

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	
CORE AUTHORIZING PRINCIPLES	6.200

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-108(f), “chartering authorities are encouraged to adopt national authorizing standards for use in reviewing charter school applications” and the “state board shall adopt national authorizing standards.”

Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to affirm the State Board of Education’s (“State Board”) mission with regard to its authorizing functions as set forth in State Board Policy 6.100 and its commitment to implementing national authorizing standards aligned with the core principles of charter school authorizing set forth below.

1. **Core Authorizing Principles.** The State Board will in all of its endeavors be guided by the following three core authorizing principles: maintaining high standards for charter school; upholding charter school autonomy, and protecting student and public interests.

2. **Maintaining High Standards.** To maintain high standards, the State Board will:
 - a. Set high standards for the approval of charter schools in its portfolio.
 - b. Maintain high standards for the charter schools it oversees.
 - c. Hold charter schools accountable for, over time, meeting the performance standards and targets set forth in their charter agreements on a range of measures and metrics.
 - d. Close all charter schools in its portfolio that fail to meet the standards and targets set forth in law and under their charter agreements.

3. **Upholding School Autonomy.** To uphold school autonomy, the State Board will:
 - a. Honor and preserve the independence of its charter schools’ governing boards.
 - b. Preserve core school autonomies related to educational programming, financial, personnel, school culture and scheduling decisions.
 - c. Assume responsibility not for the success or failure of individual charter schools in its portfolio but for holding schools accountable for their performance.
 - d. Focus on school accountability for outcomes rather than inputs and processes.
 - e. Minimize, within state and federal law, administrative and compliance burdens on charter schools in its portfolio.

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4. **Protecting Student and Public Interests.** The well-being and interests of students will be the fundamental value informing all State Board actions and decisions.
- a. The State Board will hold its charter schools accountable for fulfilling fundamental public education obligations to all students, including:
 - i. Non-selective, nondiscriminatory access to all eligible students;
 - ii. Fair treatment for all students in admissions and disciplinary actions; and
 - iii. Appropriate services for all enrolled students in accordance with the law.
 - b. The State Board will hold its charter schools accountable for fulfilling fundamental obligations to the public, including that schools provide the following:
 - i. Sound governance, management and stewardship of public funds; and
 - ii. Public information and operational transparency in accordance with the law.
 - c. When granting a charter and providing oversight to a State Board authorized charter school, the State Board will:
 - i. As part of its mission, focus on chartering high-quality charter schools;
 - ii. Demonstrate clarity, consistency and public transparency in authorizing policies, practices and decisions;
 - iii. Maintain effective and efficient public stewardship of its public resources;
 - iv. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations; and
 - v. Employ ethical conduct in all activities.
 - d. The State Board will support parents' and students' ability to make informed choices about educational options by providing clear, accurate and timely information related to performance of the charter schools in the State Board's portfolio.