



TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**AUTHORIZER SELF-
EVALUATION**

JANUARY 27, 2022

AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145:

- The State Board shall ensure the effective operation of authorizers in the state and shall evaluate authorizer quality.
- The State Board is charged with conducting periodic evaluations of authorizers to determine authorizer compliance.
- An authorizer's failure to remedy non-compliance may result in the reduction of the authorizer fee.



AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

The following are key elements of the evaluation process:

- Official evaluations will occur every two years
- Evaluations will be based upon authorizer documentation, interviews with school leaders, and in-person interviews with authorizers
- Evaluations will be facilitated by State Board staff with some external evaluators
- Authorizers will have an opportunity to review the evaluation report for factual corrections prior to public release
- All evaluation reports and self-assessments will be posted on the State Board's website



AUTHORIZER EVALUATIONS

- As an outcome of the evaluation, each authorizer earns an overall rating.
- This overall rating is determined by State Board's ratings of standards and noted by a number representing their percent alignment to State's Quality Charter Authorizing Standards.
- The overall rating is the average of the ratings.

Score	Rating
3.5 – 4.0	Exemplary
3.0 – 3.49	Commendable
2.0 – 2.99	Satisfactory
1.0 – 1.99	Approaching Satisfactory
0 – 0.99	Unsatisfactory/Incomplete



SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- In years an authorizer is not evaluated by the State Board, it is required to complete a self-assessment. This allows the authorizer explain its processes during a non-evaluation year.
- Authorizers are not required to submit additional documentation beyond the self-assessment form, unless required by a corrective action plan.

Ratings Key

0	1	2	3	4
No explanation or documentation	Narrative and/or documentation addresses and satisfies less than 50% of the standards	Documentation addresses most but satisfies less than 50% of the standard	Documentation addresses and satisfies more than 50% of the standard	Documentation addresses and satisfies 100% of the standard



IDENTIFIED STRENGTHS

- Support and advancement of charter school law is a priority for Commission
- Maintain high standards, uphold school autonomy, and protect students and public interests, while minimizing administrative burden
- Conduct a rigorous review of new start appeals to ensure charters are only granted to applicants that have demonstrated competence and capacity to succeed in all aspects of their model
- Staff implements a comprehensive performance, accountability and compliance monitoring system through a rigorous pre-opening process, annual site visits, regular desktop monitoring, and quarterly feedback
- Articulate and implement an intentional strategic vision and plan for chartering, which includes clear priorities, goals, and time frames for achievement as evidenced by the TPCSC Strategic Plan
- Regularly evaluates its work and authorizing standards and process against its chartering mission and strategic goals and implements plans for improvement when falling short of its mission and strategic plan



AREAS OF FOCUS

- Require annual submission of conflict-of-interest statements by its staff members in addition to Commissioners and review committee members
- Post additional guidance and materials on its website for its schools to utilize regarding the amendment process
- Include a review of the lottery process within the site visit protocols
- Check school discipline policies and service provider schedules during site visits to ensure alignment of services described in IEPs
- Add language regarding professional discretion to applicable procedures specifically addressing consideration of context and a range of effective solutions
- Codify the methods and frequency of communicating the renewal process to the schools within its portfolio
- Create a closing protocol to articulate additional details related to the closing process



OVERALL SELF-ASSESSMENT RATING

Standard	Rating (0-4)
Standard 1	3.8
Standard 2	4.0
Standard 3	3.6
Standard 4	3.8
Standard 5	3.6
Standard 6 (Bonus)	4.0
Overall Rating	3.95

Score	Rating
3.5 - 4.0	Exemplary



NEXT STEPS

- The entire commission staff will collaborate on strengthening authorizing practices by codifying its work through documented procedures and processes.
- The authorizing team will begin gathering documents and evidence of quality authorizing procedures in anticipation of a formal authorizer evaluation in Fall 2022.
- Staff will implement plans and complete the necessary steps to address the areas of focus that were identified while conducting the self-assessment.
- The Commission staff will continue to evaluate its authorizing standards to ensure alignment with its chartering mission and strategic goals.





TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION