

**RULES
OF
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-14-01
CHARTER SCHOOLS**

0520-14-01-.08 AUTHORIZER EVALUATION.

- (1) Evaluation Process.
- (a) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145, the State Board shall conduct periodic authorizer evaluations of all authorizers that oversee at least one (1) charter school. Authorizers that have authorized a charter school that has not yet opened shall be considered authorizers for purposes of participating in the evaluation.
 - (b) Authorizers shall be evaluated by the State Board at least every other year. However, an authorizer that achieves an Exemplary rating for two (2) consecutive evaluations may be exempted from undergoing an evaluation during the next evaluation cycle. Authorizers that achieve an Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating during an evaluation shall be required to participate in another authorizer evaluation in the year immediately following the rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete.
 - (c) State Board staff shall assemble an authorizer evaluation team (the "Evaluation Team") comprised of internal and external evaluators with experience in charter school authorization or authorizer evaluation.
 - (d) The State Board shall develop and approve an authorizer evaluation rubric (the "Rubric") to evaluate authorizer compliance with the requirements of state law, the rules and regulations of the State Board, and to ensure alignment with the State Board Quality Charter School Authorizing Standards Policy 6.111. The Rubric shall be an attachment to the State Board Quality Charter School Authorizing Standards Policy 6.111. The Rubric shall, at a minimum, require the Evaluation Team to:
 - 1. Assign authorizers a score on a scale of zero (0) to four (4) indicating the degree to which an authorizer has met each standard of the Rubric; and
 - 2. Assign authorizers an overall rating based on a percentage of Rubric standards that are determined by the Evaluation Team to be met.
 - (e) The evaluation year is the year during which an authorizer undergoes an authorizer evaluation by the State Board (the "Evaluation Year"). The Evaluation Year shall, at a minimum, consist of the following:
 - 1. Submission of documentation by the authorizer to the State Board;
 - 2. Evaluation Team review of submitted documentation;
 - 3. Evaluation Team interview with school leaders from the authorizer's charter schools;
 - 4. Evaluation Team meeting with the authorizer to provide additional context about the submitted documentation;

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5. Evaluation Team meeting with the authorizer to review initial evaluation ratings;
 6. Final authorizer evaluation report (the "Evaluation Report") including scores for each standard of the Rubric, an overall evaluation rating, and any required follow-up actions shared with the authorizer;
 - i. Prior to the public release of the Evaluation Report, the authorizer shall be provided an opportunity for the authorizer to respond to the Evaluation Report no later than ten (10) business days after the release of the Evaluation Report to the authorizer. Any response shall be included as an appendix to the Evaluation Report; and
 7. Posting the Evaluation Report on the State Board's website, including any response by the authorizer.
- (f) The Non-Evaluation Year is the year immediately following an authorizer's evaluation, if the authorizer is not required by the State Board to undergo an evaluation in the year immediately following an authorizer's evaluation (the "Non-Evaluation Year"). The Non-Evaluation Year shall, at a minimum, consist of the following:
1. Authorizer reporting on progress toward completion of any corrective action plan required by the State Board as a result of the authorizer's most recent Evaluation Report; and
 2. Authorizer completion of a self-assessment that shall be submitted as part of the annual authorizer report required by T.C.A. § 49-13-128. The self-assessment shall include supporting documentation required by the State Board and, if applicable, information and evidence demonstrating completion of a corrective action plan required by the State Board as a result of the authorizer's most recent Evaluation Report.
 3. The authorizer self-assessments shall be publicly posted on the State Board's website.
- (h) State Board staff shall provide a report on each authorizer's Evaluation Report to the State Board at the next quarterly board meeting following the release of an Evaluation Report. Authorizer progress toward completion of a corrective action plan shall be reported by State Board staff to the State Board at least annually.
- (2) Authorizer Ratings and Follow-up Actions.
- (a) Through the Evaluation Report, the State Board shall assign an overall rating to each authorizer as defined in State Board Policy 6.113 Charter School Authorizer Evaluations. Rating categories and corresponding follow-up actions are as follows:
2. Exemplary.
 - i. An Exemplary rating may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - l. Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board;

(Rule 0520-14-01-.08, continued)

- I. Requirement to participate in another authorizer evaluation the year immediately following a rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete;
- II. Submission of a corrective action plan; and
- III. Submission of documentation demonstrating completion of requirements outlined in the corrective action plan. Failure to complete the requirements outlined in the corrective action plan and/or receiving a rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete in the next authorizer evaluation may result in the reduction of the authorizer's authorizer fee in an amount determined by the State Board in compliance with paragraph three (3).

(3) Authorizer Fee Reduction.

- (a) The State Board may reduce the authorizer fee of an authorizer that receives:
 1. An Approaching Satisfactory rating during the Evaluation Year and fails to complete the requirements outlined in the authorizer's corrective action plan;
 2. An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating during the Evaluation Year and fails to complete the requirements outlined in the authorizer's corrective action plan; or
 3. An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete or Approaching Satisfactory rating during two (2) consecutive Evaluation Years.
- (b) The State Board shall not reduce an authorizer's authorizer fee by more than fifty percent (50%) in any fiscal year.
- (c) The percentage of any reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee and the length of time of any reduction shall be determined and approved by the State Board. In making its determination, the State Board shall consider an authorizer's failure to remedy any noncompliance identified in the authorizer's Evaluation Reports and corresponding corrective action plans, if applicable. The Executive Director of the State Board shall make a recommendation to the State Board regarding the percent reduction of any authorizer fee and the length of time, however, the State Board is not bound by that recommendation.
- (d) If the State Board approves the reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee by a certain percentage, the Department of Education shall determine the exact amount of the reduction based on the total authorizer fee received by the authorizer in the Evaluation Year or the first year that the authorizer receives an authorizer fee, if no fee has been collected by the authorizer during the Evaluation Year.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-13-145. **Administrative History:**