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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 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.

State Board Rule 0520-09-02 defines 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 the corrective action the State Board may recommend.

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 Hearing Committee and participating LEAs and charter school leaders, State Board staff propose the following revisions to this policy:

- Further aligning language between the State Board's Accountability Hearings rules and this policy;
- Shortening the maximum amount of time for a hearing from 90 minutes to 75 minutes;
- Shortening the timeline for communication from the State Board regarding the State Board's decision to recommend corrective action;
- Differentiating the type of corrective action plans that the State Board may recommend by creating two levels of a corrective action plan to be imposed by the TN Department of Education (Department);

- Clarifying the Department’s timeline for approval of a corrective action plan and defining the Department’s authority to adjust the level of a corrective action plan, if warranted;
- Defining the necessary adjustments to a corrective action plan should the LEA have additional schools that meet the State Board’s eligibility criteria for a hearing or should the eligible school(s) no longer be rated as an “F” in the years in which the LEA or charter school cannot be called for another hearing; and
- Broadening the scope of the audit and investigation to include contractual relationships with vendor(s) contracted for the purpose of academic implementation or instructional support for the eligible school(s).

**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.