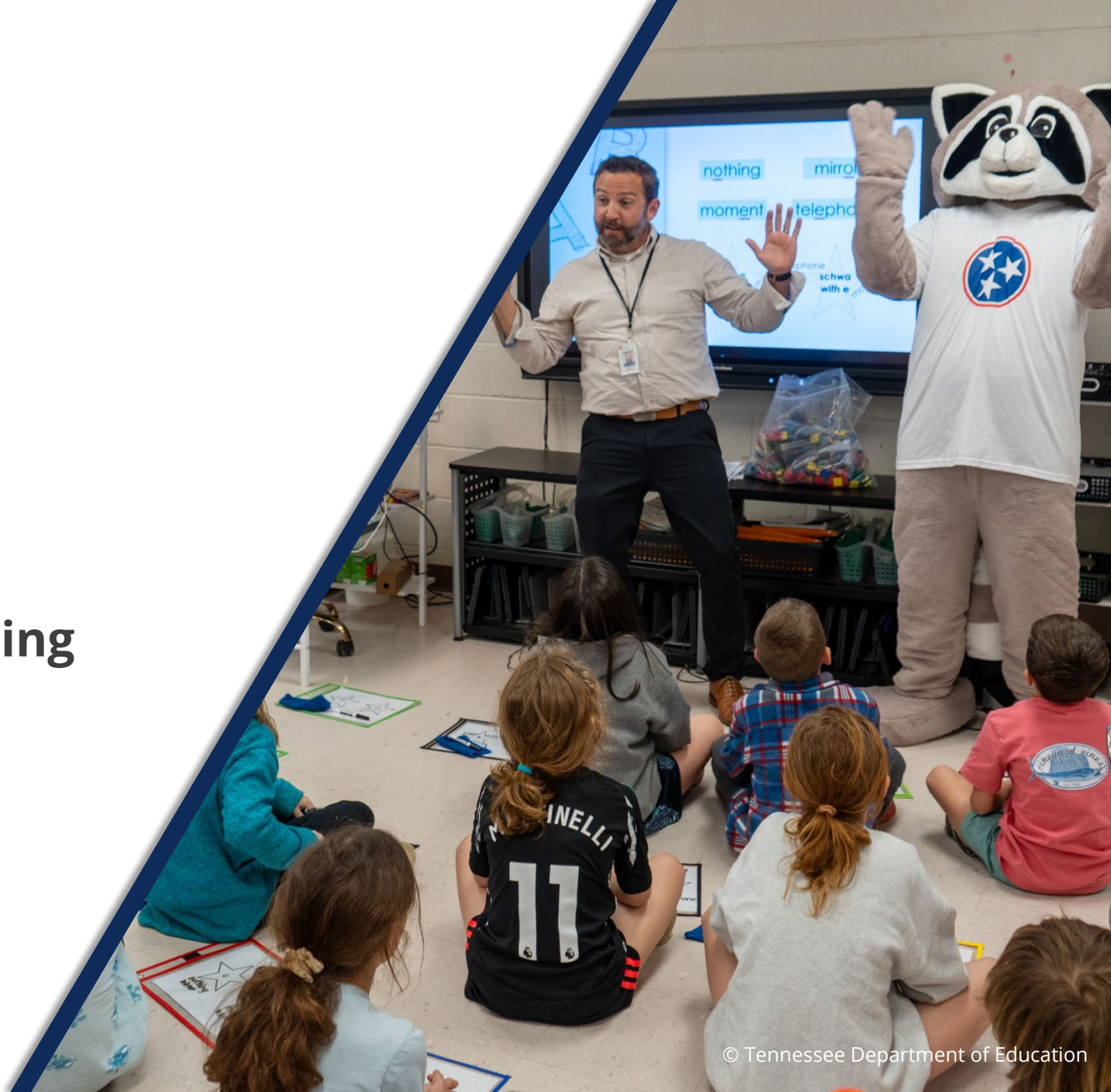


# School Year 2025-26 LEA Approval Classifications

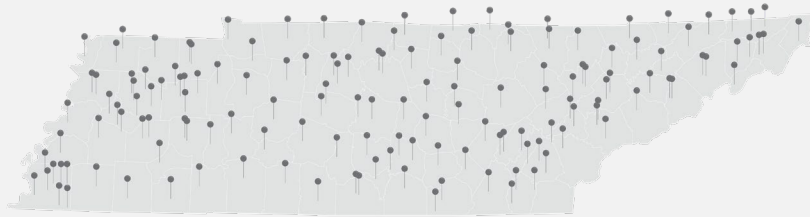
State Board of Education Meeting

*February 2026*



# Context

# Why LEA Approval?



## LEAs

Required to comply with education laws and state board of education rules and regulations

