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**Authorizer Evaluations – 2023 Outcomes**

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**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-13-145 charges the State Board with ensuring the effective operation of authorizers in the state and evaluating authorizer quality. State Board Rule 0520-14-01-.08 outlines the evaluation process, authorizer ratings, and evaluation follow-up actions. Authorizers are evaluated at least biennially, and the evaluation process culminates with an evaluation report that’s presented to the State Board for approval at the meeting following the conclusion of each evaluation year.

**Evaluation Process:**

The evaluation includes a thorough review of documentation submitted by the authorizer, a narrative explanation of the documentation, clarifications and context provided by the authorizer during a document debrief, an interview with the authorizer’s charter school leaders, and a review of the authorizer’s appeals history, as applicable. Authorizers are evaluated against the 21 standards within State Board Policy 6.111 – Quality Charter Authorizing Standards.

Authorizers receive an overall score, rating and follow-up actions based on one of the following categories:

Score	Rating
3.50 – 4.00	Exemplary
3.00 – 3.49	Commendable
2.00 – 2.99	Satisfactory
1.00 – 1.99	Approaching Satisfactory
0 – 0.99	Unsatisfactory/Incomplete

**2023 Evaluation Outcomes:**

The 2023 evaluation year marked the start of the second round of authorizer evaluations. The three (3) authorizers evaluated in 2023 received their first evaluation in 2021. All three (3) authorizers demonstrated growth and progress over the last two (2) years and earned a score of “Satisfactory” or higher.

Hamilton County Schools

Overall Rating: 2.39 Satisfactory

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2024-25 school year, as required for all authorizers during a non-evaluation year.

### Knox County Schools

Overall Rating: 3.19 Commendable

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board.
- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2024-25 school year, as required for all authorizers during a non-evaluation year.

### Memphis-Shelby County Schools

Overall Rating: 3.51 Exemplary

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board.
- Exemption from the 2025 evaluation as the authorizer achieved an Exemplary rating for two (2) consecutive evaluation years.
- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2023-24 school year, as required for all authorizers in a non-evaluation year.

### **Connection to the Master Plan:**

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring authorizers are held accountable to the Quality Charter Authorizing Standards through analysis of the authorizer's policies and practices.

### **The Recommendation:**

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