
Charter Schools Rule 0520-14-01-.05 Annual Authorizer Fee

The Background:

In 2018, the State Board promulgated the annual authorizer fee rule in compliance with the Tennessee High Quality Charter Schools Act passed by the General Assembly in 2017, which authorized local boards of education and state-level charter school authorizers to receive an authorizer fee. Public Chapter 219 passed by the General Assembly in 2019 further revised many sections of the Charter Schools Act, including T.C.A. § 49-13-128 regarding authorizer fees collected by local boards of education, the Achievement School District (ASD), and the newly created Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (Commission).

This item contains revisions to the Annual Authorizer Fee rule to account for changes to the law in alignment with Public Chapter 219. These revisions re-organize the rule to clarify authorizer fee requirements applicable to local boards of education that are authorizers of public charter schools and requirements applicable to state-level authorizers such as the ASD and the Commission. Additionally, the revision adds operational expenses for LEA staff supporting charter schools to the list of permissible uses of the authorizer fee.

State Board staff worked closely with staff at the Department of Education and received feedback from staff at the Commission and the ASD prior to presenting this rule on first reading. State Board staff will conduct a rulemaking hearing on this rule to collect additional feedback prior to presenting it on final reading.

The Recommendation:

State Board staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.