
Charter School Local Education Agency (LEA) Policies

The Background:

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108, the State Board serves as the LEA for charter schools that it authorizes on appeal if the local board of education and the charter school operator do not mutually agree that the local board of education will be the authorizer.

In order to comply with the oversight and monitoring duties required in statute, the State Board must adopt policies to govern its functions as the LEA for its authorized charter schools. *These policies will only impact the charter schools authorized by the State Board and will not be applicable to any other school or local district.* Additionally, these policies will work in conjunction with State Board Policies 6.100 through 6.110 that govern the State Board's duties as a charter school authorizer.

Pursuant to the State Board's Board Meetings Policy 1.400, this item is on first and final reading due to timing considerations. State Board-authorized charter schools must wait for our LEA policies to be approved before they can finalize revisions to their school policies for the upcoming school year.

This item presents the following policy changes necessitated by new state laws passed by the 111th General Assembly:

Policies with Significant Revisions:

- 6309 Zero Tolerance: To align SBE policy with revised language in T.C.A. § 49-6-3401, which allows either the director of schools or the head of a charter school to make zero tolerance modifications, and provide greater flexibility to SBE schools.
- 6317 Required Remands and Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority: To align SBE policy with revised language in T.C.A. § 49-6-3401, which allows either the director of schools or the head of a charter school to make zero tolerance modifications, and provide greater flexibility to SBE schools.

Policy Justification:

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

The Recommendation:

State Board staff recommends approval of this item on first and final reading.