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**Accountability Hearings Policy 1.600**

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**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.

Changes between first and final reading include clarifying language related to the scheduled length of an Accountability Hearing, the method for sending written notifications, and discerning between the charter school and the charter network, as applicable, for actions related to the State Board’s audit and investigation recommendation.

**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 State Board’s Accountability Hearings, as authorized in the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement Act.

**The Recommendation:**

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