

TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION

4.400

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission's ("Commission") oversight and evaluation activities of the charter schools authorized by the Commission where the Commission serves as the authorizer and local educational agency while simultaneously ensuring the charter schools' autonomy.

Policy Sections

1. Generally
2. Performance and Compliance Monitoring Systems
3. Requirements for Data Collection and Analysis
4. Reporting by the State Board
5. School Site Visits
6. Preserving and Enhancing Charter School Autonomy

1. **Generally.** The Commission shall conduct school oversight to competently evaluate performance and monitor charter school compliance; ensure charter schools' legally entitled autonomy; protect students' rights; inform intervention, revocation and renewal decisions; and report publicly on individual and cumulative performance of the charter schools in its portfolio.

2. **Performance and Compliance Monitoring Systems.**

- a. The Commission shall implement a comprehensive performance accountability and compliance monitoring system that is defined by the charter agreement and provides the Commission with the information necessary to make rigorous, evidence-based renewal, revocation, and intervention decisions.
- b. In order to implement this system, the Commission shall establish the following standards under which charter schools will be evaluated and renewed:
 - i. Academic Performance Standards
 - ii. Financial Performance Standards
 - iii. Organizational Performance Standards
- c. The Commission shall implement an accountability system that effectively streamlines federal, state, and Commission performance expectations and compliance requirements while protecting charter schools' legally entitled autonomy and minimizing their administrative and reporting burdens.

3. **Requirements for Data Collection and Analysis.**

- a. Charter schools shall provide the information required by state law and comply with the requirements of the Commission master reporting calendar.

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- b. The Commission shall annually promulgate a master reporting calendar for its charter schools that defines and communicates to charter schools the process, methods and timing of gathering and reporting data.
- c. Charter schools shall provide information and data to the Commission pursuant to the reporting calendar and through a Commission-selected student information system. A charter school must inform the Commission if it will not meet a deadline along with a justification for said delay and a proposed revised deadline. Extensions of any deadlines contained in the reporting calendar shall be handled according to the process set forth in the Commission's LEA Reporting Calendar Procedures.
- d. Charter schools shall administer the state-mandated assessments according to the state testing calendar to assess student performance and include measures within the performance standards related to performance on the state-mandated assessments.
- e. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-13-120, each charter school shall submit an annual report to assist in gathering complete information about each school. The charter school's annual report shall include all information as required by the Tennessee Department of Education.
- f. The annual performance targets shall require the disaggregation of all student performance data by agreed-upon student specific subgroups.
- g. Multiple charter schools overseen by a single governing board shall be required to report their performance as separate, individual charter schools, and each charter school shall be:
 - i. Held independently accountable for its performance, and
 - ii. Held independently accountable to state law regarding charter school closure and revocation.

4. Reporting by the Commission

- a. The Commission shall evaluate each charter school annually on its performance and progress toward meeting the standards and targets stated in the charter agreement, including essential compliance requirements.
- b. The Commission shall clearly communicate evaluation results to the charter school's governing board and leadership in an annual written report to each charter school, summarizing its performance and compliance to date and identifying areas of strength and areas needing improvement.
- c. The results of all evaluations shall be made accessible to the public.

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- d. The Commission shall communicate with the charter schools in its portfolio as needed, including both the school leader and governing board, and provide timely notice of any material charter agreement violations and performance deficiencies.
- e. The Commission shall articulate and enforce stated consequences for failing to meet performance expectations or compliance requirements.
- f. The Commission shall produce for the public an annual report that provides clear, accurate performance data for all of the charter schools it oversees, reporting on individual school and overall cumulative portfolio performance according to the performance standards set forth in the charter agreement.

5. School Site Visits.

- a. In addition to the renewal visit at the end of the charter term, the Commission shall conduct at least one annual site visit during each year of the charter term of each charter school in its portfolio. Pursuant to Commission Policy 4.110, site visits are for the purpose of collecting data or gathering qualitative information that cannot be obtained otherwise and in accordance with the charter agreement, while insuring that the frequency, purposes, and methods of such visits respect school autonomy and minimize operational interference.
- b. The Commission shall develop a site visit protocol that is aligned to the Commission's Charter School Performance Framework and articulates the expectations and purpose for charter schools prior to, during and after the visit, including review of documents and data, classroom observations and stakeholder interviews.
- c. Within a reasonable amount of time, the Commission shall provide the school with a written report that summarizes the school's performance against the renewal standards and criteria addressed by the site visit. The report shall present an analysis of relevant data and observations; it may also provide general recommendations in alignment with subsection of 6(c) of this policy.

6. Preserving and Enhancing Charter School Autonomy.

- a. The Commission shall respect each charter school's authority over its day-to-day operations.
- b. The Commission shall collect information from the charter schools that it oversees in a manner that minimizes administrative burdens on the charter schools, while ensuring that performance and compliance information is collected with sufficient detail and timeliness to protect student and public interests.

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- c. The Commission shall focus its evaluation efforts on the performance standards set forth in the charter agreement and present its analyses in a straightforward manner that clearly indicates whether a charter school is meeting or making progress towards meeting the standards and criteria for renewal. Evaluation reports and presentations shall not prescribe solutions to those areas not meeting standards and identified in need of improvement, except for any area of non-compliance as required by federal and state law and Commission rules and policies.

- d. The Commission shall periodically review its compliance requirements and evaluation procedures to increase charter school autonomy based on flexibility in the law, streamlining requirements, demonstrated school performance, or other considerations.