

Section I: Instructional Goals and Objectives	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Descriptor Term: Public Charter Schools	Descriptor Code: I-450	Issued: 10/11
		Reviewed: 5/26	Revised: 7/26

EXPECTATIONS

The Board of Education believe high quality charter schools have the potential to be a useful structure to help effectively educate Knox County students and enhance quality public education choices for all students and their families. Charter schools are meant to serve as innovative learning centers where strong teachers and experienced administrators advance each student's achievement every day, regardless of race, color, national-origin, religion, gender, disability, proficiency in English, academic ability, social capital or family income. Every student in the Knox County Schools deserves high quality opportunities to learn, grow and achieve their full potential.

The Board's goal is to build a system of schools that provides every student with the foundation of knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to excel in higher education, the work place and in life. All charter schools in Knox County are expected to cultivate strong school capacity to provide high quality academic instruction addressing student performance outcomes.¹

MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS

The Board shall maintain clarity, consistency, and public transparency in all authorizing policies, practices, and decisions regarding charter schools. Charter schools shall be accountable for meeting the performance standards and targets defined in their charter agreements. The Board shall maintain high expectations for all charter schools under its oversight and take appropriate action, including closure, when a school fails to meet those standards or the requirements of state law.²

Each charter school's governing board shall operate independently of the Board and maintain full authority over instructional programming, financial management, personnel decisions, school culture, and scheduling. The Board's role is not to manage the success or failure of individual schools, but to hold schools accountable for performance and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Board shall hold charter school governing boards accountable for maintaining fiscal responsibility, operational transparency, and adherence to all legal and ethical standards. Charter schools are part of the public education program and must adhere to non-selective, nondiscriminatory enrollment 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

The Board shall impose additional requirements on charter schools only when there is a legal obligation or a compelling reason to do so.

AUTHORIZER FEES

The Board will annually withhold 3% of a charter school's funds or \$35,000, whichever is lesser, for the performance of the authorizing obligations and responsibilities by Knox County Schools. If, for the

1 school year, the total amount of the authorizer fees collected by the LEA exceeds the amount used by the
2 LEA to perform its authorizing obligations and responsibilities, the LEA shall distribute the amount
3 remaining to its authorized charter schools. This allowance may also prevent a substantial loss if the
4 Knox County Schools provides services, such as food service, transportation or other contracted student
5 services, and a charter closes prior to paying for such services or obligations.
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

44 Legal References:
45

- 46 1 T.C.A. § 49-13-108; State Board of Education Policy 6.111; TN Comp. R & Reg § 0520-14-01-.01.
47 2 T.C.A. §§ 49-13-111; 49-13-120; 49-13-122.
48 3 T.C.A. § 49-13-111
49