
Charter School Appeals Policy 2.500

The Background:

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108, if a local board of education denies an amended charter school application, the sponsor may appeal the decision to the State Board. State Board Policy 2.500 sets forth the process for submitting an appeal of the denial of a charter school application by the local board of education to the State Board.

Upon completion of the 2018 charter school appeals cycle, State Board staff collected feedback from applicants, local districts, and review committee members, and the staff reviewed all State Board policies and rules governing the appeal process. Based on this review and feedback, this policy has been updated to clarify certain aspects of the appeal process and to ensure clear alignment to State Board rule 0520-14-01-.02 and other State Board policies.

Specifically, the significant revisions include:

- Clarifying the process by which the State Board staff may request additional information on each appealed application; and
- The addition of sections related to the State Board's decision-making and post-application processes that were previously included in State Board policy 6.300 – Application Review.

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 acceptance of this item on first reading.