



Statement from The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

October 7, 2022

The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission was created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2019 to serve as an independent state agency to hear and consider public charter school appeals and to serve as the authorizer of charter schools that receive approval by the Commission. The right of charter schools to appeal decisions made by local education authorities has been a part of our state's education landscape since 2002, beginning with the State Board of Education who held this responsibility until 2021. The intent behind creating the Commission three years ago was to create an independent state entity focused exclusively on reviewing charter school appeals and charter school authorizing and to ensure that only the highest quality public charter schools receive the Commission's authorization.

The path for any public charter schools always begins by applying directly to local boards of education across Tennessee, and the Commission only receives applications when a charter school is denied at the local level. Once an appeal is received, the Commission begins a rigorous, independent review process that is outlined in statute. The appeal process consists of a fresh review of the application, a public hearing in the district of the proposed school, and receipt of public comment. In an appeal, the Executive Director's recommendation is based on these key components of the process which are critically important as Commissioners deliberate on each charter school appeal.

- On October 5, 2022, the Commission convened for a meeting with seven individual new start appeals on the agenda. Four of those appeals were withdrawn by the applicant and not considered by the Commission. Of the remaining three appeals, KIPP Southeast Nashville College Prep Elementary and Middle Schools were approved by the Commission. Clarksville-Montgomery County School System's decision to deny the application of Oxton Academy was upheld by the Commission.
- The Commission will also consider six other appeals on October 17th and 18th in Nashville. Agendas and more information about this meeting are also on the Commission's [website](#).