
Charter School Local Education Agency (LEA) Policies

The Background:

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108, the State Board serves as the LEA for charter schools that it authorizes on appeal if the local board of education and the charter school operator do not mutually agree that the local board of education will be the authorizer.

In order to comply with the oversight and monitoring duties required in statute, the State Board must adopt policies to govern its functions as the LEA for its authorized charter schools. *These policies will only impact the charter schools authorized by the State Board and will not be applicable to any other school or local district.* Additionally, these policies will work in conjunction with State Board Policies 6.100 through 6.110 that govern the State Board's duties as a charter school authorizer.

Pursuant to the State Board's Board Meetings Policy 1.400, this item is on first and final reading due to timing considerations. State Board authorized charter schools must wait for our LEA policies to be approved before they can finalize revisions to their school policies for the upcoming school year.

This item presents the following policy changes necessitated by new state laws passed by the 111th General Assembly:

Policies with Significant Revisions:

- 3201 School Safety: To comply with Public Chapter 394, permits schools to adopt a policy to establish a threat assessment team within the school.
- 3202 Emergency Preparedness: To comply with Public Chapter 391, expands the requirement to have an Automated External Defibrillator ("AED") to apply to all schools.
- 3400 Transportation: To comply with Public Chapter 256, requires schools with cameras or video cameras installed on school buses to permit parents to view photograph or video material captured on school buses by request. Also requires schools with cameras or video cameras installed on school buses to develop procedures governing the use of cameras and video cameras, including a process and timeline for the retention and maintenance of photo or video material.
- 4400 Instructional Materials: To comply with course syllabus requirements in T.C.A. § 49-6-1005(c), requires schools to make publicly available a syllabus for all grade six through twelve social studies, science, math, and English language arts courses.
- 4603 Promotion, Retention, Assessment, and Grading: To comply with Public Chapter 108, requires schools to make interest inventories available to students in either middle school or ninth grade. Also requires schools to administer a career aptitude assessment to students in grades seven or eight.

Policy Justification:

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

The Recommendation:

State Board staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.