## Department of Education

Duty to inspect an LEA (and its schools) for compliance verification and confer an approval classification\*

## Students

Equipped for success via receipt of fundamental educational and support services

### COMPLIANCE

Engagement & Collaboration

*\*Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-201 and State Board of Education (SBE) Rule 0520-01-02-.01 reflect the department's responsibility and authority to monitor LEAs and use those results to classify LEAs as approved, conditionally approved, or nonapproved.*

# Key LEA Approval Milestones

MAY  
2020

JULY  
2021

JULY  
2022-25

JULY  
2026

SBE Rule 0520-01-02-.01 was amended to include three approval classifications: *approved, conditionally approved, and nonapproved.*

Monitored LEAs received a compliance assessment in lieu of an approval classification (in recognition of pandemic-related constraints).

In alignment with the official reinstatement of LEA approval classifications, each LEA received a formal approval classification letter.

Each LEA will receive a formal school year 2026-27 approval classification letter (based on school year 2025-26 monitoring results).

August appeal deadline

# LEA Approval Classifications Explained



## **APPROVED:**

The LEA does not have an open corrective action plan at the time of classification assignment.



## **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED:**

The LEA is required to complete a corrective action plan for one or more areas of noncompliance within the time specified by the department.



## **NONAPPROVED:**

The LEA has not taken corrective action in one or more areas of noncompliance within the time specified by the department.



# LEA Implications for Noncompliance

Unresolved noncompliance at the time of approval classification may result in one or more of the following:



**Corrective  
Action Plan**



**Re-monitoring**



**Commissioner-imposed  
sanctions** (on an LEA  
classified as *nonapproved*)

# LEA Approval Metrics



## Length of School Day and Year

Does the LEA have a calendar approved by the department that reflects the required minimum length of the school day and school year?



## Employee Background Checks

Is the LEA in compliance with the background check requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-406 and § 49-5-413 for all teachers or for any other positions requiring close proximity to children?



## Employment Standards

Are school and central office personnel appropriately licensed and endorsed?



## Class Size

Are K-12 class sizes within prescribed limits?



## Safety

Does the LEA have an open corrective action plan pertinent to noncompliance with school safety requirements?



## Nutrition

Does the LEA have an open corrective action plan pertinent to noncompliance with child nutrition requirements?



## Transportation

Does the LEA have an open corrective action plan pertinent to noncompliance with pupil transportation requirements?



## School-administered Childcare Programs

Does the LEA have an open corrective action plan pertinent to noncompliance with school-administered childcare requirements?



## Federal Programs and Oversight

Does the LEA have an open corrective action plan pertinent to Federal Programs and Oversight *monitoring (i.e., focus, onsite, desktop, or self-assessment)*?



