
Charter School Performance Framework

The Background:

Pursuant to Public Chapter 850 (2014), the State Board of Education shall adopt national authorizing standards as an appellate authorizer of charter schools. An important part of national authorizing standards is the establishment of performance standards by which authorized schools will be measured.¹ Additionally, state law requires all charter school authorizers to adopt and implement a performance framework to evaluate their charter schools.

The State Board adopted a charter school performance framework in 2014 which contains the academic, financial, and organizational benchmarks by which all charter schools authorized by the State Board will be evaluated on an annual basis, to indicate the overall success and condition of the charter school. A charter school's performance on these measures will be reported in the annual report produced by the State Board. This version of the performance framework has been updated to align with the Every Student Succeeds Act and changes to the Tennessee Department of Education's accountability protocol. These proposed revisions only impact the academic section, and no changes have been made to the financial and organizational sections.

As a part of the revision process, State Board staff sought feedback from the State Board's charter school subcommittee and the board's authorized charter schools. This feedback was incorporated throughout the revision process. Finally, the State Board's charter agreements outline the ability of the board to update the performance framework to align with changes in accountability. Therefore, no charter agreements need to be amended.

The Recommendation:

SBE staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.

¹ National Association of Charter School Authorizers, "Principals and Standards of Quality Charter School Authorizing," 2015 Edition, pg. 15, available at http://www.qualitycharters.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Principles-and-Standards_2015-Edition.pdf.