



**TENNESSEE**  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

# **AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS**

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A PRESENTATION FOR THE TN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

DECEMBER 16, 2020

# OUR AGENDA

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- Background
- Evaluation Process
- Fall 2020 Pilot
- Q&A

# BACKGROUND

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AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

# A FOCUS ON QUALITY

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- In 2017, the charter law was amended to require the State Board of Education to adopt quality authorizing standards.
- In 2018, the charter law was amended to allow authorizers to collect an authorizer fee.
- In 2019, the charter law was amended to create the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission and to charge the State Board of Education with evaluating authorizers.

# 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
- Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

# DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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- The State Board partnered with SchoolWorks to develop the evaluation system.
- Tennessee is the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) state in the U.S. to implement authorizer evaluations.
- The State Board and SchoolWorks conducted surveys, led focus groups, and facilitated working group sessions with an evaluation task force comprised of authorizing staff, charter school operators and support organizations.
- The Fall 2020 Pilot was the State Board's opportunity to test out its full evaluation process.

# **EVALUATION PROCESS**

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AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

# EVALUATION PROCESS

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## Key Elements:

- Occur every two (2) years with a cohort of three (3) authorizers
- Based on an authorizer's percent alignment to the State Board's Quality Charter Authorizing Standards
- Facilitated by State Board staff and external evaluators
- Authorizers receive preliminary scores and an opportunity to review the evaluation report for factual corrections prior to public release
- Evaluation reports are posted on the State Board's website and presented to the State Board annually at its February meeting
- During a non-evaluation year, authorizers complete a self-assessment and any corrective action plans, if required



# EVALUATION STANDARDS

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- The rubric is based on the 24 Quality Charter Authorizing Standards which encompass the following categories:
  - Agency Commitment and Capacity
  - Application Process and Decision Making
  - Performance Contracting
  - Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation
  - Revocation and Renewal Decision Making
  - Advanced Standards (Bonus)
- Evaluates the authorizer's evidence base against the rubric; the evidence base includes:
  - Authorizer documentation
  - Interview with school leaders
  - Interview with authorizing staff

# EVALUATION OUTCOMES

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- The final product is a completed evaluation report with a score and evaluative comments per standard, an overall rating, and any required follow-up actions.
- The evaluative comments provide brief statements to describe the documented evidence in relation to each standard of the rubric.
- Follow-up actions are assigned to authorizers who receive a score of “Approaching Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory/Incomplete”.

Score	Rating
TBD	Exemplary
TBD	Commendable
TBD	Satisfactory
TBD	Approaching Satisfactory
TBD	Unsatisfactory/Incomplete

# EVALUATION COHORTS

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## **Cohort 1 Fall 2021:**

- Hamilton County Schools
- Knox County Schools
- Shelby County Schools

## **Cohort 2 Fall 2022:**

- Achievement School District\*
- Metro Nashville Public Schools\*
- Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

\*Participated in the Fall 2020 Pilot Evaluations

# EVALUATION TIMELINE

## Two-Year Evaluation Cycle

	August	September	October – December	January	February	March – July
Year 1	Orientation	Document Submission (through 10/15)	Authorizer Evaluations	Submit Self-Evaluation	SBE Meeting	*
Year 2	Orientation	Document Submission (through 10/15)	Authorizer Evaluations	Submit Self-Evaluation	SBE Meeting	*

**Purple** = Cohort 1    **Blue** = Cohort 2

\*Task may include completing corrective action plan items and updating documents

# FALL 2020 PILOT

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AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

# PILOT EVALUATIONS

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## Key Elements:

- All authorizers offered the option to voluntarily participate
  - Metro Nashville and Achievement School District opted in
- Authorizing staff invited to serve as evaluators
  - Shelby County Schools, Metro Nashville and the TN Public Charter School Commission opted in
- Followed the full evaluation process
- Opportunity to gain valuable feedback and further refine process
- Results serve as baseline to gauge thresholds for overall ratings in subsequent evaluations

# LESSONS LEARNED

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- The evaluation process is an iterative process.
- The evaluations are intensive and important.
- Documentation is king.
- The process works.
- Authorizers, charter schools, and ultimately, our students will positively benefit from this work.

# QUESTIONS?

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