

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in August	Descriptor Term: Charter School Authorizing Principles	Descriptor Code: 1.900	Issued Date: 12/11/23
		Rescinds:	Issued: 11/14/22

The Houston County Board of Education shall ensure that only high-quality charter schools are authorized to operate within the district, and adhere to the State Board of Education’s quality charter authorizing standards.¹ To accomplish this, the Board shall adopt the following authorizing principles that require charter schools to maintain high standards, while upholding school autonomy and protecting student and public interests.¹

MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS

Charter schools shall be held accountable for meeting the performance standards and targets set forth in their charter agreement. The Board shall maintain high standards for the charter school(s) it oversees and close any charter school that fails to meet the standards and targets established in the charter agreement or set by state law.²

UPHOLDING SCHOOL AUTONOMY

Charter school governing boards shall be independent of the Board and have the authority to make instructional programming, financial, personnel, school culture, and scheduling decisions. The Board shall assume responsibility not for the success or failure of individual schools but for holding schools accountable for their performance.

The Board shall only impose requirements on charter schools in its portfolio when there is a legal basis or compelling reason to do so.

PROTECTING STUDENT AND PUBLIC INTERESTS

The Board shall ensure clarity, consistency, and public transparency in authorizing policies, practices, and decisions of any charter school. The Board shall hold charter school governing boards accountable for being fiscally responsible and transparent.

Charter schools are part of the public education program and shall adhere to non-selective, nondiscriminatory practices and ensure the fair treatment of all students. They shall provide appropriate services to all enrolled students in accordance with state and federal laws.³ Charter school governing boards shall ensure fiscal responsibility and transparency.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-13-108(f); State Board of Education Policy 6.111; TRR/MS 0520-14-01-.01
2. TCA 49-13-111, TCA 49-13-120, TCA 49-13-122
3. TCA 49-13-105(a)