Department of State Division of Publications

312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 8th Floor, Snodgrass/TN Tower

Nashville, TN 37243 Phone: 615-741-2650

Email: publications.information@tn.gov

For Department of State Use Only

Sequence Number: 08-22-23

Rule ID(s): ____

File Date:

9923 8/28/2023

Effective Date:

11/26/2023

Rulemaking Hearing Rule(s) Filing Form

Rulemaking Hearing Rules are rules filed after and as a result of a rulemaking hearing (Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-205).

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-229, any new fee or fee increase promulgated by state agency rule shall take effect on July 1, following the expiration of the ninety (90) day period as provided in § 4-5-207. This section shall not apply to rules that implement new fees or fee increases that are promulgated as emergency rules pursuant to § 4-5-208(a) and to subsequent rules that make permanent such emergency rules, as amended during the rulemaking process. In addition, this section shall not apply to state agencies that did not, during the preceding two (2) fiscal years, collect fees in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of operating the board, commission or entity in accordance with § 4-29-121(b).

Agency/Board/Commission:	State Board of Education			
Division:	N/A			
Contact Person:	Angie Sanders			
Address:	500 James Robertson Parkway, 8th Floor			
Zip:	37243			
Phone:	615 253-5707			
Fmail	Angela C. Sanders@tn.gov			

Revision Type (check all that apply):

X Amendment	Content based on previous emergency rule filed on
New	Content is identical to the emergency rule
Repeal	_

Rule(s) (**ALL** chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that **ALL** new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only **ONE** Rule Number/Rule Title per row.)

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0520-14-01	Charter Schools
Rule Number	Rule Title
0520-14-0108	Authorizer Evaluation

AMENDMENT

AMEND the rules of the State Board of Education Chapter 0520-14-01 Charter Schools, by revising Rule section .08 Authorizer Evaluation, so that as amended, the revised Rule section shall read:

RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHAPTER 0520-14-01 CHARTER SCHOOLS

0520-14-01-.08 AUTHORIZER EVALUATION.

- (1) Evaluation Process.
 - (a) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145, the State Board shall conduct periodic authorizer evaluations of all authorizers that oversee at least one (1) charter school. New authorizers that have authorized a charter school that has not yet opened shall be considered authorizers for purposes of participating in the evaluation and shall receive their first evaluation when at least one (1) of the authorizer's charter schools begins its second year of operation.
 - (b) Authorizers shall be evaluated by the State Board at least every other year. However, an authorizer that achieves an Exemplary rating for two (2) consecutive evaluations may be exempted from undergoing an evaluation during the authorizer's next evaluation year. Authorizers that achieve an Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating during an evaluation shall be required to participate in another authorizer evaluation in the year immediately following the rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete.
 - (c) State Board staff shall assemble an authorizer evaluation team (the "Evaluation Team") comprised of evaluators with experience in charter school authorization and/or authorizer evaluation.
 - (d) The State Board shall develop and approve an authorizer evaluation rubric (the "Rubric") to evaluate authorizer compliance with the requirements of state law, the rules and regulations of the State Board, and to ensure alignment with the State Board Quality Charter School Authorizing Standards Policy 6.111. The Rubric shall be an attachment to State Board Policy 6.113 Charter School Authorizer Evaluations. The Rubric shall, at a minimum, require the Evaluation Team to:
 - 1. Assign authorizers a score on a scale of zero (0) to four (4), or not applicable, indicating the degree to which an authorizer has met each standard on the Rubric; and
 - 2. Assign authorizers an overall rating in compliance with thresholds defined in State Board Policy 6.113 Charter School Authorizer Evaluations.
 - (e) The evaluation year is the school year during which an authorizer undergoes an authorizer evaluation by the State Board (the "Evaluation Year"). The Evaluation Year shall, at a minimum, consist of the following:
 - 1. Submission of documentation by the authorizer to the State Board;
 - Evaluation Team review of submitted documentation:
 - 3. Evaluation Team review of authorizer appeal history, if applicable;

