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**2025 Charter Authorizer Evaluations**

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**The Background:**

T.C.A. § 49-13-145 charges the State Board with ensuring the effective operation of charter school authorizers in the state and evaluating authorizer quality. State Board Charter Authorization 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 meeting, feedback from 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 Quality Charter Authorizing Standards 6.111.

This item includes the final evaluation reports for the three authorizers evaluated during the 2025 evaluation cycle. Each evaluation report includes final scores and evaluative comments for all sub-standards of the rubric, an overall evaluation score and rating, and any required follow-up actions.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Rating</b>
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

**2025 Evaluation Outcomes:**

The 2025 evaluation year began the State Board’s third cycle of authorizer evaluations, and the first evaluation for one of the three authorizers, Rutherford County Schools. All three authorizers evaluated this round earned a score of “Satisfactory” or higher.

### Hamilton County Schools

Overall Rating: 2.71 Satisfactory

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2026-27 school year, as required for all authorizers during a non-evaluation year

### Knox County Schools

Overall Rating: 3.62 Exemplary

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Public recognition by the State Board and highlighting of the authorizer's best practices
- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2026-27 school year, as required for all authorizers during a non-evaluation year

### Rutherford County Schools

Overall Rating: 3.16 Commendable

Required Follow-Up Actions:

- Public recognition by the State Board and highlighting of the authorizer's best practices
- Submission of a self-assessment in the 2026-27 school year, as required for all authorizers during 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 State Board's 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.