



Appealing a Denied Charter School Renewal Application to the State Board

This document is meant to serve as a resource for charter school governing boards considering appealing a non-renewal decision to the State Board of Education (State Board). Full details about the appeal process can be found in our [Guidance Document](#) and the policies linked below. Applicants may also wish to schedule a call with the State Board to discuss the process further prior to submitting a notice of appeal. The State Board staff can be reached at CharterSchool.Appeals@tn.gov.

Overview of the Appeal Process

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) § 49-13-121, public charter school's governing boards may appeal the denial of their renewal application by a local board of education to the State Board until December 31, 2020. Upon receipt of an appeal, the State Board has sixty (60) calendar days to render a decision. The State Board's decision is final and not subject to further appeal. Since 2019, the State Board has [upheld the LEA's decision](#) to deny a renewal in every appeal received.

The Appeal Process

- A charter school's governing board that submits an appeal of a local board of education's denial of a renewal application should do so in accordance with State Board policy [6.800 – Charter School Renewal & Renewal Appeals](#). To be considered, the notice of appeal must be received by the State Board via email at CharterSchool.Appeals@tn.gov by 4:30pm Central Time on the tenth (10th) calendar day after the local board of education's decision.
- Renewal applications and materials will be scored using the State Board's evaluation rubric. Applicants will need to receive a "meets or exceeds the standard" in each section of the rubric in order for the Review Committee to recommend approval to the Executive Director of the State Board. Additional information is available in State Board policy [6.300 – Application Review](#).
- The charter school's governing board and the local board of education will be required to participate in a public hearing which will take place in the charter school's local district. Additionally, the charter school leader and governing board will be required to participate in a ninety (90) minute capacity interview on a date selected by the State Board staff. Both events will occur within the sixty (60) day timeline for a decision.
- In developing the Executive Director's recommendation, the Executive Director will give significant consideration to the recommendation of the Review Committee. The State Board will consider the recommendation of the Executive Director, but the Board is not bound by it. If approved, the renewal application will be an exhibit of the charter agreement.
- For further understanding of the State Board's appeal process, operators are encouraged to review past Executive Director [Findings and Recommendation](#) reports and the [Charter School Renewal Appeals' Decision History](#) on the State Board's charter schools page.