- 4. Evaluation Team interview with school leaders from the authorizer's charter schools;
- 5. Evaluation Team meeting with the authorizer to receive additional context about the submitted documentation;
- 6. An Evaluation Team member meeting with the authorizer to review preliminary evaluation ratings;
- Draft authorizer evaluation report shared with the authorizer. The authorizer shall have an
 opportunity to provide any factual corrections to the report prior to the report being
 finalized:
- 8. Final authorizer evaluation report (the "Evaluation Report"), including scores for each standard of the Rubric, an overall evaluation rating, and any required follow-up actions shared with the authorizer. The Evaluation Report shall be presented to the State Board for approval at the next quarterly or special called meeting following release of the Evaluation Report to the authorizer;
- 9. Upon approval of the Evaluation Report, State Board staff shall send written notification of approval to the authorizer. If an authorizer receives a rating of Approaching Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory/Incomplete, the authorizer shall acknowledge receipt of the Evaluation Report to the State Board no later than ten (10) business days after the written notification is sent to the authorizer and shall comply with any required follow-up actions including, but not limited to, development of a corrective action plan; and
- 10. Posting the Evaluation Report on the State Board's website.
- (f) The non-evaluation year is the school year during which an authorizer does not undergo an authorizer evaluation by the State Board (the "Non-Evaluation Year"). The Non-Evaluation Year shall, at a minimum, consist of the following:
 - Authorizer completion of a self-assessment that shall be submitted to the State Board in addition to the annual authorizer report required by T.C.A. § 49-13-128. The selfassessment shall include, if applicable, information and evidence demonstrating completion of a corrective action plan required by the State Board as a result of the authorizer's most recent Evaluation Report; and
 - 2. If the authorizer's corrective action plan requires interim reports, the authorizer shall provide information and evidence demonstrating completion of any corrective action plan tasks by the deadline required by the corrective action plan.
- (g) Authorizer progress toward completion of a corrective action plan shall be reported by State Board staff to the State Board at least annually.
- (2) Authorizer Ratings and Follow-up Actions.
 - (a) The Evaluation Report shall assign an overall rating to each authorizer as further defined in State Board Policy 6.113 Charter School Authorizer Evaluations. Rating categories and corresponding follow-up actions are as follows:
 - Exemplary.
 - (i) An Exemplary rating includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board;
 - (II) Exemption from an upcoming evaluation if the authorizer has achieved an Exemplary rating for two (2) consecutive Evaluation Years; and

- (III) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year.
- (ii) An authorizer shall not be rated as Exemplary if the authorizer receives a zero (0) or one (1) rating for any Rubric standard.

Commendable.

- (i) A Commendable rating includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board; and,
 - (II) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year.

3. Satisfactory.

- (i) A Satisfactory rating includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year.
- Approaching Satisfactory.
 - (i) An Approaching Satisfactory rating includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Submission of a corrective action plan, which shall include any specific follow-up actions identified in the Evaluation Report. The corrective action plan shall be approved by the Executive Director of the State Board or his/her designee prior to implementation;
 - (II) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year; and
 - (III) Submission of documentation demonstrating completion of requirements by the deadlines set forth in the approved corrective action plan. Failure to complete the requirements outlined in the corrective action plan and/or receiving a rating of Approaching Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory/Incomplete in the next authorizer evaluation may result in the reduction of the authorizer's authorizer fee in an amount and length of time determined by the State Board in compliance with paragraph three (3) of this rule.
- 5. Unsatisfactory/Incomplete.
 - (i) An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Requirement to participate in another authorizer evaluation the school year immediately following a rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete;
 - (II) Submission of a corrective action plan, which shall include any specific follow-up actions identified in the Evaluation Report. The corrective action plan shall be approved by the Executive Director of the State Board or his/her designee prior to implementation; and
 - (III) Submission of documentation demonstrating completion of requirements by the deadlines set forth in the approved corrective action plan. Failure to complete the requirements outlined in the corrective action plan and/or receiving a rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete in the authorizer's next evaluation may result in the reduction of the authorizer's authorizer fee in an amount and length of time determined by the State Board in compliance with paragraph three (3) of this rule.

