



TO: Business Operations Committee, Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

FROM: Lawrence Walker, Director of Finance and Operations, Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

DATE: April 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Charter Commission Budget Updates

### **FY25 Fiscal Updates**

- We have received Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) approved Final Expenditure Reports (FER) from each of our geographic districts with the following final per pupil contribution amounts:
  - Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS): \$15,307 (June 2025 - \$15,425)
  - Memphis Shelby County School (MSCS): \$12,445 (June 2025 - \$12,249)
  - Rutherford County Schools (RCS): \$10,503 (June 2025 - \$10,273)
- Payments have been processed for all Commission schools in MSCS and RCS.
- A reduction in the MNPS per pupil amount resulted in a total clawback of \$430,000 from Commission schools. Payment has been requested from all Commission schools in MNPS.

### **FY26 Budget-to-Actuals Update**

- We have updated the FY26 budget-to-actuals to reflect our current spending and drawdown, reflective of expenditures from July 1, 2025 until April 1, 2026.
- Since January's meeting, we have received the February average daily membership (ADM) true-up from the TDOE. Adjustments had the following effect on authorizer fee collection:
  - August Projected Authorizer Fee - \$3,732,420
  - October Adjustment - \$3,658,819
  - December Adjustment - \$3,621,598
  - **February Adjustment - \$3,661,885**
- At current rates, the authorizer fee would cover all agency operating expenses for FY26. However, we will update Commissioners on any fluctuations during the next committee meeting. Any unused authorizer fee will be refunded to schools in accordance with statute and State Board of Education rule.
- You will notice an overage in the budgeted line item "Supplies and Materials." Finance and Administration required that we classify our fall 2025 office space build-out costs into this category. Overall, as budgeted, Total Non-Personnel Costs show a \$53k surplus.

## Student Information System Vendor Update

- TDOE conducted an RFP process for SIS providers and signed contracts with seven vendors. This spring, districts were notified of all state-approved vendors and were provided with task orders and participating agreements for each vendor.

## FY26 and FY27 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Grants

- The Commission is the passthrough entity for all federal entitlement grants for schools, and these funds are included and aggregated in the Budget to Actuals sheet. For FY26, Title Grants and IDEA funds total \$9.1M.
- Spring kicks off the federal grant budgeting process for all districts, and below is a high-level timeline of how the Commission works with both the TDOE and our schools on the federal grant process. Please note that this timeline is tentative.
  - **April:** Districts receive initial allocations from the TDOE.
    - Staff calculate initial school level allocations using the approved district [Allocation Methodology Procedures](#).
  - **May:** Schools submit applications and initial budgets to be approved by the Commission and the TDOE.
    - Once approved, beginning July 1, schools can begin to spend against the approved budget.
  - **October:** Final allocations are provided to all districts by the TDOE.
    - Commission staff provide updated school-level allocations based on actual enrollment.
  - **November:** Schools revise budgets based on updated allocation amounts.
  - **December:** Schools submit revised budgets to be approved by the Commission and the TDOE.
    - Revised CFA submitted for approval by the TDOE.
  - **January:** Schools begin to drawdown grants based on newly approved budgets.
  - **July - August:** The Commission and schools complete final expenditure reports across all grants that are submitted and approved by the TDOE.

## FY27 Budget

- An updated FY27 budget will be presented in July for review and approval. Commissioners can expect to see updated student enrollment projections and updated funding information, as well as a final budget passed by the Tennessee General Assembly.