
Accountability Hearings Rules 0520-09-02-.01 through -.04

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-3-112 authorizes the State Board of Education (State Board) to conduct Accountability Hearings for LEAs and charter school operators and their authorizers that are operating the lowest performing public schools, as assessed through the state's letter grade accountability model. State Board rules define the eligibility criteria for its hearings as well as the role of the Hearing Committee and the corrective actions that the State Board may recommend following a hearing.

During the week of March 23, 2026, the State Board's Hearing Committee (Committee) held its first accountability hearings at the State Board's offices in Nashville. The Committee facilitated hearings for 15 LEAs and 3 charter school operators and their authorizers and proposed corrective action at the end of each hearing. Based on reflections following the first round of hearings, as well as feedback gathered from the Committee and participating LEAs and charter school leaders, State Board staff propose the following revisions to these rules:

- Removing the reference to the state report card to allow for more flexibility in the timing of the TN Department of Education's (Department) release of school letter grades;
- Increasing the timeline for submitting evidence of a local board of education or charter school governing body's decision to close an eligible school;
- Clarifying language related to the timeline and process for notifying the State Board of an unavoidable conflict in attending a hearing for the local board of education chair or charter school governing body chair;
- Removing the required timeline for proposing a specific corrective action to allow the Committee full choice when determining if a corrective action is warranted, regardless of the frequency with which the LEA or charter school has been called for a hearing;
- Creating guidelines to address a scenario in which a LEA or charter school may be called back for another hearing in the year immediately following the State Board's decision to not recommend corrective action; and
- Clarifying the State Board's options when voting on the Committee's proposal for corrective action.

State Board staff will hold a rulemaking hearing to gather additional feedback on these proposed changes between first and final reading.

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 the TISA Act.

The Recommendation:

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