- (3) Authorizer Fee Reduction.
 - (a) The State Board may reduce the authorizer fee of an authorizer that receives:
 - An Approaching Satisfactory rating during the Evaluation Year and fails to complete the requirements outlined in the authorizer's corrective action plan;
 - 2. An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating during the Evaluation Year and fails to complete the requirements outlined in the authorizer's corrective action plan; or
 - 3. An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete or Approaching Satisfactory rating during two (2) consecutive Evaluation Years.
 - (b) The State Board shall not reduce an authorizer's authorizer fee by more than fifty percent (50%) in any school year.
 - (c) If the Executive Director determines that an authorizer fee reduction should be recommended to the State Board, the Executive Director of the State Board shall make a recommendation to the State Board regarding the reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee and the length of time; however, the State Board is not bound by that recommendation. Absent an Executive Director's recommendation, the State Board may still consider reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee if the authorizer meets any of the requirements of paragraph (3)(a) of this rule. The amount of any reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee and the length of time of any reduction shall be determined and approved by the State Board on a case-by-case basis. In making its determination, the State Board shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. An authorizer's failure to remedy any noncompliance identified in the authorizer's Evaluation Reports and corresponding corrective action plans, if applicable; and
 - Ratings received by the authorizer in prior Evaluation Reports, if applicable.
 - (d) If the State Board approves the reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee by a certain percentage, the Department of Education shall determine the exact amount of the reduction based on the total authorizer fee received by the authorizer in the Evaluation Year or the first year that the authorizer receives an authorizer fee, if no fee has been collected by the authorizer during the Evaluation Year.
 - (e) Any reduction shall be equally prorated among all of the authorizer's open and operating charter schools.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-13-145, 49-13-120, 49-13-126. **Administrative History:** New rule filed April 13, 2021; effective July 12, 2021.

* If a roll-call vote was necessary, the vote by the Agency on these rulemaking hearing rules was as follows:

Board Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Signature (if required)
Jordan Mollenhour	Х				
Bob Eby	X				
Ryan Holt	X				
Warren Wells	X				
Lillian Hartgrove	X				
Nate Morrow	X				
Darrell Cobbins	X				
Larry Jensen	X				
Victoria Harpool, designee for Robert Smith, Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission Non-Voting Ex-Officio					

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of rulemaking hearing rules, lawfully promulgated and adopted by the State Board of Education on $\underline{5/19/2023}$, and is in compliance with the provisions of T.C.A. § 4-5-222.

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing filed with the Department of State on: O2/16/2023 Rulemaking Hearing(s) Conducted on: (add more dates). 04/11/2023					
Date: 8/16/2023 Signature: Angle Sanders Title of Officer: General Counsel					
Agency/Board/Commission: State Board of Education Rule Chapter Number(s): 0520-14-01					

All rulemaking hearing rules provided for herein have been examined by the Attorney General and Reporter of the State of Tennessee and are approved as to legality pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

Jonathan Skrmetti Attorney General and Reporter

Date

I further certify the following:

Department of State Use Only

Filed with the Department of State on:	8/28/2023		
Effective on:	11/26/2023		
	Le baret		
_	Tre Hargett Secretary of State		

RECEIVED

Aug 28 2023, 3:59 pm

Secretary of State Division of Publications

Public Hearing Comments

The Tennessee State Board of Education held a public rulemaking hearing on Rule 0520-14-01-.08 on April 11, 2023, at 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN and via Webex. No public comments were submitted at the hearing regarding these rules.

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-401 through 4-5-404, prior to initiating the rule making process, all agencies shall conduct a review of whether a proposed rule or rule affects small business.

This rule does not affect small businesses.

