



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

FEBRUARY 6, 2020

STATUTORY CHARGE

AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

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- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145:
 - The State Board shall ensure the effective operation of authorizers in the state and shall evaluate authorizer quality.
 - The State Board is charged with conducting periodic evaluations of authorizers to determine authorizer compliance.
 - An authorizer's failure to remedy non-compliance may result in the reduction of the authorizer fee.
- The following authorizers in the state will be evaluated:
 - Metro Nashville Public Schools, Shelby County Schools, Knox County Schools, Hamilton County Schools
 - Achievement School District and the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

STATE BOARD'S PROCESS

- State Board has been working with SchoolWorks since the fall to develop the authorizer evaluation system.
- Tennessee will be the fourth state in the U.S. to implement authorizer evaluations.
- In October, the State Board and SchoolWorks conducted the following engagement with stakeholders:
 - Survey to all operators, authorizers, and stakeholders requesting feedback on the current quality authorizing standards.
 - Virtual focus groups open to all operators, authorizers, and stakeholders to follow up on the survey.
- In December and January, the State Board facilitated working group sessions with an authorizer evaluation task force made up of representatives of authorizers and operators.

EVALUATION PROCESS

- Based on input from national best practice and stakeholders, the following elements of an evaluation process have developed:
 - The evaluations will occur every two years with a cohort of three authorizers being evaluated each year.
 - In the year an authorizer is not evaluated, the authorizer will complete a self-assessment as a part of their required annual report.
 - Evaluations will be based on an authorizer's percent alignment to the state's quality authorizing standards, and thresholds will be set for alignment (exemplary, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, etc.).
 - Evaluations will be based upon authorizer documentation, surveys of school leaders, and in-person interviews with authorizers.
 - Evaluations will be facilitated by State Board staff with some external evaluators.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

- The State Board will continue to engage stakeholders and board members to determine the following information:
 - Is there a cut off for submission of documents? Can authorizer be allowed to share additional documentation prior to final scoring?
 - Who is the “school leader” to be surveyed/interviewed?
 - What are the corrective actions that would be triggered if an authorizer falls below expected alignment?
 - What and when would trigger the reduction in authorizer fee?
 - What is the staff/resource capacity necessary for the State Board to conduct annual evaluations?

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- July 2020 – Authorizer evaluation rule on first reading for the State Board
- Fall 2020 – Pilot of authorizer evaluations with two to three authorizers
- Fall 2020 – Rulemaking hearing on authorizer evaluation rule
- February 2021 – Authorizer evaluation rule on final reading for the State Board
- August 2021 – Authorizer evaluation rule effective
- 2021-2022 – First evaluation cycle begins

QUESTIONS?



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