



TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**AUTHORIZER
EVALUATION**

MARCH 27, 2025

AUTHORIZER EVALUATION

- The State Board of Education is responsible for ensuring the effective operations of charter school authorizers to maintain quality.
- The State Board's evaluation includes examining evidence submitted by the authorizer to determine compliance with Tennessee's Quality Authorizing Standards.
- Quality Authorizing Standards are outlined in State Board of Education Policy 6.111, emphasizing overarching values and practices that should govern day-to-day authorizer decisions and operations.
- Formal evaluations occur biannually.



AUTHORIZER EVALUATION

The following are key elements of the evaluation process:

- **Comprehensive Evaluation Process:** Formal evaluations led by State Board staff and external evaluators occur every other year and include document reviews, school leader interviews, and interviews with Commission staff.
- **Transparency & Accountability:** All evaluation reports are approved by the State Board and are posted on their website.
- **Authorizer Evaluation Rubric:** Consists of 21 standards that represent the essential practices of an authorizer.
- **Overall Rating:** Based on the evidence submitted, authorizers receive a score ranging from 0 to 4.0.
- **Consequences for Non-Compliance:** Failure to address non-compliance may result in a reduction of the authorizer fee.



COMMISSION'S OVERALL RATING

Standard	Rating
Agency Commitment and Capacity	3.93
Application Process and Decision Making	3.93
Performance Contracting	3.76
Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation	3.85
Amendment, Renewal, and Revocation Decision Making	3.48
Overall Rating	3.76 Exemplary

Summary of results:

- Public recognition by State Board highlighting best practices.
- Exemption from the 2026 evaluation as the authorizer received an Exemplary rating for two consecutive evaluation years.
- Submission of a self-assessment during each of its non-evaluation years.



BEST PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Policies and practices directly support the authorizing mission.
- Schools' mission specific goals integrate unique goals into their annual evaluations.
- Robust systems for collecting performance and compliance data.
- Consistent use of oversight to identify necessary interventions.
- Comprehensive analysis of evidence for renewal decisions.



OTHER IDENTIFIED STRENGTHS

- Ongoing commitment to quality through impactful improvement planning.
- Experienced teams prepare thorough rubrics and thoughtful questions for capacity interviews and public hearings, resulting in comprehensive recommendation reports.
- Performance framework standards align with compliance monitoring, site visits, and annual reporting.



AREAS OF FOCUS

- Despite updates to monitoring systems, there remains a level of frequency and duplication in oversight activities.
- Ensure clear evidence of thorough preparation and strong academic results when granting amendments to schools
- Establish and communicate criteria for renewal and closure protocol.



NEXT STEPS

- Continue to identify ways to streamline processes in oversight activities to minimize any unnecessary administrative burden on schools.
- Establish clear and transparent protocols for school renewals and closures.
- Continue to document processes, including those for self-assessment years, to ensure consistency and preserve valuable lessons learned.





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