Impact on Local Governments

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-220 and 4-5-228, "On any rule and regulation proposed to be promulgated, the proposing agency shall state in a simple declarative sentence, without additional comments on the merits or the policy of the rule or regulation, whether the rule or regulation may have a projected financial impact on local governments. The statement shall describe the financial impact in terms of increase in expenditures or decrease in revenues."

This rule has no fiscal impact on local governments beyond the authorizing legislation.

Additional Information Required by Joint Government Operations Committee

All agencies, upon filing a rule, must also submit the following pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-226(i)(1).

(A) A brief summary of the rule and a description of all relevant changes in previous regulations effectuated by such rule;

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145, the State Board is charged with ensuring the effective operation of charter school authorizers in the state and is required to evaluate authorizer quality. The State Board conducts periodic evaluations of authorizers to determine compliance with state law, State Board rules, and State Board Policy 6.111 – Quality Charter Authorizing Standards. In accordance with state law, 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 rating. Upon completion of the State Board's first full evaluation cycle, State Board staff reviewed this rule to determine necessary changes to further streamline the evaluation process. Changes to the Rule include a timeline for adding a new charter school authorizer into the evaluation cycle and added flexibility regarding the composition of the evaluation team to ensure conflicts of interest are avoided.

(B) A citation to and brief description of any federal law or regulation or any state law or regulation mandating promulgation of such rule or establishing guidelines relevant thereto;

T.C.A. § 49-13-145(a) requires the State Board of Education to ensure the effective operation of authorizers in the state and to evaluate authorizer quality.

T.C.A. § 49-13-126(a) authorizes the State Board of Education to promulgate rules to effectuate Title 49, Chapter 13.

(C) Identification of persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities most directly affected by this rule, and whether those persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities urge adoption or rejection of this rule;

The State Board of Education and Department of Education are both directly affected by this rule and urge adoption. In addition, charter school authorizers in Tennessee are also directly affected by this rule. The State Board did not receive any public comments from these parties urging either adoption or rejection of the proposed rule.

(D) Identification of any opinions of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule or the necessity to promulgate the rule;

None.

(E) An estimate of the probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures, if any, resulting from the promulgation of this rule, and assumptions and reasoning upon which the estimate is based. An agency shall not state that the fiscal impact is minimal if the fiscal impact is more than two percent (2%) of the agency's annual budget or five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), whichever is less:

None.

(F) Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives, possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the rule;

Angie Sanders (State Board of Education)

Angela.C.Sanders@tn.gov

Nathan James (State Board of Education)

Nathan.James@tn.gov

Robin Yeh (Department of Education)

Robin.Yeh@tn.gov

(G) Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees;

Angie Sanders (State Board of Education)

Angela.C.Sanders@tn.gov

Nathan James (State Board of Education)

Nathan.James@tn.gov

Robin Yeh (Department of Education)

Robin.Yeh@tn.gov

(H) Office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees; and

Angie Sanders State Board of Education 500 James Robertson Parkway, 8th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 253-5707

Angela.C.Sanders@tn.gov

Nathan James State Board of Education 500 James Robertson Parkway, 8th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 532-3528 Nathan.James@tn.gov

Robin Yeh Department of Education 710 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 445-9543

Robin.Yeh@tn.gov

(I) Any additional information relevant to the rule proposed for continuation that the committee requests.

None.

RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHAPTER 0520-14-01 CHARTER SCHOOLS

0520-14-01-.08 AUTHORIZER EVALUATION.

