitoring cycles to review data, evaluate the impact of strategies, and adjust implementation within the corrective action plan, as needed.

The LEA's corrective action plan includes improvement needs and intentions for each F-rated school and is submitted as part of the District Plan in ePlan.



Corrective Action Plan Steps

Corrective Action Plan (by August)

- Completion of a comprehensive Needs Assessment - academic and nonacademic factors and state accountability data
- Aligned to the comprehensive needs assessment
- Includes performance targets, strategies, actions with timelines, and methods for measuring and reporting progress of strategies every 30 days

*Review and
Approval by TDOE*

School Climate Survey (Fall)

- Addresses conditions for learning impacting academic outcomes
- Administered to students, parents and guardians, and educators
- Enhances the corrective action plan

Short-Term Monitoring Cycles (every 30 days)

- Reporting on progress of identified measures every 30 days.



Corrective Action Plan with Implementation Support Steps

Corrective Action Plan (by August)

- Completion of a comprehensive Needs Assessment - academic and nonacademic factors and State accountability data
- Aligned to the comprehensive needs assessment
- Includes performance targets, strategies, actions with timelines, and methods for measuring and reporting progress of strategies every 30 days
- Engage in department provided planning support
- Participate in department identified professional development opportunities aligned to the plan

*Review and
Approval by TDOE*

School Climate Survey (Fall)

- Addresses conditions for learning impacting academic outcomes
- Administered to students, parents and guardians, and educators
- Enhances the corrective action plan

Short-term Monitoring Cycles (every 30 days)

- Reporting on progress of identified measures every 30 days.

Review by TDOE



The Audit & Investigation

Conducted by the Department to analyze LEA revenue and expenditures, including but not limited to:

- Revenue generated under TISA by each school within the LEA
- General purpose funds and federal expenditures by each school within the LEA
- Funding of school-level initiatives for the “F” rated school(s), as outlined in the school improvement plan
- Contractual relationships with any vendor contracted for the purpose of academic implementation or instructional support to the “F” rated school(s)





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Email State Board staff with questions at
Accountability.Hearings@tn.gov