



**TENNESSEE**  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

# **AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS**

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OVERVIEW OF AUTHORIZER EVALUATION DEVELOPMENT

JULY 21, 2020

# STATUTORY CHARGE

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AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

# STATUTORY CHARGE

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- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145:
  - The State Board shall ensure the effective operation of authorizers in the state and shall evaluate authorizer quality.
  - The State Board is charged with conducting periodic evaluations of authorizers to determine authorizer compliance.
  - An authorizer's failure to remedy non-compliance may result in the reduction of the authorizer fee.
- The following authorizers in the state will be evaluated:
  - Metro Nashville Public Schools, Shelby County Schools, Knox County Schools, Hamilton County Schools
  - Achievement School District and the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

# DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

# STATE BOARD'S PROCESS

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- State Board has worked with SchoolWorks since the fall 2019 to develop the authorizer evaluation system.
- Tennessee will be the fourth state in the U.S. to implement authorizer evaluations.
- In October 2019, the State Board and SchoolWorks conducted the following engagement with stakeholders:
  - Survey to all operators, authorizers, and stakeholders requesting feedback on the current quality authorizing standards.
  - Virtual focus groups open to all operators, authorizers, and stakeholders to follow up on the survey.
- In December 2019 and January 2020, the State Board facilitated working group sessions with an authorizer evaluation task force made up of representatives of authorizers and operators.

# STATE BOARD'S PROCESS

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- In spring 2020, the State Board staff developed key documents that will drive the fall 2020 pilot evaluations:
  - The Tennessee Authorizer Evaluation Guide provides an overview of the evaluation process.
  - The Tennessee Authorizer Evaluation Additional Guidance provides additional context and required documentation related to the quality standards.
- State Board rule on authorizer evaluations:
  - Passed on first reading at the [May 2020 State Board meeting](#)
  - Rulemaking hearing on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Final reading on rule by February 2021
  - Rule effective by August 2021

# EVALUATION PROCESS

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AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

# EVALUATION PROCESS

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- The following are key elements of the evaluation process:
  - The evaluations will occur every two years with a cohort of three authorizers being evaluated each year.
  - In the year an authorizer is not evaluated, the authorizer will complete a self-assessment as part of their required annual report submitted to the TDOE.
  - Evaluations will be based on an authorizer's percent alignment to the [state's quality authorizing standards](#), and thresholds will be set for alignment (exemplary, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, etc.).
  - Evaluations will be based upon authorizer documentation, interviews with school leaders, and in-person interviews with authorizers.
  - Evaluations will be facilitated by State Board staff with some external evaluators.
  - Authorizers will have an opportunity to review the evaluation report for factual corrections prior to public release.
  - All evaluation reports will be posted on the State Board's website.

# FALL 2020 PILOT

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# FALL 2020 PILOT EVALUATIONS

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- The fall 2020 pilot will consist of pilot evaluations of two to three authorizers. The remaining authorizers will be evaluated in a formal capacity beginning in 2021.
- The fall pilot evaluation will consist of:
  - Orientation for participating authorizers
  - Documentation submission by authorizers to the State Board
  - Documentation review by evaluators
  - Authorizer documentation debrief with the evaluators
  - Interview with school leaders
  - Development of evaluation report by evaluators

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- For those looking for additional information, the following documents are available on the State Board's website:
  - [State Board policy 6.111 – Tennessee Quality Charter Authorizing Standards](#)
  - [Draft authorizer evaluation rule](#)
  - [Tennessee Authorizer Evaluation Guide](#)
  - [Tennessee Authorizer Evaluation Additional Guidance](#)
  - [Tennessee Authorizer Evaluation Report Template](#)
- Contact the State Board staff:
  - Tess Stovall, Director of Charter Schools: [Tess.Stovall@tn.gov](mailto:Tess.Stovall@tn.gov)
  - Ali Gaffey, Deputy Director of Charter Schools: [Ali.Gaffey@tn.gov](mailto:Ali.Gaffey@tn.gov)

# QUESTIONS?

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