



Strategic Plan Update

As a trusted partner, the Charter Commission provides access and support to excellent charter schools through rigorous oversight, transparency, and accountability. This document outlines the progress of the Commission on the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priority #1: High Quality Charter Schools: Authorize high-quality and high-performing charter schools that improve outcomes for Tennessee students.

- Updates
 - **New Start Appeal Process:** During the current new start appeal cycle, eight appeals were received. Commission staff have completed capacity interviews and public hearings, and a Special-Called Meeting was held to hear two appeals from MNPS. The remaining six appeals are scheduled to be heard at the October Commission Meeting.
 - **Stakeholder Feedback:** At the conclusion of each cycle, the Commission conducts a survey to receive direct feedback from appellants, districts, and review committee members. The feedback process is underway, and staff will use insights to identify improvements for future cycles.
 - **Public Chapter 275:** The Commission collaborated with the Tennessee State Board of Education to develop new applications and rubrics as established under Public Chapter 275. These materials were released by the State Board this quarter.

Strategic Priority #2: Strong Operational Effectiveness: Achieve student success by providing effective operational support in addition to rigorous oversight and guidance.

- Updates
 - **Technical Assistance:** The Finance and Operations team, along with the School Programs and Supports team, have provided extensive technical assistance to school staff. This support has been especially focused on areas such as serving special populations and improving data management practices.
 - **2025-26 School Year Trainings:** In preparation for the 2025–26 school year, the Commission launched a series of training sessions designed to support school staff. So far, eighteen training courses have been conducted, covering topics including IEP documentation, grants management, Section 504 compliance, student privacy rights, and school safety. Feedback from participants has been positive, and Commission staff are already exploring ways to refine and expand these offerings to ensure they remain impactful in future years.

Strategic Priority #3: Community and Stakeholder Engagement: Build and cultivate strong relationships with schools, operators, and communities.

- Updates
 - **New Complaint Process Launched:** The Commission now has an online system for families and community members to submit grievances and complaints. In accordance with our policy and procedures, Commission staff review submissions and respond within seven business days to determine the next steps.
 - **Rulemaking Hearing Held:** The Commission held a rulemaking hearing to review proposed rules for Charter School Amendment Appeals and Approval of a Charter School Replication Application.
 - **TISA Accountability Report:** Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-3-112, districts are required to submit an accountability report to the Tennessee Department of Education by November 1 of each year. Commission staff have shared a draft of this report in the Commission’s newsletter as well as in the School Performance and Accountability Committee meeting to gather feedback prior to submission.

Strategic #4: Agency Oversight: Maintain excellence in functions as a state agency by ensuring prudent fiscal management, transparent operations, and strong engagement with the administration and Tennessee General Assembly.

- Updates:
 - **Budget Hearing:** The Commission submitted its FY27 budget request to the Department of Finance and Administration. This request reflects the agency’s continued growth and recognizes additional revenue and operational expenditures tied to increasing student enrollment.
 - **Benchmarks Added:** Following the Commission leadership team’s monthly strategic plan check-ins, staff added two new benchmarks to address Public Chapter 275 and the Opportunity Public Charter School Performance Framework.