
Accountability Hearings Policy 1.600

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-3-112 authorizes the State Board of Education (“State Board”) to conduct Accountability Hearings (“Hearings”) and require the attendance of a local education agency (“LEA”) that operates a public school, or a public charter school, that receives a “D” or “F” letter grade to report on the school’s performance and how spending decisions may have affected the ability to achieve the school’s performance goals. Following an Accountability Hearing, the State Board may recommend that the Tennessee Department of Education (“Department”) impose a corrective action plan or audit and investigate the LEA or charter school’s academic programming and spending. The Department shall report the outcomes of a corrective action plan or an audit and investigation to the State Board.

The purpose of the State Board’s Accountability Hearings is to publicly acknowledge schools demonstrating consistent underperformance, consider the many inputs, including spending decisions that may impact student outcomes, transparently discuss school turnaround practices, and promote quality public education for all students in Tennessee.

State Board Rules 0520-09-02 define the eligibility criteria for LEAs and public charter schools called for a Hearing, the notification process, hearing procedures, and the corrective action(s) the State Board may recommend following a Hearing. This policy serves as a companion to the rule by defining the implementation timeline, appointment of the State Board’s Hearing Committee, and corrective action(s) the State Board may recommend.

State Board staff engaged stakeholders in the development of this companion policy, incorporated feedback, as appropriate, and will continue to seek additional feedback between the first and final readings of this policy.

The State Board’s Hearing Committee will be appointed at the State Board’s fourth quarterly meeting of 2025 and the Hearing Committee will begin holding Accountability Hearings during the first quarter of the 2026 calendar 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 developing a process for conducting the Accountability Hearings defined in TISA.

The Recommendation:

State Board staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.