
Charter Schools Rule 0520-14-01-.08 Authorizer Evaluation

The Background:

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145, the State Board is charged with ensuring the effective operation of authorizers in the state and shall evaluate authorizer quality. The State Board shall conduct periodic evaluations of authorizers to determine compliance with state law, state board rules, and State Board policy 6.111 – Quality Charter Authorizing Standards. An authorizer’s failure to remedy non-compliance may result in the reduction of the authorizer fee.

The purpose of this rule is to define the overall evaluation process and the follow up actions of the State Board based on the evaluation. In development of this rule, State Board staff has worked in collaboration with SchoolWorks, an education consulting group, to develop the authorizer evaluation system, looked to Minnesota and Ohio for insight into their authorizer evaluation systems, and formed focus groups with charter school leaders and authorizers across the state.

Prior to presenting this item on final reading, State Board staff solicited feedback from authorizers and other stakeholders, held a Rulemaking Hearing to gather further feedback from the public, and administered a pilot evaluation last fall.

Based on the additional feedback and outcomes of the pilot, changes since first reading include:

- Clarifying when the authorizer has opportunities to provide corrections and a response to the evaluation report in alignment with statute;
- Aligning language regarding expectations for the corrective action plan;
- Removing the expectation that all authorizers submit supporting documentation with the self-assessment during a non-evaluation year; and
- Requiring the State Board to approve the evaluation ratings and any recommended reductions to the authorizer fee, as applicable.
- Clarifying that the State Board can act on its own, or upon recommendation of the Executive Director to reduce an authorizer’s authorizer fee.

The Recommendation:

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