## Office of General Counsel

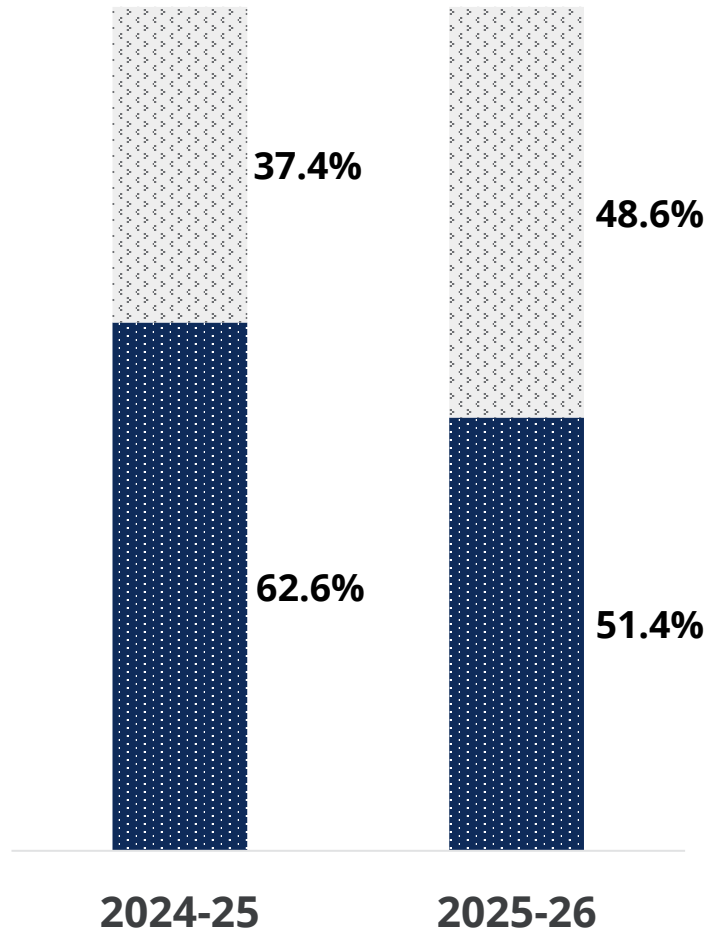
Does the LEA have an open corrective action plan pertinent to compliance monitored by the Office of General Counsel *(e.g., special education administrative complaints, civil rights noncompliance [i.e., Title VI, Title IX])*?



# School Year 2025-26 Classifications

*(based on school year 2024-25 compliance data)*

# LEA Approval Classifications



	Approved LEAs	Conditionally Approved LEAs	Total LEAs
2024-25	92	55	147
2025-26	76	72	148*

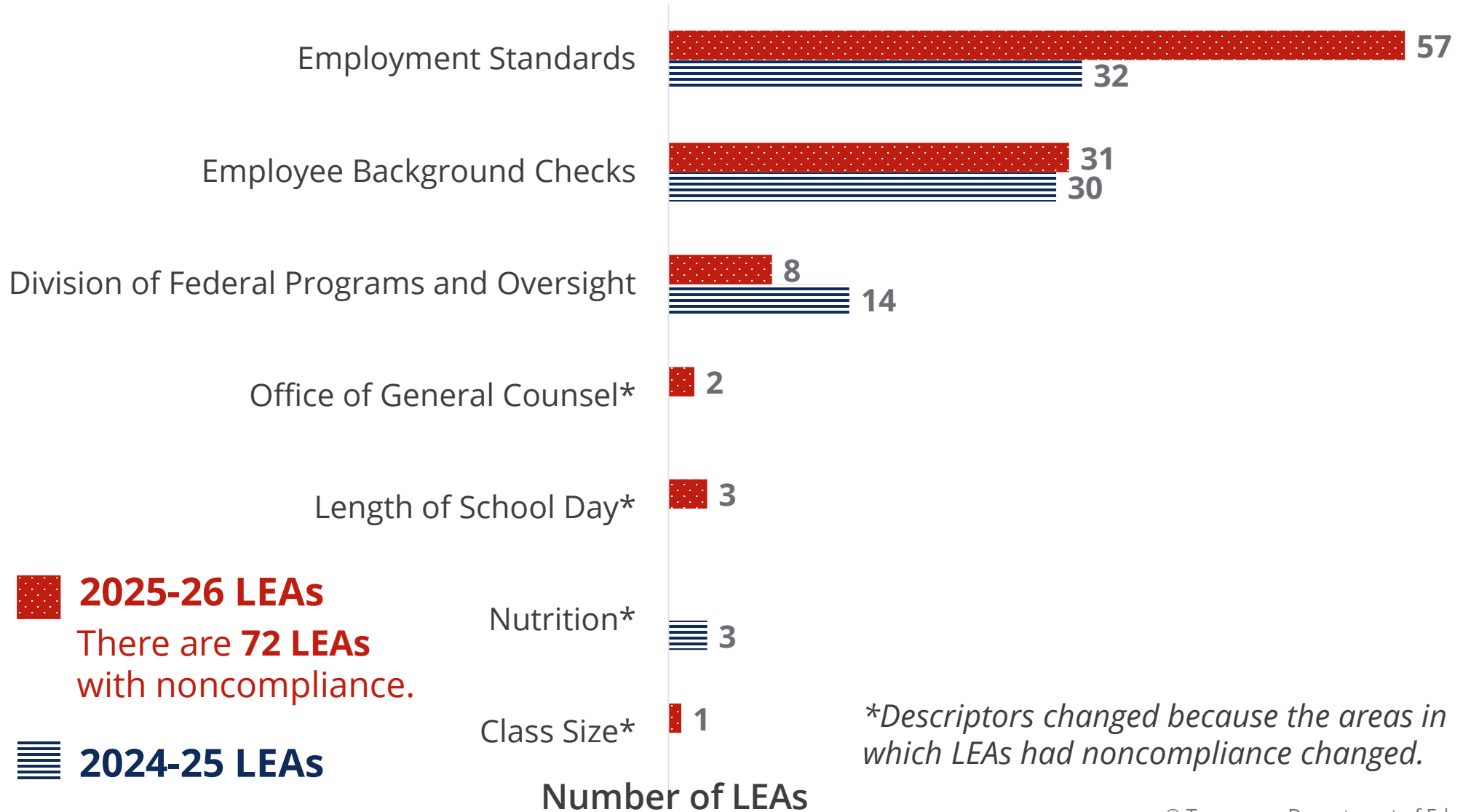
\*Addition of University Schools-Memphis



