



### Feedback and Revisions on Vision, Mission, and Core Values

The following document reflects themes and feedback from Commissioners, school operators, external stakeholders, legislators, and other Tennessee state agencies regarding the current drafted vision statement, mission statement, and core values. The feedback was used to create the updated drafts below as of January 2025.

Please note that the Commission will be voting on and finalizing the **vision statement** and **mission statement** at the January meeting, while the **core values** will be finalized at the March meeting.

#### Vision Statement Feedback

Support for statement:

- Acknowledgement of the importance of working collaboratively with charter school partners.
- The goal is to improve Tennessee education and help students achieve their full potential.

Suggested revisions:

- Add "more opportunities" before "every" in the first part.
- Change "every" to "each" and "enabling" to "empowering" in the second part.

Final version:

- *"By authorizing and supporting excellent public charter schools, we **have a positive** impact **on** the quality of Tennessee education, empowering **every** student to achieve their full potential and prepare for a successful life experience."*

#### Mission Statement Feedback

Suggested revisions:

- Drop the intro "The mission of."
- Add the word "collaborative" before "trusted partner."
- Add "in the improvement of educational opportunities" after "partner."
- Change "trusted partner" to "exemplar authorizer and LEA" or "high-quality authorizer and LEA" to better reflect the Commission's work and importance.
- "Who is the partnership with?"

Final version:

- *"As a trusted partner, the Charter Commission provides access **and support** to excellent charter schools through rigorous oversight, transparency, **and** accountability."*

## Core Values Feedback

### Potential overlaps:

- "Students" and "Autonomy/Accountability" may overlap.
- "Transparency" and "Innovation" may cover similar themes.
- "Community/Communication" might also expand on the same idea.

### Suggested revisions:

- There are too many values; core values need to be identified.
- Use "scholars" instead of "students."
- Question raised about the term "equitable" being politically volatile.

### Overall feedback:

- The values are strong and well-done, but there might be too many.
- Suggestions to streamline and combine certain values:
  - Combine Excellence and Accountability.
  - Combine Innovation and Autonomy.
  - Combine Transparency and Communication.

### Additional suggestions:

- Clean up the repetition of "innovative/Innovation" in the innovation line.
- Example revision: "As we seek to drive innovation in our practices and schools, we value and seek continuous improvement through our role as an LEA and authorizer."

### Core Values Updates for Consideration by the Commission

- *Students First: In all decisions, our focus is the impact on students. We commit to supporting equitable practices that lead to student success.*
- *Autonomy: Autonomy is essential for public charter schools to drive innovative approaches and positive student outcomes. In our policies and requirements, we uphold school autonomy to the maximum extent feasible, ensuring schools have the flexibility to be responsive to student needs.*
- *Accountability: In exchange for autonomy, we maintain a high level of accountability for school quality and student outcomes through rigorous oversight policies and processes.*
- *Support: We provide timely and responsive support to our schools, enabling them to meet our requirements, serve students effectively, and improve student outcomes. We strive to balance support with protecting school autonomy, recognizing our responsibilities as both an LEA and an authorizer.*
- *Transparency: We operate openly and communicate honestly in all aspects of our work. We clearly articulate rationales for our decisions and consistently apply our policies and procedures.*
- *Community: We honor our connections with and responsibility to each school's local community. We pledge*



*to be responsive to the local community's needs, fostering connections, and promoting diverse perspectives.*

- *Excellence: Excellence drives us in all aspects of our work. Our schools' pursuit of excellence is measured through the School Performance Framework, as published in the Annual Report for each authorized school.*