- (1) Evaluation Process.
 - (a) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-145, the State Board shall conduct periodic authorizer evaluations of all authorizers that oversee at least one (1) charter school. New aAuthorizers that have authorized a charter school that has not yet opened shall be considered authorizers for purposes of participating in the evaluation and shall receive their first evaluation when at least one (1) of the authorizer's charter schools begins its second year of operation.
 - (b) Authorizers shall be evaluated by the State Board at least every other year. However, an authorizer that achieves an Exemplary rating for two (2) consecutive evaluations may be exempted from undergoing an evaluation during the authorizer's next evaluation year. Authorizers that achieve an Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating during an evaluation shall be required to participate in another authorizer evaluation in the year immediately following the rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete.
 - (c) State Board staff shall assemble an authorizer evaluation team (the "Evaluation Team") comprised of internal and external evaluators with experience in charter school authorization and/or authorizer evaluation.
 - (d) The State Board shall develop and approve an authorizer evaluation rubric (the "Rubric") to evaluate authorizer compliance with the requirements of state law, the rules and regulations of the State Board, and to ensure alignment with the State Board Quality Charter School Authorizing Standards Policy 6.111. The Rubric shall be an attachment to State Board Policy 6.113 Charter School Authorizer Evaluations. The Rubric shall, at a minimum, require the Evaluation Team to:
 - Assign authorizers a score on a scale of zero (0) to four (4), or not applicable, indicating the degree to which an authorizer has met each standard on the Rubric; and
 - Assign authorizers an overall rating in compliance with thresholds defined in State Board Policy 6.113 Charter School Authorizer Evaluations.
 - (e) The evaluation year is the school year during which an authorizer undergoes an authorizer evaluation by the State Board (the "Evaluation Year"). The Evaluation Year shall, at a minimum, consist of the following:
 - 1. Submission of documentation by the authorizer to the State Board;
 - Evaluation Team review of submitted documentation;
 - Evaluation Team review of authorizer appeal history, if applicable;

- 4. Evaluation Team interview with school leaders from the authorizer's charter schools;
- 5. Evaluation Team meeting with the authorizer to receive additional context about the submitted documentation;
- An Evaluation Team <u>member</u> meeting with the authorizer to review preliminary evaluation ratings;
- 7. Draft authorizer evaluation report shared with the authorizer. The authorizer shall have an opportunity to provide any factual corrections to the report prior to the report being finalized;-
- 8. Final authorizer evaluation report (the "Evaluation Report"), including scores for each standard of the Rubric, an overall evaluation rating, and any required follow-up actions shared with the authorizer. The Evaluation Report shall be presented to the State Board for approval at the next quarterly or special called meeting following release of the Evaluation Report to the authorizer;
- 9. Upon approval of the Evaluation Report, State Board staff shall send written notification of approval to the authorizer. If an authorizer receives a rating of Approaching Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory/Incomplete, the authorizer shall acknowledge receipt of the Evaluation Report to the State Board no later than ten (10) business days after the written notification is sent to the authorizer and shall comply with any required follow-up actions including, but not limited to, development of a corrective action plan; and.
- 10. Posting the Evaluation Report on the State Board's website.
- (f) The non-evaluation year is the school year during which an authorizer does not undergo an authorizer evaluation by the State Board (the "Non-Evaluation Year"). The Non-Evaluation Year shall, at a minimum, consist of the following:
 - 1. Authorizer completion of a self-assessment that shall be submitted to the State Board_in addition to the annual authorizer report required by T.C.A. § 49-13-128. The self-assessment shall include, if applicable, information and evidence demonstrating completion of a corrective action plan required by the State Board as a result of the authorizer's most recent Evaluation Report; and
 - 2. If the authorizer's corrective action plan requires interim reports, the authorizer shall provide information and evidence demonstrating completion of any corrective action plan tasks by the deadline required by the corrective action plan.
- (g) Authorizer self-assessments submitted during the Non-Evaluation Year shall be publicly posted on the State Board's website.
- (gh) Authorizer progress toward completion of a corrective action plan shall be reported by State Board staff to the State Board at least annually.
- (2) Authorizer Ratings and Follow-up Actions.
 - (a) The Evaluation Report shall assign an overall rating to each authorizer as further defined in State Board Policy 6.113 Charter School Authorizer Evaluations. Rating categories and corresponding follow-up actions are as follows:

Exemplary.

