

**Connections Preparatory Academy Charter School Appeal**

---

**The Background:**

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-108, newly-formed charter schools may appeal denial by a local board of education (the authorizer) to the State Board of Education.

Within 60 days of an appeal, the State Board hears the appeal at a public meeting before the Board or a designated representative in the school district in which the charter school sponsor applied for a charter. At that hearing, the Board or its representative reviews the decision of the local board and makes findings. “If the state board finds that the local board’s decision was contrary to the best interests of the pupils, school district or community, the state board shall remand such decision to the local board of education with written instructions for approval of the charter. The decision of the state board shall be final and not subject to appeal. The LEA, however, shall be the chartering authority.” Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-108(3).

On April 3, a hearing was held in Jackson, TN to consider the appeals of the Connections Preparatory Academy sponsors of the denial of their amended application by the Jackson/Madison County Schools Board. The appeals were heard by the Executive Director of the State Board of Education.

**The Master Plan Connection:**

By authorizing and monitoring public charter schools, school districts can model the effectiveness of greater accountability in exchange for greater school based autonomy, and allow sponsors to offer more choices to the students and parents in their communities. Public charter schools apply the four foundational principles of the *Master Plan*, using innovative teaching and learning models, to help more Tennessee children prepare for successful post-secondary work, education and citizenship.

**The Recommendation:**

The Executive Director recommendation and supporting materials will be made available in advance of the Board meeting.

**V. A. Connections Preparatory Academy**

**Charter School Appeal**

**Materials Will Be Available at the Meeting**