
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 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. Any additional changes necessitated by changes to state law after the legislature adjourns will be presented on first and final reading in July.

This item presents the following policy changes necessitated by changes in State Board rules and regulations during the February 2019 meeting. Additionally, updates have been made to better reflect our current practices.

New policies and policies with significant revisions are outlined below. Other policies had minor updates to formatting and/or phrasing.

New Policies:

- 4209 Alternative Credit Options: To comply with State Board's course access program rule, this is a new policy to outline requirements for schools to monitor student progress on course access courses and to develop a policy for hearing appeals from denials of course access program course enrollments.

Policies with Significant Revisions:

- 1100 Adoption of Policies: Transfers the responsibility of posting authorized charter school student handbooks online from the State Board to charter schools. Adds that any reference to "Director of Schools" in any procedure refers to the Executive Director of the State Board.
- 1407 Public Records: Adds a provision that public records of the State Board shall be governed by any State Board rule superseding State Board Policy 1.500, pursuant to T.C.A. § 10-7-503.

- 1800 School Calendar: To comply with T.C.A. § 49-6-7002, increases number of required days for teacher-parent conference in school year calendar from one to two days. Adds a reference to the State Board reporting calendar for the date of annual submission of school academic calendars.
- 1803 Smoke Free Environment: To comply with T.C.A. § 39-17-1605, adds a requirement for schools to post signage throughout school facilities and a notification during sporting events that smoking is prohibited. Pursuant to Public Chapter 144 of the 111th General Assembly, broadens prohibition on smoking in K-12 facilities to include “all uses of tobacco, electronic/battery operated devices, vapor products, and all other associated paraphernalia.”
- 2200 School Operating Budget: Adds clarifying language regarding requests for federal sub-grant budget revisions. Adds a reference to budget revision procedures.
- 4206 Homebound Instruction: To comply with revisions to the State Board’s homebound rule, clarifies eligibility requirements and considerations for determination of the homebound instruction period. Adds a requirement that teachers providing homebound instruction hold a valid Tennessee teacher license.
- 4207 English Learners: Adds a requirement for schools to follow the process described in the State Board LEA English Learner Monitoring Procedures when considering an English Learner for retention.
- 4502 Parent Involvement and Engagement: To align with current practice and the proposed changes to LEA policy 1100, removes the requirement that the State Board publish student and parent handbooks and school calendars to the State Board Schools website.
- 4603 Promotion and Retention, Grading, and Assessment: To comply with changes to State Board Policy 3.300, includes parental notification requirement for K-3 students who are not meeting expectations of grade-level standards in reading. Requires schools to submit list of students who are at risk of retention to the State Board by February 1 and specifies circumstances in which a student may be considered for retention after that date. Adds a deadline for schools to report mandated test information to the State Board by May 1. Adds clarification for considerations for retention.
- 5118 Background Investigations: Adds clarifying language to extend the responsibility and requirements around handling and maintaining background information to authorized charter schools.
- 6206 School Admissions and Enrollment Period: To comply with T.C.A. § 49-6-201, the Minimum Kindergarten Program Law, adds specifications regarding kindergarten readiness.
- 6304 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Discrimination, Harassment, and Hazing: Adds “intimidation” to list of prohibited forms of student victimization.
- 6503 Homeless Students: To align with current practice, removes requirement for schools to submit contact information of parents of homeless students to the State Board. Adds a requirement for school homeless coordinators to ensure homeless students are correctly coded in the student information system.

The Recommendation:

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