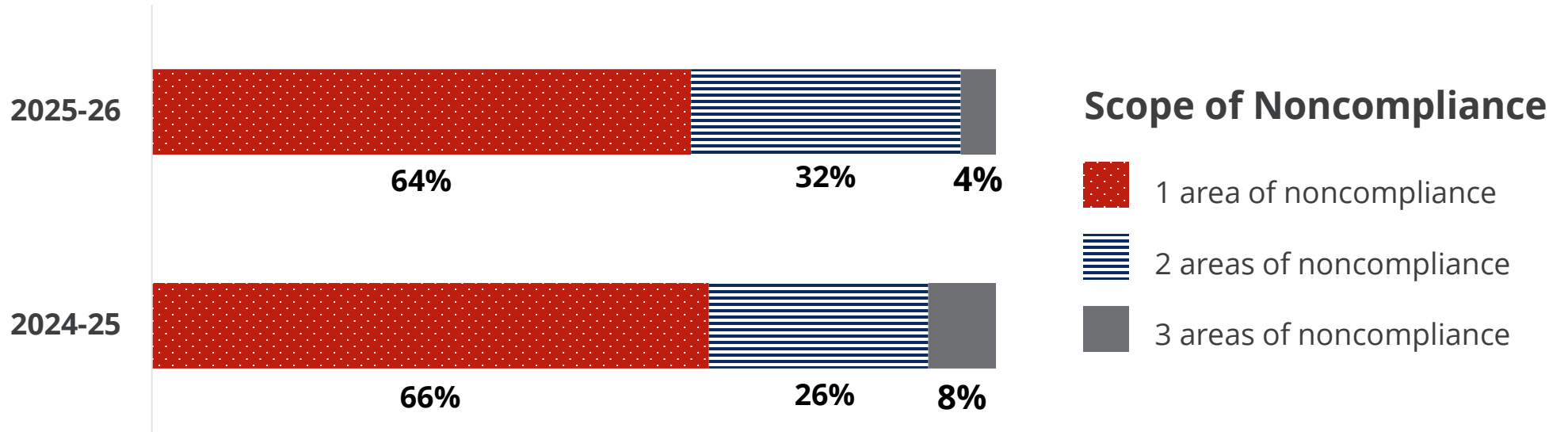


# School Year 2025-26 Compliance Data

# LEA Noncompliance by Metric



# LEA Noncompliance Scope



	1 area of noncompliance	2 areas of noncompliance	3 areas of noncompliance
2024-25	66%	26%	8%
2025-26	64%	32%	4%



# Thank You!

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