- (i) An Exemplary rating -includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board:
 - (II) Exemption from an upcoming evaluation if the authorizer has achieved an Exemplary rating for two (2) consecutive Evaluation Years; and
 - (III) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year.
- (ii) An authorizer shall not be rated as Exemplary if the authorizer receives a zero (0) or one (1) rating for any Rubric standard.

Commendable.

- (i) A Commendable rating-includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Public recognition and highlighting authorizer best practices by the State Board; and,
 - (II) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year.

Satisfactory.

- (i) A Satisfactory rating- includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year.
- 4. Approaching Satisfactory.
 - (i) An Approaching Satisfactory rating– includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Submission of a corrective action plan, which shall include any specific follow-up actions identified in the Evaluation Report. The corrective action plan shall be approved by the Executive Director of the State Board or his/her designee prior to implementation;
 - (II) Submission of a self-assessment during the Non-Evaluation Year; and
 - (III) Submission of documentation demonstrating completion of requirements by the deadlines set forth in the approved corrective action plan. Failure to complete the requirements outlined in the corrective action plan and/or receiving a rating of Approaching Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory/Incomplete in the next authorizer evaluation may result in the reduction of the authorizer's authorizer fee in an amount and length of time determined by the State Board in compliance with paragraph three (3) of this rule.
- 5 Unsatisfactory/Incomplete.

- (i) An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating –includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (I) Requirement to participate in another authorizer evaluation the school year immediately following a rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete;
 - (II) Submission of a corrective action plan, which shall include any specific follow-up actions identified in the Evaluation Report. The corrective action plan shall be approved by the Executive Director of the State Board or his/her designee prior to implementation; and
 - (III) Submission of documentation demonstrating completion of requirements by the deadlines set forth in in—the approved corrective action plan. Failure to complete the requirements outlined in the corrective action plan and/or receiving a rating of Unsatisfactory/Incomplete in the authorizer next authorizer evaluation may result in the reduction of the authorizer's authorizer fee in an amount and length of time determined by the State Board in compliance with paragraph three (3) of this rule.
- (3) Authorizer Fee Reduction.
 - (a) The State Board may reduce the authorizer fee of an authorizer that receives:
 - 1. An Approaching Satisfactory rating during the Evaluation Year and fails to complete the requirements outlined in the authorizer's corrective action plan;
 - 2. An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete rating during the Evaluation Year and fails to complete the requirements outlined in the authorizer's corrective action plan; or
 - 3. An Unsatisfactory/Incomplete or Approaching Satisfactory rating during two (2) consecutive Evaluation Years.
 - (b) The State Board shall not reduce an authorizer's authorizer fee by more than fifty percent (50%) in any school year.
 - (c) If the Executive Director determines that an authorizer fee reduction should be recommended to the State Board, the Executive Director of the State Board shall make a recommendation to the State Board regarding the reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee and the length of time; however, the State Board is not bound by that recommendation. Absent an Executive Director's recommendation, the State Board may still consider reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee if the authorizer meets any of the requirements of paragraph (3)(a) of this rule. The amount of any reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee and the length of time of any reduction shall be determined and approved by the State Board on a case by casecase-by-case basis. In making its determination, the State Board shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. An authorizer's failure to remedy any noncompliance identified in the authorizer's Evaluation Reports and corresponding corrective action plans, if applicable; and
 - 2. Ratings received by the authorizer in prior Evaluation Reports, if applicable.

- (d) If the State Board approves the reduction of an authorizer's authorizer fee by a certain percentage, the Department of Education shall determine the exact amount of the reduction based on the total authorizer fee received by the authorizer in the Evaluation Year or the first year that the authorizer receives an authorizer fee, if no fee has been collected by the authorizer during the Evaluation Year.
- (e) Any reduction shall be equally prorated among all of the authorizer's open and operating charter schools.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-13-145, 49-13-120, 49-13-126. **Administrative History:** New rule filed April 13, 2021; effective July 12, 2021.