



TENNESSEE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Commission Meeting

October 8, 2026 | 1:00 PM CT

Cordell Hull Building, Senate Hearing Room I

Agenda

Welcome (Chris Richards, Commission Chair)

- Roll Call
- Review of Agenda
- Approval of Prior Minutes

Public Comment (30 Minutes)

New Start Appeals Refresher (Beth Elpers, Director of Authorizing and Ashley Thomas, General Counsel)

New Start Appeals (Tess Stovall, Executive Director)

- Opportunity Youth Academy
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA
 - Executive Director's Recommendation
- Empowerment Academy Memphis
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA
 - Executive Director's Recommendation
- Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA
 - Executive Director's Recommendation
- Trimble Academy
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA
 - Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission will recess meeting and resume at 8:00 AM CT on October 9, 2026



October 9, 2026 | 8:00 AM CT
Cordell Hull Building, Senate Hearing Room I

Welcome (Chris Richards, Commission Chair)

- Roll Call
- Review of Agenda

Public Comment (30 Minutes)

Report: Business Operations Committee (Michael Carter, Committee Chair)

- FY26 Commission Final Expenditures
- FY27 Commission Budget to Actuals
- FY28 Budget Request Update

Report: School Performance and Accountability Committee (Terence Patterson, Committee Chair)

- School Year 2026-27 Update
- Commission School Intervention Update
- Empower Memphis Career and College Prep Update
- TISA Accountability Report

Report: Rules, Policy, and Governance Committee (Lauren Smith, Committee Chair)

- Commission Policy Updates
 - Final Reading
 - 3.010 New Application Review
 - 3.600 Renewal of Commission-Authorized Charter Agreements
- Commission Rule Updates
 - Final Reading – Permanent Rules
 - 1185-01-01-.04 Charter School Amendment Appeals
- Commission Self-Assessment

Strategic Plan Update (Pam Lehman, Manager of Strategic Initiatives)

Executive Director Update (Tess Stovall, Executive Director)

New Start Appeals (Tess Stovall, Executive Director)

- Music City Academy
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA

- Executive Director's Recommendation
- Nashville School of Excellence
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA
 - Executive Director's Recommendation
- Empowerment Academy Nashville
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA
 - Executive Director's Recommendation
- The Gate School
 - Statement from Applicant
 - Statement from LEA
 - Executive Director's Recommendation

Closing Discussion and Adjournment (Chris Richards, Commission Chair)